

LESSONS LEARNED  
WORKING WITH  
RETURNEES IN BURUNDI

Presented by  
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# PRESENTATION PLAN



- 1. Brief presentation of CEPBU
- 2. Introduction
- 3. Returning movement
- 4. Main needs of the returnees
- 5. Meetings some needs: water, shelter, food, education etc

# INTRODUCTION



- Burundi faced armed conflicts after his independancy,
- In 1972, many people died and thousands of people fled in other countries mainly in Tanzania,
- From 1993 to 2005, another big civil war led to displacement of people (some internally and many others fled in the neighbouring countries),
- Thousands of people died and almost 8 hundred thousands people fled in other countries and mainly in Tanzania,
- In 2002, there were still around 202,822 IDPs,
- In 2002, there were still 229 IDP sites,

# Returning movement



- The massive repatriation movement started mainly in 2002,
- From 2002 to 2012, statistics from UNHCR showed that around 569,586 refugees (mainly from Tanzania), have returned,
- Around 202,822 IDPs are reintegrated in their original places,
- Among the 229 IDP sites in 2002, more than 100 have closed today,

# Main needs of the returnees



- While coming back, returnees are facing many challenges:
  1. Lack of shelter,
  2. Lack of food,
  3. Lack of the other items like cloths and houses materials,
  4. Lack of water and sanitation,
  5. Drop out school,
  6. Lack of employment
  7. Etc

Working with returnees is helping them to meet these needs.

# Meeting the needs of the returnees: Water supply



- Water is life



# HELPING THEM WITH SHELTER



- Before they are assisted, IDPs are living in very bad conditions



# Helping them in shelter





Before assistance, they are living in such houses



# HELPING THEM IN SHELTER ctd



- They are assisted and get a transitional house .
- 8.908 houses built



# HELPING THEM IN FOOD



- While coming back, they generally get food for 6 months by UNHCR (officially).
- Many are those who are coming by their own. For that they need food (relief).
- Beans distribution and modern agricultural sensitization



# Helping them in education



- Returning movement is adding pressure to education system (infrastructures)
- Children coming back need to integrate schools. There is a need of building additional classes.

# Primary and Secondary schools have been built to facilitate their reintegration





# Vocational training



- 130 young people are trained in masonry and carpentry



# Vocational training: sewing activities



- 90 young leaders are already trained



After the training they get sewing machine as starting kit





# Environment, cross cutting issue



- Nursing and trees plantations



# Food security



Establish tree nurseries  
in Rutana: 8 tree  
nurseries established

Mobilisation, awareness  
trainings of pilot farmers: pilot  
farmers are aware of the project  
and commit to train farmers





# Food security (ctd)



Demo plots establish in Giharo and in Bukemba



Building of store rooms: still under construction



# Food security (ctd)



## Banana plantations

Distribution of animals to beneficiaries (pigs and goats):  
Most of the farmers have kept animals and are producing organic manure





# Improved stoves



# Key factors of success

- Involvement and participation of the local beneficiaries, local church development committees, local administration
- Collaboration with the stakeholders in the area of interventions
- Improved communication and relationship with Stakeholders (Right Holders and Duty Bearers at all levels)
- Applying the HAP principles
- Integration of crosscutting issues (DRR, Peace building, environment, HIV/AIDS, Gender, disabilities, ...)

# Step forwards/future perspectives



- 1. CEPBU is continuing supporting and helping the most need to fight against poverty in the different sectors,
- 2. Creating a Radio for evangelisation and teaching (training),
- We need your support and prayers.
- Imana ibahezagire,
- Murakoze cane;