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## Summary

### **1. Security matters/ Peace Keeping / Conflict Resolution**

#### **Congo-Kinshasa: UN Releases Most Extensive Report to Date on War Massacres and Rapes**

The United Nations today released a new report on "indescribable" atrocities committed in the war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from 1993 to 2003, when tens of thousands of people were killed, and numerous others raped and mutilated by both armed Congolese group and foreign military forces. This report issued by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The 550-page report, listing 617 of the most serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law over the 10-year period by both State and non-State actors. Violence in the DRC was, in fact, accompanied by the apparent systematic use of rape and sexual assault allegedly by all combatant forces. Declaring that children in the DRC have suffered far too much it cites estimates that at least 30,000 children were recruited or used by the armed forces or groups during the conflict, adding that children have been subjected to "indescribable violence," including murder, rape, torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, forced displacement and destruction of their villages. More than 1,280 individual witnesses were interviewed to corroborate or invalidate alleged violations, including previously unrecorded incidents, and at least 1,500 documents were collected and analyzed.

#### **Congo-Kinshasa: UN Report Exposes Grave Crimes - International Efforts Needed to Create Mechanisms to Ensure Justice**

United Nations members should make a concerted international effort to initiate judicial investigations into grave human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of Congo documented by the UN and bring those responsible to justice, Human Rights Watch said

#### **UN Congo Report Released Amid Protest from Uganda, Rwanda**

The report has sparked protests from both Rwanda and Uganda, whose armed forces are implicated in the crimes. The African countries of Angola and Burundi have also disputed aspects of the report. An initial draft leaked in late August sparked a diplomatic crisis, with Rwanda threatening to pull troops out of peacekeeping operations in the Darfur region of Sudan. While Rwanda has since withdrawn its threats. The report has essentially challenged the narrative of the Rwandan genocide which left over 800,000 dead in 1994. Much of President Paul Kagame's legitimacy has been based on his role in ending those killings. But the report implicates Rwandan forces under Mr. Kagame's command of similar crimes just across the border. But the Rwandan government says the report is aimed at promoting the theory of "double genocide."

## **Congo-Kinshasa: UN Report Pins Country on Congo**

The Monitor

The ghosts of millions of Congolese and Rwandan refugees allegedly killed during the seven-year war resurrect to torment perpetrators as the UN makes public its findings of concealed atrocities against civilians. The report, an output of two-year investigations, chronicles wanton massacres and systematic sexual enslavement of Congolese allegedly by UPDF and Rwanda Patriotic Front soldiers as well as their brutal local militia allies.

## **Rwanda: UN DRC Report Threatens Regional Security - Govt**

The Government of Rwanda has warned that the "flawed and dangerous" United Nations Mapping Report to be released by the United Nation Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights could threaten regional stability.

## **2. Social issues / Human Rights**

### **Rwanda: NGO Launches US\$4.9 Million Project**

Rwanda Education Alternative for Children (REACH, has launched a three year US\$4.9m project which saw 21 model farms established in seven districts to rehabilitate victims of child labour. REACH is a locally based project funded by the US Department of Labour (USADOL) through Winrock International (WI), Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) and Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE).

### **BURUNDI: Smart phones power food surveys**

Smart phones are being introduced to help assess food needs in Burundi and other African states, speeding up data-collection and improving accuracy. World Food Programme monitors used to conduct surveys with paper forms. Each phone costs about US\$200. With two devices in each of the 15 provinces, the cost of the initiative is about \$6,000, excluding the cost of training personnel. WFP helps more than 600,000 people in Burundi.

### **Congo-Kinshasa: Mapping Human Rights Violations 1993-2003**

In the wake of the discovery of three mass graves in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in late 2005, the United Nations first announced its intention to send a human rights team to conduct a mapping exercise in DRC in a June 2006 report to the Security Council. In May 2007, the UN Secretary-General approved the terms of reference of the mapping exercise following a series of consultations among relevant UN agencies and partners and with the Congolese government. Between October 2008 and May 2009, a total of 33 staff worked on the project in the DRC (including Congolese and international human rights experts). Of these, some 20 human rights officers were deployed across the country, operating out of five field offices, to gather documents and information from witnesses to meet the three objectives defined in the terms of reference.

### **3. Economy and Energy**

#### **UN Summit Ends with Continuing Debate over Millennium Development Goals**

The three-day U.N. summit reviewing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is over, but the push to achieve them is not. Development activists continue to press for increased financial support from industrialized countries and for improved strategies for achieving the MDGs by 2015.

#### **Rwanda: Govt to Boost Cassava Production**

The Rwandan government is set to promote cassava growing to boost food security in the country. Agriculture Minister said that Cassava should be a priority, because it's a staple food for most Rwandans and can be produced as different varieties. It is also drought-resistant, in comparison with other crops. Cassava is mainly grown in Southern Province but government intends to expand the acreage of plantations to 90,000 from 70,000ha. Rwanda exports cassava flour to Belgium. Central Bank indicates that with a particular focus on breakfast cereal production, Rwanda is currently recording a boom in maize production with an increase of 53.7 percent in 2010, compared to 2009.

### **4. Health**

#### **Rwanda: Nation Ranks High in Terms of Access to ARVs**

A new report by several UN agencies has ranked Rwanda among eight countries worldwide that have registered significant progress in increasing access to anti-HIV/Aids services, including antiretroviral drugs. The report that assessed the HIV/Aids progress in 144 low and middle-income countries in 2009 indicated that Rwanda and seven other countries are the only nations that achieved universal access to antiretroviral treatment. In Rwanda, the number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy in December 2008 were 63,149, while in December 2009, they were 76,726, increasing by 21 percent.

#### **Central Africa: Rwanda, CEPGL Get EU Funds**

The European Union Commissioner for signed an agreement valued at Euros 6.85 million, to help Rwanda improve its public financial management capacities. The funds will be channeled through Rwanda Institutional Support to Statistics and Public Financial Management (RISSP) and would support in the implementation of government strategies in the areas of statistics and public financial management. Meanwhile, during the same function, the EU granted 45 million Euros for a program to promote regional integration of the three countries comprising the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL). CEPGL member states are Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The CEPGL agreement will support the rehabilitation of road connections between six cities in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi as well as cross-border energy and hydropower projects.

## Details

### 1. Security matters/ Peace Keeping / Conflict Resolution

#### **Congo-Kinshasa: UN Releases Most Extensive Report to Date on War Massacres and Rapes**

UN News Service

The United Nations today released a new report on "indescribable" atrocities committed in the war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) from 1993 to 2003, when tens of thousands of people were killed, and numerous others raped and mutilated by both armed Congolese group and foreign military forces.

"The period covered by this report is probably one of the most tragic chapters in the recent history of the DRC," says the report, the most extensive accounting to date, issued by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

"Indeed, this decade was marked by a string of major political crises, wars and multiple ethnic and regional conflicts that brought about the deaths of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people."

The 550-page report, listing 617 of the most serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law over the 10-year period by both State and non-State actors, is the product of a mapping exercise that took more than two years, including eight months on the ground in the DRC, interviewing witnesses and a wide range of sources.

Many of the attacks involved massive violence against non-combatant civilian populations consisting primarily of women and children amid a climate of near-total impunity, which continues today.

"Violence in the DRC was, in fact, accompanied by the apparent systematic use of rape and sexual assault allegedly by all combatant forces," it says. "This report highlights the apparently recurrent, widespread and systematic nature of these phenomena and concludes that the majority of the incidents of sexual violence reported could, if judicially proven, constitute offences and violations under domestic law, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law."

Declaring that children in the DRC "have suffered far too much," it cites estimates that at least 30,000 children were recruited or used by the armed forces or groups during the conflict, adding that children have been subjected to "indescribable violence," including murder, rape, torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, forced displacement and destruction of their villages.

"If this situation is allowed to continue, there is a risk that a new generation will be created that has known nothing but violence, and violence as a means of conflict resolution, thus compromising the country's chances of achieving lasting peace," it says.

In a comment today on the report's release, High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay noted that a leak in August to the French newspaper *Le Monde* of an earlier draft that had been distributed to six countries in the region, led "to intense focus on one aspect of it" - namely the raising of the possibility that the armed forces of Rwanda and their local allies may have committed acts which could constitute crimes of genocide.

"The report stresses that this question can only be addressed by a competent court," she said. "First and foremost, the Mapping Report is a report about the DRC. Yes, it does refer to the presence of foreign forces which were involved in the conflict in the DRC, and it does point to the responsibility of those forces for human rights violations.

"It also suggests that other countries have a role to play in assisting a transitional justice process in the DRC," she added, voicing the hope that people will examine it and in particular the measures it proposes to bring real progress in accountability and justice "in the wake of such a litany of dreadful acts. The millions of Congolese victims of violations committed by an extraordinarily wide range of actors deserve nothing less."

Aside from providing a historical record, the reports aims to assist the Congolese Government and civil society in developing transitional justice mechanisms and institutional reforms that will lay a firm foundation for sustainable peace and development. This includes identifying both judicial and non-judicial options for achieving justice for the many victims of serious human rights violations and ending the widespread impunity of those responsible for serious crimes.

The report notes the involvement of at least 21 armed Congolese groups as well as operations by the military forces of eight other states inside DRC. While the aim was not to establish individual criminal responsibility, information on the identities of the alleged perpetrators of some of the crimes is being held in a confidential database maintained by OCHCR. But it does identify armed groups, both domestic and foreign, involved in specific incidents.

In her foreword to the report, Ms. Pillay states that "no report can adequately describe the horrors experienced by the civilian population" in the DRC, "where almost every single individual has an experience to narrate of suffering and loss...

"The report is intended as a first step towards the sometimes painful but nonetheless essential process of truth-telling after violent conflict it looks to the future by identifying a number of paths that could be pursued by Congolese society to come to terms with its past, to fight impunity, and to face its contemporary challenges in a manner that prevents the re-occurrence of such atrocities."

While the gruesome inventory of serious violations dramatically underscores the need for justice, the DRC's ability and willingness to tackle the issue remains severely limited, the

report says, noting that poorly functioning judicial institutions "have left millions of victims with nowhere to turn and no opportunity to have their voices heard."

More than 1,280 individual witnesses were interviewed to corroborate or invalidate alleged violations, including previously unrecorded incidents, and at least 1,500 documents were collected and analysed.

### **Congo-Kinshasa: UN Report Exposes Grave Crimes - International Efforts Needed to Create Mechanisms to Ensure Justice**

Human Rights Watch (Washington, DC)

New York — United Nations members should make a concerted international effort to initiate judicial investigations into grave human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of Congo documented by the UN and bring those responsible to justice, Human Rights Watch said today.

On October 1, 2010, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights published the report of its human rights mapping exercise on Congo. The report covers the most serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in Congo between March 1993 and June 2003.

"This detailed and thorough report is a powerful reminder of the scale of the crimes committed in Congo and of the shocking absence of justice," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. "These events can no longer be swept under the carpet. If followed by strong regional and international action, this report could make a major contribution to ending the impunity that lies behind the cycle of atrocities in the Great Lakes region of Africa."

The report documents 617 violent incidents, covering all provinces, and describes the role of all the main Congolese and foreign parties responsible - including military or armed groups from Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, and Angola.

An earlier version of the report was leaked to the news media in August. The Rwandan government, whose troops are accused of some of the most serious crimes documented in the report, reacted angrily, threatening to pull its peacekeepers out of UN missions if the UN published the report.

"The UN has done the right thing by refusing to give in to these threats and by publishing the report," Roth said. "This information has been stifled for too long. The world has the right to know what happened, and the victims have a right to justice."

The UN had tried to investigate some of the events described in the report, notably in 1997 and 1998, but these investigations were repeatedly blocked by the Congolese government, then headed by Laurent-Désiré Kabila, father of the current president, Joseph Kabila. Despite those efforts, information about massacres, rapes, and other abuses against Rwandan refugees and Congolese citizens in the late 1990s was published at the time by the UN and by human rights organizations. However, no action was taken to hold those responsible to account.

"The time has come to identify and prosecute the people responsible for carrying out and ordering these atrocities, going right up the chain of command," Roth said. "Governments around the world remained silent when hundreds of thousands of unarmed civilians were being slaughtered in Congo. They have a responsibility now to ensure that justice is done."

One of the most controversial passages of the report concerns crimes committed by Rwandan troops. The UN report raises the question of whether some might be classified "crimes of genocide". The possible use of the term "genocide" to describe the conduct of the Rwandan army has dominated media coverage of the leaked report.

"Questions of qualification and terminology are important, but should not overshadow the need to act on the content of the report regardless of how the crimes are characterized," Roth said. "At the very least, Rwandan troops and their Congolese allies committed massive war crimes and crimes against humanity, and large numbers of civilians were killed with total impunity. That is what we must remember, and that is what demands concerted action for justice."

The report has received widespread support from Congolese civil society, with 220 Congolese organizations signing a statement welcoming the report and calling for a range of mechanisms to deliver justice.

The mapping exercise has its origins in the UN's earlier investigations into crimes committed in Congo from 1993 to 1997. In September 2005, the UN peacekeeping mission in Congo, MONUC, discovered three mass graves in Rutshuru, in North Kivu province of eastern Congo, relating to crimes committed in 1996 and 1997. The gruesome discovery acted as a trigger to re-open investigations. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the support of the UN Secretary-General, initiated the mapping exercise and broadened the mandate to include crimes committed during Congo's second war from 1998 to 2003.

The mapping exercise was conducted with the support of the Congolese government. However, the Congolese justice system has neither the capacity nor sufficient guarantees of independence to adequately ensure justice for these crimes, Human Rights Watch said. The report therefore suggests other options, involving a combination of Congolese, foreign, and international jurisdictions.

These could include a court with both Congolese and international personnel as well as prosecution by other states on the basis of universal jurisdiction. Human Rights Watch supports the establishment of a mixed chamber, with jurisdiction over past and current war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Congo.

Countries in the region whose armies are implicated in the report should carry out their own investigations and initiate action against individuals responsible for crimes, Human Rights Watch said.

The report is both important for highlighting past injustices and relevant to the situation in present-day Congo, Human Rights Watch said.

"This is more than a historical report," Roth said. "Many of the patterns of abuse against civilians documented by the UN team continue in Congo today, fed by a culture of impunity. Creating a justice mechanism to address past and present crimes will be crucial to ending this cycle of impunity and violence."

## **UN Congo Report Released Amid Protest from Uganda, Rwanda**

VOA

The United Nations on Friday released a controversial report documenting massive violations of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The report has sparked protests from both Rwanda and Uganda, whose armed forces are implicated in the crimes. The African countries of Angola and Burundi have also disputed aspects of the report.

On Friday the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights released the final version of a report documenting crimes against humanity and human rights violations committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The report documents over 600 major crimes including mass rape, targeted killings of civilians and other crimes against humanity from 1993 to 2003. The report implicates armed forces from Uganda and Rwanda in many of the crimes, suggesting that some may have amounted to genocide.

An initial draft leaked in late August sparked a diplomatic crisis, with Rwanda threatening to pull troops out of peacekeeping operations in the Darfur region of Sudan. While Rwanda has since withdrawn its threats, Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo called the final report "flawed and dangerous" and said it was a "moral and intellectual failure" aimed at "reigniting conflict in Rwanda and the region."

But the United Nations is standing by the report. The Director of Field Operation and Technical Cooperation for the UN Commissioner on Human Rights, Anders Kompass, said the research was held to the highest standard and conducted impartially.

"We have absolutely no interest in fabricating things that are so serious, so sad like the ones that are in this report," said Anders Kompass. "What is important to say is that the report does not make and definitive legal conclusions. What is in this report has then to be brought to a competent court where the evidence is then presented by both sides. What the report does is to provide a preliminary assessment of the facts."

After the initial outcry from Rwanda and Uganda, the United Nations invited the countries mentioned in the report to submit comments, which have been published along with the final version. There were fears the Rwandan threats might compel the U.N. to dilute the report's findings but the final version maintains its initial conclusions, with some changes to the language.

The report refers to many of the attacks as systematic in nature, and suggests they could possibly be characterized as genocide before a court of law.

The report has essentially challenged the narrative of the Rwandan genocide which left over 800,000 dead in 1994. Much of President Paul Kagame's legitimacy has been based on his role in ending those killings. But the report implicates Rwandan forces under Mr. Kagame's command of similar crimes just across the border.

In the wake of the 1994 genocide, the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front pursued Hutu forces responsible for the genocide into the Congo. While Rwanda maintains it was pursuing military opponents, the report finds many instances of Hutu civilians being deliberately targeted.

But the Rwandan government says the report is aimed at promoting the theory of "double genocide."

The report also met with fury from the government of Uganda, similarly accused of serious crimes in the report.

Following in Rwandan footsteps, the government issued a statement earlier this week saying the report could undermine its commitment to international peacekeeping operations. Uganda makes up a large portion of peacekeeping troops currently stationed in Somalia and there were fears the report would provoke their withdrawal from the troubled region. But the spokesman of the Uganda People's Defense Force, Felix Kulayigye, told VOA Uganda remained committed to the AMISOM mission in the Horn of African nation.

### **Congo-Kinshasa: UN Report Pins Country on Congo**

The Mointor

The ghosts of millions of Congolese and Rwandan refugees allegedly killed during the seven-year war resurrect to torment perpetrators today as the UN makes public its findings of concealed atrocities against civilians.

Both Uganda and Rwanda, whose armies are implicated in grave indiscretions in DR Congo, tried to block release of the report but the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Commission announced yesterday it will publicise the details this afternoon.

The report, an output of two-year investigations, chronicles wanton massacres and systematic sexual enslavement of Congolese allegedly by UPDF and Rwanda Patriotic Front soldiers as well as their brutal local militia allies.

Yesterday, the Military Spokesperson, Lt. Col. Felix Kulayigye, discredited the report as biased and challenged the motive of the authors who he said never contacted them.

Details of the report show the armies fought or killed civilians in contests over basic charcoal trade to pillaging gold, coltan and timber.

In some instances, the soldiers switched off turbines at dam sites to cut electricity supply; resulting in deaths of in-patients at various hospitals during the 1997-2003 war.

The war in Zaire, as the DRC was then called, sucked in Kampala and Kigali initially as pursuers of dissident forces but ended as a lengthy bloody campaign that toppled President Mobutu Sese Seko and saw his successor Laurent Kabila assassinated.

Invading allies, intoxicated by the allure of DRC's abundant minerals, turned the barrel on one another in the quest for political hegemony, stirring what today's report brands "war crimes and crimes against humanity".

For instance, the authors allege that the UPDF confined a group of women and raped them in turns for pleasure at Premier Bassin Hotel for four days, from August 7-10, 1998.

Later in 2003, Médecins sans frontières, the French health organization, reported treating some 822 rape victims aged 13-25 assaulted in Bunia between May and December of that year.

The report says on November 9, 2000, Ugandan soldiers indiscriminately killed 36 people in Kikere village, close to Butuhe, north of Butembo. "The soldiers fired blindly on civilians using rifles and rocket-launchers. Some civilians died as a result of being burned alive in their homes."

In Beni, UPDF allegedly instituted a "reign of terror for several years with complete impunity", executing civilians besides torturing or detaining others in three-metre deep holes - without access to latrine.

But Lt. Col. Kulayigye said: "The report is inaccurate and in bad taste; the authors didn't follow the rules of natural justice by giving us chance to defend ourselves and why should anyone take it serious?"

"It's mere speculation whose motive is only clear to the authors."

Uganda and Rwanda tried, rather unsuccessfully, to arm-twist the world body to stay release of the report or else they would withdraw their troops involved in UN-led peacekeeping operations across Africa.

Yesterday, Mr Reed Brody, spokesman for Human Rights Watch, said masterminds of the DRC atrocities must immediately be identified and prosecuted to stem impunity.

"It would be short-sighted for the international community to turn a blind eye to the findings of this report," he said by telephone from New York. "You can't have peace if there are no consequences for massacres."

Mr Brody said had an earlier call for punishing perpetrators of previous DRC conflicts been heeded, no such killings would have re-occurred in later years.

"If we don't act on the facts, what message do we send to victims; their tormentors and the world?" he said. An earlier UN report found Uganda culpable of plundering Congo resources and the International Court of Justice later fined the country \$10 billion.

The new report, which accuses UPDF of recruiting and training children as soldiers, says genocide may have been committed in the second DRC war but court will have to establish this. The authors say they interviewed some 1,280 witnesses and sifted through 1,500 documents during the probe.

### **Rwanda: UN DRC Report Threatens Regional Security - Govt**

The New Times

Kigali — The Government of Rwanda has warned that the "flawed and dangerous" United Nations Mapping Report to be released, today, by the United Nation Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights could threaten regional stability.

A day to the scheduled release of the controversial report, the Government of Rwanda provided the United Nations with comments on the draft report of the Mapping Exercise in the D R Congo, which alleges that Rwandan forces committed genocide in the DRC.

In a statement addressed to the UN, Government Spokesperson and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Louise Mushikiwabo, said that Rwanda maintains the report is flawed and full of manipulations.

"Despite the media's focus on sensational aspects of the leaked draft, Rwanda categorically states that the document is flawed and dangerous from start to finish," Mushikiwabo said yesterday.

"Our comments to the UN today centre around seven specific areas of objection that clearly demonstrate how the Mapping Exercise has been a moral and intellectual failure - as well as an insult to history," Mushikiwabo said.

The areas of objection are:

- The manipulation of UN processes by organizations and individuals-both inside and outside the UN-for purposes of rewriting history, improperly apportioning blame for the genocide that occurred in Rwanda, and reigniting conflict in Rwanda and the region.
- The omission of the historical context, especially the immediate and serious threat posed by armed and ideologically charged refugees positioned right at the border of Rwanda and Zaire, as well as the nature of the conflict within Zaire at the time. This is despite the UN's knowledge of the situation and its blatant inaction.

- The contradiction between the report and contemporaneous accounts of the situation from the UN Security Council, NGOs and many other eyewitnesses in the region who confirmed that genocidal forces, often posing as civilian refugees, were operating under the cover of UN refugee camps.
- The flawed methodology and application of the lowest imaginable evidentiary standard
- The over reliance on the use of anonymous sources, hearsay assertions, unnamed, un-vetted and unidentified investigators and witnesses, who lack credibility; and allegation of the existence of victims with uncertain identity.
- Failure to address the glaring inconsistency that claims of genocide are directly contradicted by Rwanda's extensive and coordinated efforts to repatriate, resettle and reintegrate 3.2 million Hutu refugees; efforts that were supported by the UN.
- The dangerous and irresponsible attempt by the Report to undermine the peace and stability attained in the Great Lakes region, which directly contradicts the very mission of the United Nations.

"Given these objections, it seems clear that no amount of tinkering can resuscitate the credibility of this fundamentally misguided process," Mushikiwabo said.

Rwandans from various cities in the world are today scheduled to hold demonstrations protesting the report.

DRC, Burundi and most recently, Uganda have come out to reject the findings in the controversial report.

### **3. Social issues / Human Rights**

#### **Rwanda: NGO Launches US\$4.9 Million Project**

The New Times

Kigali — Rwanda Education Alternative for Children (REACH, has launched a three year US\$4.9m project which saw 21 model farms established in seven districts to rehabilitate victims of child labour.

During the launch of the project in Kigali Sector, Nyarugenge District, REACH Country Director, Jean Claude Nkurikiyinka said that the project will see children earn incomes through selling crops that they have grown.

The farms will be used as demonstration plots and learning centres for victims of child labour and give communities skills in food production, agro-technology and post harvest handling.

"Through this project, children will learn how they can benefit from agricultural activities and in the process, how they will support themselves financially in the future," Nkurikiyinka said.

He said that this is also one ways for children to get back to school. About 2,200 children will benefit from the project and Nkurikiyinka said that in the first season children will focus on the growing of maize followed by vegetables.

By 2002 about 352,550 children were estimated to be working on coffee, tea, and sugar and rice farms. A large number were also working in stone quarries and as herdsmen.

Nkurikiyinka said that REACH will increase the number of farms to 42 from the current 21 in all the seven districts where it operates.

Most of the children rescued from child labour in Nyarugenge District are orphans below the age of 18, who dropped out of school.

Donatha Gihana, Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) Rwanda Coordinator urged community activists to be dynamic to ensure success of the project.

REACH is a locally based project funded by the US Department of Labour (USADOL) through Winrock International (WI), Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) and Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), which seek to withdraw 8,300 children from exploitive labour in the districts of Kayonza, Nyagatare, Nyamasheke, rural Nyarugenge, Rubavu and Gicumbi and put them in schools to acquire skills in food production, agricultural technology and post-harvest handling among others.

## **BURUNDI: Smart phones power food surveys**

IRIN

Smart phones are being introduced to help assess food needs in Burundi and other African states, speeding up data-collection and improving accuracy.

Whereas World Food Programme monitors used to conduct surveys with paper forms, answers to key questions such as “How many meals a day are you eating?” “What do you use to cook?” and “How many people live in your household?” are now entered into Hewlett Packard iPAQ smartphones loaded with a specially developed application.

Each phone costs about US\$200. With two devices in each of the 15 provinces, the cost of the initiative is about \$6,000, excluding the cost of training personnel.

WFP helps more than 600,000 people in Burundi.

WFP programme assistant Gerard Bisman told IRIN the new technology delivers more accurate data more quickly.

“It used to take us about an hour and a half to complete the entire interview with paper and now it takes only half an hour,” he told IRIN.

Time thus gained “means you can expand your survey area, and that makes it more valid by interviewing more people”, WFP information officer Marc Neilson explained, adding that no longer having to decipher sloppy handwriting helps to reduce data errors.

WFP Burundi is in the first phase of the project with information collected on a memory card and sent to the main office in Bujumbura by WFP or Burundian government vehicles. To make sure the devices are working properly, some staffers send the entire device. Other WFP staffers have started plugging the memory cards into their computers and sending the data by e-mail.

Soon, staff in the field will begin transmitting their findings wirelessly with the country’s new hi-speed 3G network. Neilson said the info can be sent using the older general packet radio service (GPRS). However, the 3G network makes it quicker and “easier to send larger files,” he said.

WFP has also started putting the devices to use elsewhere in Africa, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique.

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## **Congo-Kinshasa: Mapping Human Rights Violations 1993-2003**

United Nations Human Rights (Geneva)

Document

In the wake of the discovery of three mass graves in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in late 2005, the United Nations first announced its intention to send a human rights team to conduct a mapping exercise in DRC in a June 2006 report to the Security Council.

In May 2007, the UN Secretary-General approved the terms of reference of the mapping exercise following a series of consultations among relevant UN agencies and partners and with the Congolese government.

The mapping exercise, led by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) had three objectives:

- \* Conduct a mapping exercise of the most serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed within the territory of the DRC between March 1993 and June 2003.
- \* Assess the existing capacities within the national justice system to deal appropriately with such human rights violations that may be uncovered.
- \* Formulate a series of options aimed at assisting the Government of the DRC in identifying appropriate transitional justice mechanisms to deal with the legacy of these violations, in terms of truth, justice, reparation and reform, taking into account ongoing efforts by the DRC authorities, as well as the support of the international community.

The mapping exercise began in July 2008. Between October 2008 and May 2009, a total of 33 staff worked on the project in the DRC (including Congolese and international human rights experts). Of these, some 20 human rights officers were deployed across the country, operating out of five field offices, to gather documents and information from witnesses to meet the three objectives defined in the terms of reference. The report was submitted to the High Commissioner for Human Rights in June 2009 for review, comments and finalisation.

The mapping team's 550-page report contains descriptions of 617 alleged violent incidents occurring in the DRC between March 1993 and June 2003. Each of these incidents points to the possible commission of gross violations of human rights and/or international humanitarian law. Each of the incidents listed is backed up by at least two independent sources identified in the report. As serious as they may be, uncorroborated incidents claimed by one single source are not included. Over 1,500 documents relating to human rights violations committed during this period were gathered and analysed with a view to establishing an initial chronology by region of the main violent incidents reported. Only incidents meeting a 'gravity threshold' set out in the methodology were considered. Field mapping teams met with over 1,280 witnesses

to corroborate or invalidate the violations listed in the chronology. Information was also collected on previously undocumented crimes.

## **4. Economy and Energy**

### **UN Summit Ends with Continuing Debate over Millennium Development Goals**

VOA

The three-day U.N. summit reviewing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is over, but the push to achieve them is not. Development activists continue to press for increased financial support from industrialized countries and for improved strategies for achieving the MDGs by 2015.

US policy

In an address to the United Nations General Assembly Thursday, President Barack Obama said U.S. policy will emphasize incentives for economic growth over food or financial aid, and encourage countries to come up with practical policies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

And, he reiterated the criteria set forth by the U.S. Agency for International Development for measuring the success of the MDG's: They include the use of new and sustainable technologies combined with mutual accountability and improved tracking of development outcomes.

Greg Adams is the Director of Aid Effectiveness at Oxfam-America. He welcomed President Obama's strategy for reaching the goals, though he says more needs to be done.

The Obama administration is focusing on boosting food production as a means of reducing extreme hunger

"A couple of things we need him to do," Adams said. "We hope he will work with Congress to re-write the laws regarding [U.S.] Government foreign assistance because right now they are a tangled web of conflicting authorities that we need to clear up.

And, we also hope President Obama will include USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, in as many National Security Council meetings as possible. One of the aims of the new policy is to elevate the voice of development in overall government foreign policy and right now as the main foreign policy body in the White House sits down to talk, there is no development voice at the table."

Peer review

Oxfam urges donors, including the leading industrialized nations, or G8, to keep promises made at their summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, five years ago to increase aid by \$50 billion by 2010. So far, the development group notes, only about \$30 billion has been received.

It also wants to improve the accountability of national leaders for the progress made on reaching the MDGs.

Irungu Houghton, Oxfam's Pan Africa Director in Nairobi, Kenya, says peer review should be a part of the yearly year summits where heads of state gather to review the goals.

"[We should think] more creatively how the president of an African country could be questioned by an Indian or Brazilian colleagues or vice versa [as] an important way of developing a dialogue where no head of state would come to the forum without being very clear what the progress is and that they 've done all that they can during the course of the year to meet the MDG's," Houghton said.

### Greater transparency

Development activists also advocate greater transparency as part of the fight against corruption – which inhibits the best laid plans for improving social services and living standards.

A recent report by the UN Economic Commission for Africa notes that 3% of Africa's public resources are diverted to private hands, and that the continent loses 60% in illicit capital flows to foreign tax havens.

Eva-Lotta Jansson / Oxfam America

The highest rates of child mortality are in sub-Saharan Africa, where 1 in 7 children die before their fifth birthday (UNDP)

Irungu Houghton, Oxfam's Pan Africa advisor, based in Nairobi, Kenya, stresses the need for greater transparency in business contracts.

"We know stories of Mobutu in (mineral-rich) Zaire [now Democratic Republic of the Congo] and in (oil-rich) Equatorial Guinea where there is a corrupt relationship between members of the government and transnational corporation executives," Houghton added. "This has begun to change especially in the context that [Uganda, Ghana and other African countries are] now negotiating a whole set of arrangements with the Chinese and other [Asian] countries to explore oil and other deposits. If handled well, [it] could mean these countries moving from least developed to middle income countries.

Houghton welcomes renewed efforts by industrialized nations to encourage openness in transactions between international companies and African governments. One such effort is a recent law passed by the US Congress that requires energy companies wishing to do business in the US to reveal all payments made to government officials. Oxfam encourages the African Union and other bodies to set up and enforce similar Publish What You Pay procedures for companies doing business in their region.

### Sources of revenue

Oxfam also encourages donor countries to find alternative sources of revenue for supporting the MDGs. One, supported by France and Japan, would include a tax on world financial transactions, a proposal not supported by the United States.

Geoff Sayer / Oxfam

Current aid for basic education to the developing world (\$2.7 billion) is seven times less than what the world spends on chewing gum each year (Oxfam/UNESCO)

The development organization warns that the development goals could be affected by a return to indebtedness. Houghton says many developing countries borrowed money at high rates from private banks for stimulus programs to cushion themselves from the global economic downturn.

But he says that's meant \$60 billion in deficits, and the threat of a return of the widespread debt of the 1980's and 1990's. Houghton proposes the creation of mechanisms, or an institution, to monitor the degree to which national governments borrow from private sources, and advise them on how to borrow prudently.

He expects these, and other ideas, to be part of the debate at G8 meetings and other forums that focus on the boosting the global economy, and living standards.

### **Rwanda: Govt to Boost Cassava Production**

The New Times

Kigali — The Rwandan government is set to promote cassava growing to boost food security in the country, a government official has said.

In an interview with Norbert Sendege, the Director General of Rwanda Agriculture Development Authority (RADA), the latter said the government intends to increase yields to 20,000 tons per hectare and total production to 2 million tons per year.

"Cassava should be a priority, because it's a staple food for most Rwandans and can be produced as different varieties. It is also drought-resistant, in comparison with other crops," he said.

Cassava can be consumed as fries, chipped-off dried tubers, a solid meal, and flour and tapioca starch. Dried cassava roots and meal are also used as raw material for compound animal feed while cassava starch is used for industrial purposes.

"Cassava could grow four times as plentifully and feed many more people," he said. Cassava is mainly grown in Southern Province but government intends to expand the acreage of plantations to 90,000 from 70,000ha. Rwanda exports cassava flour to Belgium.

According to the Minister of Agriculture, Agnes Kalibata, the crop is one of the priorities under the government crop intensification programme.

Other crops mentioned by the Minister include, maize, beans, wheat, irish potatoes and bananas. Karibata said the crops will be funded in areas of seeds, fertilizers and technical services.

Sendege, said that maize and sorghum are both cereals but the government is encouraging to plant maize over sorghum.

"Regarding ingredients, maize is more nutritious and with the highest yield than sorghum," Sendege said.

Central Bank indicates that with a particular focus on cereals production, Rwanda is currently recording a boom in maize production with an increase of 53.7 percent in 2010, compared to 2009.

"This performance is currently leading to a dynamic trade activity of this crop especially between Rwanda and its neighboring countries", official statement reads.

Maize produces between four and eight tons while the sorghum yield is between one and two tons per hectare.

Government wants to support the agriculture sector which it sees as a key factor in increase economic growth expected to grow between 7 and 10 percent.

According to the recent monetary policy statement, 2010 season A and B harvests recorded an increase of 8.2% compared to 2009, driven by cereals and roots & tubers production which increased by 18.7% and 18.8% respectively.

## **5. Health**

### **\Rwanda: Nation Ranks High in Terms of Access to ARVs**

The New Times

Kigali — A new report by several UN agencies has ranked Rwanda among eight countries worldwide that have registered significant progress in increasing access to anti-HIV/Aids services, including antiretroviral drugs.

The report titled, 'Towards universal access' was compiled by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

It details global progress made in achieving the 2010 target of preventing the spread of the disease as well as providing treatment and care to people living with the virus.

The report that assessed the HIV/Aids progress in 144 low and middle-income countries in 2009 indicated that Rwanda and seven other countries are the only nations that achieved universal access to antiretroviral treatment.

In each of these countries, it is estimated that 80 percent of those who need the drugs access them. The other countries are Botswana, Cambodia, Croatia, Cuba, Guyana, Oman and Romania.

"In Rwanda, the number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy in December 2008 were 63,149, while in December 2009, they were 76,726, increasing by 21 percent," reads part of the report.

And, according to Dr Placidie Mugwaneza from TRAC PLUS, the number of people receiving ARV therapy has since gone up to over 80,000 which places Rwanda in its current position.

"We attribute our success to effective coordination of our work and avoiding duplication," said Mugwaneza.

She singled out Global Fund, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and several UN Agencies for backing the government intervention programmes.

"There is a quantification committee in the Ministry of Health that sits once a year and comes up with a complete statistical report on how many people need ARVs," she explained.

The joint report indicates that, in Rwanda, the existence of a coordinated procurement and distribution system for antiretroviral drugs and medication for opportunistic diseases has attracted the more efforts from the government, donors, as well as international organizations.

"Rwanda has succeeded in reducing stock-outs and drug expiry by ensuring that, once potential antiretroviral stock-outs are identified, a partner can step in and fill any gaps as needed. When the stock-out is a national issue and concerns all districts, an internationally agreed approach is to place an emergency order from partners who have buffer stocks in their warehouses at regional (Johannesburg, Nairobi, Accra) or headquarter levels and explore which options would respond more rapidly to the urgent country need," indicates the report.

The report also adds: "Different models for the delivery of integrated HIV and TB services have been implemented in several countries with promising results. Provision of HIV testing in TB clinics and TB screening for inpatients in medical wards and HIV-positive outpatients has been used in Rwanda."

## **6. Elections & Governance**

### **Central Africa: Rwanda, CEPGL Get EU Funds**

The New times

Kigali — The European Union Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs and the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, John Rwangombwa, yesterday, signed an agreement valued at Euros 6.85 million, to help Rwanda improve its public financial management capacities.

The funds will be channeled through Rwanda Institutional Support to Statistics and Public Financial Management (RISSP) and would support in the implementation of government strategies in the areas of statistics and public financial management.

"The strengthening of our public finance management systems is an important factor since we have had that as a commitment of enhancing good governance in all areas of public management, said Rwangombwa.

He added that; "We truly believe that planning is based on solid numbers, facts and realities on the ground, we embarked on an ambitious programme to build our systems and institutions, and we are happy that we are getting support from our partners."

"We have a national development strategy that will help us build our statistical system that will, at the end of the day, help us in drawing up strong plans for our development."

The Minister went on to thank the EU for channeling their finances directly to budget support.

"In our aid policy we considered budget support as the preferred modernity of channeling aid to our development. We are happy that the EU has been one of our partners that have accepted that principle. 90 per cent of their financial support is going direct to our budget and we appreciate that."

Rwangombwa, further pointed out the merits of direct budget support.

"It ensures 100% alignment to government programmes, it supports ownership because its money received in our coffers and spent through our systems but also it supports the strengthening of the government finance management systems, and also, strengthens the dialogue between the government and our development partners," he said.

In his address Piebalgs said that the EU will be providing the amount over the next five years.

"Our financing is aimed at assisting the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda to achieve its objectives spelt out in the national strategy. It will also go to the government to achieve its targets as listed in the public financial management reform strategy," he said.

"Recognizing the strong systems that Rwanda has put in place to manage public funds, I am pleased to point out that our support will be channeled directly into basket funds which are managed directly by NISR and the Ministry of Finance."

Piebalgs pointed out that; "efficient and effective management of public finance is crucial to the good functioning of the State and I very much appreciate the efforts Rwanda has put in place in the past years and this signing is a significant progress that you have achieved in the area of public financial management reforms."

Meanwhile, during the same function, the EU granted 45 million Euros for a program to promote regional integration of the three countries comprising the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL).

CEPGL member states are Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The CEPGL agreement will support the rehabilitation of road connections between six cities in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi as well as cross-border energy and hydropower projects.

According the Ministry of Finance, the EU support to Rwanda is close to Euros 300 million.