



Introduction

The political activities in Burundi in 2010 were largely dominated by the electoral cycle of presidential, parliamentary and local elections from May to September.

The first communal elections were held with a high voter turnout and the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD, obtained 64 % of the votes. National and international observers deployed in the country before and during the polls stated that the elections were conducted according to international norms. They further noted that the irregularities observed during these elections were not significant enough to question the credibility of the polls.

However, a group of 12 opposition parties, including the former rebel movement and the major opposition actors, rejected the results, alleging massive fraud and irregularities. The group questioned the neutrality of the electoral commission and subsequently withdrew their respective candidates for the presidential elections and parliamentary elections. The following elections were thus organised without the participation of the major opposition parties and the CNDD-FDD emerged from the elections as the dominating political force in Burundi.

The UN, together with the international community, has consequently encouraged President Nkurunziza to create political space for the extra-parliamentary opposition and resume dialogue, also through visits by the UN Secretary General and the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. However, the political climate after the elections has been characterised by tensions and several opposition leaders left the country by fear of persecution.

The security situation, although relatively stable during the period of review, remains of concern. Criminal activities were high, particularly armed robbery, ambushes, killings, residential attacks and sexual violence. The number of election-related violent incidents increased during the campaigns, including grenade attacks in public places. However, no widespread electoral violence was reported. Due to the stabilised overall situation in the country, the UN Security phase was lowered to Security phase II in November 2010.

Summary on progress towards UNDAF outcomes

Strategic Planning and coordination

During the period under review, the Government conducted an assessment of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP 2007-2010), which indicates mixed results in terms of economic growth, poverty reduction and the creation of a conducive business environment. However, the assessment clearly shows positive results in peace consolidation. The elaboration process of the PRSP II started in September. The UN system gave technical support to this process in the areas of methodology, demography and gender. Several meetings have been held by UN partners in order to ensure coordination of their support under the leadership of the World Bank.

In January an integrated UN program on Strategic Planning and Coordination was launched under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and UNFPA. One result of the integrated program was a national database on population and habitat that will serve as an important tool for planning. Thematic reports drawn from the database served as elements for analysis and discussion in the elaboration of the next Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

On 16 September, Burundi officially launched the 2010 Progress Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The report indicates that much remains to be done to achieve the MDGs by 2015. While it is possible to achieve MDG 2 in relation to universal primary education and make significant progress on the MDGs related to health, it would be difficult to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The UN system through UNDP supported the government in the elaboration of the report and also the terms of reference for the database BurundInfo that is currently awaiting funding.

Support to community recovery

In January, an integrated UN program on support to the implementation of the national strategy of community recovery for war-affected populations was launched under the leadership of the Ministry of National Solidarity and UNDP. During the period under review, the UN supported the Government in building eight integrated villages to resettle 5,000 returnees, internally displaced persons and vulnerable residents.

Other results from the agencies' activities within the program have been the establishment of local coordination committees for the implementation of the national strategy, and strengthened capacities at community level to prevent and solve conflict.

The programme also helped enhance the delivery of basic social services through the training of health personnel and the provision of 12 ambulances. In the programme area, primary school completion rates also increased from 46% to 49%, this was achieved through the provision of school material, the sensitisation of parents and pupils as well as the provision of school feeding and clean water in schools.

The integrated programme also helped 244 women start small-scale food processing businesses, which helped them generate an income. Other activities included 89 labour intensive projects, which employed temporarily 6,530 people including over 4,000 former combatants.

Following the tripartite agreement between Burundi, the DRC and UNHCR on the voluntary return of Burundian refugees from the DRC and of Congolese refugees from Burundi, the repatriation plan of about 17,000 Burundian refugees was launched in early October. The first convoy of 242 returnees arrived on 5 October from the DRC.

Support to reconciliation, the promotion and protection of Human Rights

During the period under review, the human rights situation remained a major concern. There was a significant increase in human rights violations, in particular restrictions on freedom of expression and liberty throughout the electoral period. The UN system through the BINUB mission and UNDP continued its human rights promotion and protection activities by regularly monitoring and reporting violations, holding regular briefings for the diplomatic community and the Country Team

on the human rights situation, and organizing training as well as awareness programmes for State employees and youth groups.

In January two integrated UN programs were launched: on Human Rights education and fight against gender based violence under the leadership of the Ministry of Human Rights and BINUB Human Rights section. Due to the electoral period, the integrated program on Human Rights education encountered several challenges in its implementation. The joint efforts through the integrated program on fight against gender-based violence resulted in an integrated centre for SGBV victims in the town of Gitega. The centre may serve as a pilot experience for further UN efforts. The UN also undertook sensitisation activities in order to integrate the thematic of gender-based violence into the new PRSP.

Concrete steps were taken to integrate the Human rights-led field presence of the mission and the field presence of the respective agencies as part of the new structure of UN's presence in Burundi.

Democratic governance

An integrated program on Democratic Governance was launched in January under the lead of the Ministry of Good Governance and the BINUB Integrated Section on Peace and Governance. The program supported the establishment of the Permanent Forum for Dialogue among Political Parties (PFDPP) with the provision of equipment for the Forum's office and a conference hall in May. On 16 September, ADC-Ikibiri members announced their withdrawal from the PFDPP, following their boycott of the electoral process and the lack of dialogue among political parties.

Again, within the framework of the integrated program, preliminary assessments are also ongoing for the establishment of the National Programme for Administrative Reform (PNRA). In addition, a project is on-going to update and enrich the Ministry of Interior's 2002 database of civil society organizations (CSOs), in order to improve the relationship between CSOs and the Government as well as promote good governance and sustainable human development.

Summary on progress in UN Reform

The UN system in Burundi continued to advance in terms of integration of the UN agencies and the peace building mission, BINUB. During the electoral period the UN played a role in encouraging dialogue among political actors, provided support to the free identity card delivery campaign and technical assistance to the electoral commission through UNDP. The UN actors gave this support to national authorities in a coordinated manner through a UN Integrated Taskforce established in April. The taskforce, headed by the ERSG/RC, monitored the preparations, developed logistical contingency plans and enabled an effective use of common UN resources. The coordination of the International Community's support was ensured through the Consultative Strategic Committee headed by the UN ERSG/RC.

Following the emergence of a new political landscape in Burundi the UN system engaged in a strategic overview of its priorities and presence in the country. A multi-disciplinary Strategic Assessment Mission was dispatched in August to give recommendations on a revised time frame for the transition to a more development focused presence. Following consultations with BINUB, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the regional and wider international community and the Government of Burundi, three strategic priority areas were identified for Burundi over the next five

years. These include completing recovery and stimulating equitable growth, establishing and reinforcing accountable, effective, and responsive institutions; and establishing and reinforcing effective mechanisms for dialogue, reconciliation and transitional justice. The UN system is currently reviewing its work plans in order to further implement these priority areas as a system.

During the year, the UN and the Burundian government has advanced in reinforcing the implementation of the UNDAF+ 2010-2014. The joint steering committee, the thematic groups and the joint implementation committees were established and commenced their work. Five joint programs were launched in January in the areas of strategic planning and coordination, community recovery, Human Rights education, gender based violence and democratic governance. The integrated programs are a key instrument to achieve the objectives of the UNDAF+, however the implementation during the first year was in part slowed down due to the preparations and organisation of the national elections.

At an operational level, the UN system made significant progress in implementing the HACT during the year of review and international and national consultants were recruited in this regard. A micro evaluation of 73 key partners was conducted and focal points from concerned ministries and agencies were trained in a workshop held in Bujumbura in November. Furthermore, concrete steps were taken to merge the two existing medical structures of the UN agencies and the UN mission into one and also to develop joint UN field offices as parts of the new structure of UN presence in Burundi.

Key aspects of the proposed 2011 workplan

The United Nations Country Team will continue its integrated support for national efforts towards reintegration, community recovery and equitable growth. With the changes in the leadership structure [separate Resident Coordinator] a great focus will be made on building upon the integration achievements made thus far. The Resident Coordinator's Office will focus on strengthening the team leadership and integration, and to ensure improved communication with partners at both field and national level. One challenge will be adequately supporting the newly established integrated field offices.

The main challenge for the country team in 2011 will be supporting the government in the preparation of the second generation PRSP and ensuring that Millennium Development Goals are the guiding strategic principles in the PRSP.

The United Nations' Country Team will enter in the second year of implementation of five integrated programmes. The joint implementation and monitoring & evaluation structures [Government/UN] for the Integrated Programmes will have to be revitalised, as they remained mainly dormant in 2010 because of the electoral process. 2011 will also be the first year of implementation of the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers.

Recommendations

The United Nations Integrated Management Team in Burundi (UNIMT) appreciates the support received by the Secretariat (DPA and PBSO) and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) to

strengthen integration and instruments in support of peace building, as well as specific support received from agencies, at headquarters and regional offices.

The UNIMT thanks DOCO for strengthening its capacity for coordination and planning, and seeks to further strengthen this support during the year 2011 as it will be decisive for adequately implementing and monitoring five joint/integrated programmes as well as supporting the establishment of effective joint UNCT/Mission integrated field offices. , DOCO's support will also be critical in supporting the development of a communication and resource mobilization strategy for the five joint/integrated programmes.

This support will be even more relevant in 2011 as it is a transition year with a newly established mission and leadership with a longer term engagement in Burundi as well as newly established Government structures.

The UNIMT thus recommends that DOCO keep supporting Burundi's coordination and planning capacity.