



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 4 July 2005

Programme No. 964

Length: 2'47"

BURUNDI REFUGEES RECEIVE ASSISTANCE

VIDEO

PHILIPPE GOING HOME

AUDIO

NARRATION

Philippe Mvuyekure has spent five years living in a refugee camp in Tanzania.

Now, he's on his way home. He's among thousands of refugees convinced that Burundi's ten year civil war is finally over. (13")

MVUYEKURE: (In local dialect)

MVUYEKURE ON-CAMERA

"I haven't heard anything from my mother and my family since I fled five years ago, I miss them and I want to see them." (8")

NARRATION

DEAD BODIES/REFUGEES

Like neighbouring Rwanda, Burundi's conflict was manipulated by rival political factions who thrived on ethnic divisions between Hutu and Tutsi. Refugees like Philippe are coming home despite the hardships ahead because of upcoming elections. Athanase Gahungu, Minister of Finance...(16")

GAHUNGU: (In English)

GAHUNGU ON-CAMERA

“As far as the economy is concerned, the situation is drastic, almost catastrophic because all indicators have gone down. The literacy rate, the GDP, everything has fallen. As a result, the population now lives in a state of extreme poverty.” (18”)

NARRATION

MAN ON BICYCLE

Even before the war started in 1993, Burundi was among the world’s poorest countries and relied heavily on foreign aid. (9”)

COUNTRYSIDE SCENES

But as the fighting escalated most international development organizations abandoned the country. (6”)

HOMES/COUNTRYSIDE

As poverty grew so too did the number of people willing to join the fight...except in areas where the International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD, continued working says Abla Benhammouche. (14”)

BENHAMMOUCHE: (In English)

BENHAMMOUCHE ON-CAMERA

“In the provinces where we have been intervening there has been a certain level of destruction but not as much as in others where donors used to be but just packed up and left. It’s better for us to be there, give them a plough, give them tools, give them seeds because once you have nothing

to lose, the option of taking the machete or taking the gun becomes very attractive." (22")

NARRATION

Now, more than ever, Burundi needs development assistance to maintain peace. (4")

SOLDIERS

In January 2004, international donors pledged one billion dollars for Burundi's reconstruction, but because not all the combatants have put down their arms, less than half has materialized. (12")

DESTRUCTION

Lasting peace may not come over night but should the international community continue to honor its pledges perhaps Philippe and his family will see the benefits ...one day. (12")

SOLDIER/PHILIPPE

This report was prepared by James Heer for the United Nations.

UN LOGO

