

GREAT LAKES

BURUNDI, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, RWANDA, TANZANIA AND UGANDA

HEALTH SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Despite positive political developments such as the Burundi peace process, the region as a whole continues to be characterized by insecurity, displacement within and across national borders – over six million people are estimated to be displaced in the region – and human rights violations. Chronic poverty and livelihood erosion have left many vulnerable to disease and high-risk occupations. In addition, food insecurity, the result of man-made and/or natural emergencies, is a constant threat to the health and welfare of affected populations. The escalation of the prevalence of HIV/AIDS further intensifies this precarious situation.



FOOD INSECURITY AND BASIC NEEDS: Populations affected by conflict, natural disasters and climatic emergencies are often left with no access to resources and services such as food, water, sanitation and healthcare. Malnutrition and disease continue to threaten the lives of populations throughout the region, especially children. Food insecurity and the absence of other essential services increase vulnerability to human rights violations and exploitation.

HEALTH CARE: Many parts of the region are inaccessible due to lack of security and poor infrastructure. It is particularly difficult to reach affected populations in northern Uganda, parts of eastern DRC and in Bujumbura Rural. Working to secure access and protection of humanitarian workers is a key factor in ensuring adequate provision of essential services and aid.

HIV/AIDS: HIV/AIDS and its impact on conflict-affected and food insecure populations continue to be a central challenge for humanitarian assistance. Population

movements both within and across borders, the breakdown of traditional social structure and the increased incidence of rape and prostitution are all contributing factors. For these reasons, conflict-affected populations are especially vulnerable to HIV/AIDS transmission.

HEALTH SECTOR PRIORITIES FOR 2006

- Advocate, mobilize resources and provide technical support for comprehensive reproductive health services in the areas affected by crises
- Enhance coordination of health response including surge capacity and health assessments
- Capacity building for preparedness and response to emergencies, including
 - Technical support to countries to enhance their capacity for coordination, needs assessment evaluation and information dissemination.
 - Participation in joint health assessments during crises and in the detection of cross-border health issues
 - Production and dissemination of health information updates for prompt and appropriate action
 - Provision of technical guidance on health specific issues to national health authorities in collaboration with UN agencies and NGOs
- Participate in inter-agency meetings on a regular basis and organize relevant technical workshops

WHO Proposed Projects in the CAP 2006	Funds Requested *	Implementing Partners
Advocacy and resource mobilization for a comprehensive Reproductive Health service in Great Lakes Region GRL-06/H02A	580,000	MoH, HCR, MSF, ARC, Plan Guinea, ACF, IFRC, Red Cross and Health Teams
Coordinated Health Actions and Disease Surveillance during Crises GRL-06/H03	536,360	MoH, MoE, MoSAF, UNICEF, and NGOs (CVT and ACT)

* Amounts given in US dollars.

Total Funds Requested: USD 1,119,360

2005 Donors: No voluntary contributions were received for the Great Lakes region in 2005