

Rwanda

In 1998 and 1999 around 650,000 people, most of them Hutus, were displaced into makeshift camps in the north-western prefectures of Ruhengeri and Gisenyi, when an insurgency there was put down by the Tutsi-dominated government. In 2000, the UN considered that “governmental and international efforts to stabilise the situation through durable solutions have advanced beyond the threshold of what still could be called internal displacement”. These efforts consisted largely of the implementation of the 1996 “villagisation” policy to relocate all Rwandans from scattered homesteads into new villages.

However, difficult conditions in the villages subsequently called into question whether the resettled IDPs had really achieved durable solutions. IDMC observed in 2005 that many of them still lived in inadequate conditions.

In late 2008, the return of refugees from DRC created new reintegration challenges and the risk of their renewed displacement in Burundi. In eastern DRC, joint operations from November between the governments of the two countries weakened the Rwandan Hutu rebels of the Democra-

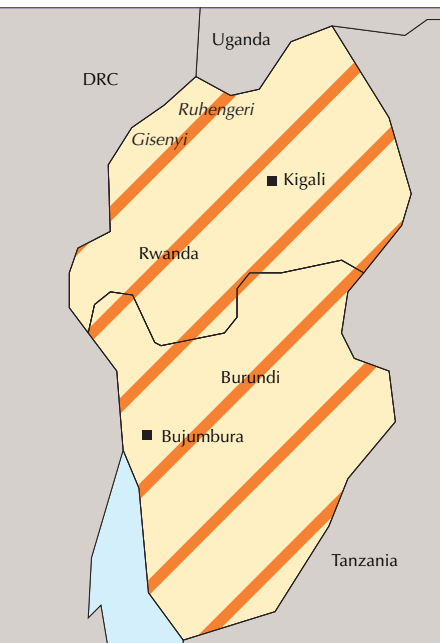
Quick facts

Number of IDPs	Undetermined
Start of current displacement situation	1997
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	650,000 (1999)
New displacement in 2008	Undetermined
Returns in 2008	Undetermined
Causes of displacement	Internal and internationalised armed conflict, generalised violence
Human development index	165

tic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) and presented a new chance for thousands of refugees to return to Rwanda.

Some refugees had been prevented from returning home by the FDLR, but they had also been reluctant to return because did not trust the Rwandan Gacaca courts and did not think they would be able to reintegrate. The prospects of returnees and those resettled depends on continuing reconciliation and the equitable distribution and management of scarce land.

Despite ongoing ethnic mistrust and regional instability, their prospects appear fair. The Rwandan government encourages returns and considers returnees as a vulnerable group, at least in the context of economic development.



fighting between the army and rebel groups. The sites are being gradually transformed into villages and local authorities are often reluctant to consider the inhabitants displaced.

In April 2008, the shaky ceasefire between the government and the Party for the Liberation of Hutu People National Forces for Liberation (Palipehutu-FNL) broke, and Palipehutu-FNL attacks in and around Bujumbura killed more than 30 people and caused the temporary displacement of several thousand. In addition, an unknown number of people returned or were expelled from Tanzania, where they had fled from conflict in 1972, and they were housed in temporary accommodation centres as their homes had been occupied.

Most IDPs are struggling to support themselves, and many of their difficulties are shared by the rest of the population in one of the ten least-developed countries in the world. In this context women and children’s enjoyment of rights is often at risk, and sexual violence remains widespread. IDPs have additional problems: those without valid property documents (such as those living in IDP sites with unclear legal status or built

Most of the 100,000 people who remain in IDP sites across the country were displaced in the 1990s and early 2000s by ethnic violence and

Burundi

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	100,000
Percentage of total population	1.1%
Start of current displacement situation	1993
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	800,000 (1999)
New displacement in 2008	Undetermined
Returns in 2008	Undetermined
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflict, human rights violations
Human development index	172

on land belonging to someone else) risk being evicted. Single female heads of households especially struggle to raise their family and ensure the basic necessities of life in IDP sites.

The international agencies in Burundi adopted the cluster approach in October 2008, with UNHCR taking the lead protection role. UNHCR has funded and guided the Project of Support for Repatriation and reinsertion of War Affected Persons (PARES!), a government agency providing basic housing and infrastructure for returning refugees and IDPs. Since 2006, the UN Peace Building Commission has also worked with the government to support post-conflict recovery, including for IDPs, but it has had no measurable impact on their lives.