

Durable Solutions and Resilience Mechanisms at community level Group

Early Recovery is a key component of humanitarian crisis response. Early Recovery addresses recovery needs during the humanitarian phase, using humanitarian mechanisms in accordance with development principles. It is an integrated, inclusive, and coordinated approach to gradually turn the dividends of humanitarian action into sustainable crisis recovery, resilience building and development opportunities. Emergency relief addresses peoples' survival and basic well-being. Early Recovery restores people's capacities and supports communities' first steps to recover from the crisis, this is way it is crucial to continuing planning for durable solutions and reinforce resilience mechanisms at community level so that communities are well prepared to receive, once security is installed, all Burundians that have now left the country.

In addition to all the preparedness actions, advocacy, and humanitarian responses to the recent internal displacement and future voluntary return of Burundians refugees from Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC and Uganda, the Early Recovery Advisor has started a coordination mechanisms with UNDP, UNHCR and are now working on an Early Recovery, durable solution and resilience at community level action plan that will propose concrete and context adapted solutions around displacement of people in Burundi at the Humanitarian stage.

To do so, a multi-sectorial sub-technical group has recently started to work together, using the QUICK GUIDE for Joint Strategies to support Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees Returning to their Country of Origin. This Guide has been developed in accordance with the United Nations Secretary General's decision on Durable Solutions to Displacement: to develop guidance for field-based practitioners on how to develop a strategy for supporting durable solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees returning to their country of origin. The SG Decision specifically addresses the development of durable solutions strategies for IDPs and returning refugees within their country of origin. This Guide is thus limited to situations where there are internally displaced persons and where refugees have returned to their countries of origin or habitual residence, if not to their regions of origin. While the SG Decision explicitly refers to "ending displacement in the aftermath of conflict" it is relevant to other displacement situations. Disasters, protracted situations, generalized violence, human rights violations and development-related displacement similarly require a rights-based approach and a collective, coherent and coordinated response. In reality, displacement can arise in contexts characterized by a complex mix of conflict, disasters and environmental degradation.

Early Recovery / Emergency Employment / Social cohesion

Helping the youth and reinforcing social cohesion through emergency employment

The significant reduction of livelihoods opportunities in Bujumbura as a direct result of the ongoing crisis is not only impacting the people living in urban areas but might also impact their families based in the provinces who benefit from cash transfers in order to survive. Bujumbura currently has the highest number of attacks in the country with Cibitoke, Makamba and Rumonge provinces also now experiencing incidence of violence. Providing emergency employment opportunities in a conflict sensitive way through the humanitarian response will provide youth with financial alternatives to keep them away from armed groups that might otherwise take advantage of their economic vulnerability. Such emergency employment schemes would also facilitate the collection of reliable data on the medium term needs of the beneficiaries. In the current context of Burundi, emergency employment schemes would not only provide an important entry point for further programming with youth at the community level through participatory planning and outreach but would also allow for important conflict-mitigation efforts through work on social cohesion. This factor may be as important as the employment initiatives themselves in the sense that it can serve to dissuade elements within the youth population from entering into or participating in the conflict dynamics at community level. Stabilizing people's livelihoods represents an essential intervention in reducing the impact of the crisis, and it is a critical first step to reducing vulnerability and building self-sustainability in the longer-term. In addition, labour-intensive temporary employment schemes will support the rehabilitation of infrastructures that have been damaged by the recent floods due to El Nino. It can also provide essential services to affected communities, such as health centres, schools, local markets, food storage facilities, and water and sewage lines. Coupled with enterprise recovery, labour-intensive temporary employment schemes can support local economic recovery processes and minimize dependence on humanitarian assistance.

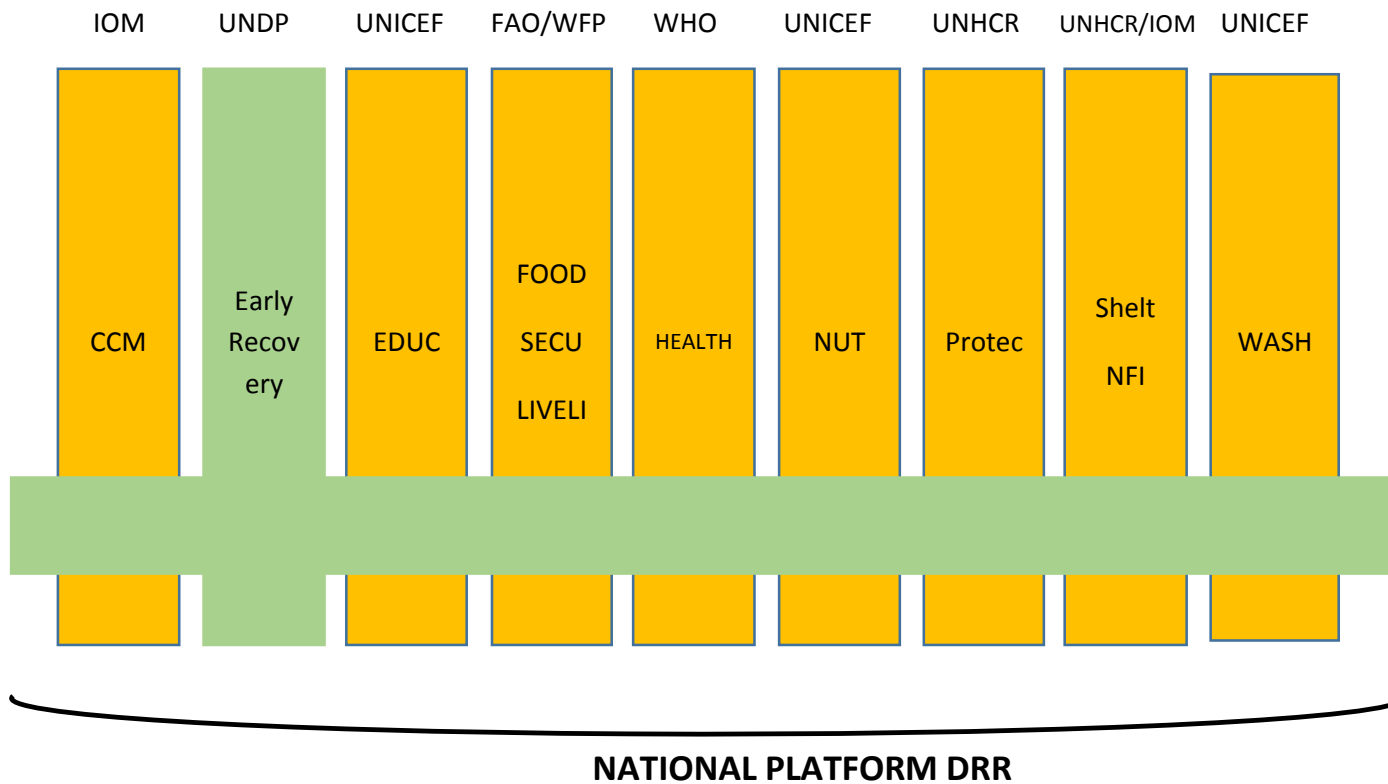
Other provinces

More than 90 percent of the Burundian population is dependent on agricultural and livestock activity. Access to land therefore represents a key factor of economic survival. The potential influx of returnees to already vulnerable communities will undoubtedly create additional pressure on a weak socio-economic infrastructure. As a result, returnees will face disputes over property and access to land compounded by food insecurity and lack of employment opportunities. The provision of livelihood alternatives therefore has the potential to become a driver of economic recovery at the community level, and consequently, contribute towards peaceful coexistence in a highly fragile context. In the current context of Burundi, harnessing the youth population as a force for positive social change should form a central pillar in response to a significant protection crisis with potentially dramatic humanitarian consequences. In addition, contributing towards maintaining the economic well-being of fragile communities will in the longer-term mitigate the risks associated with massive refugee returns. While it is critical to provide an immediate response to the current humanitarian dynamics playing out in Burundi, it is equally important to ensure that measures are taken from the outset to lay the foundation for longer-term economic and social recovery.

To facilitate coordination UNDP is now leading an Early Recovery / Emergency Employment / Social cohesion sector group. The group has at least 15 members including international and national NGOs, donators, bilateral partners and UN agencies and it is contributing to the HNO and HRP process as a key sector.

Elaboration of an El Nino response plan

In coordination with the national platform and the national Red Cross UNDP supported the elaboration of the El Nino response plan. New governors have been trained on durable solutions and resilience mechanisms to ensure adequate response to potential displacement due to the El Nino flooding's. Early recovery funding gaps have been identified and will be included in the upcoming funding mobilization strategies.



Joint steps to durable solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees Returning to Burundi

