

METHODOLOGY

- ◆ The evaluation team has followed a two-fold standard methodology, based on: a) a review of the existing documentation provided by OCHA¹¹ and, b) stakeholder analysis through individual interviews with those donors, UN agencies and NGOs present in Burundi. The average interview time was seventy five minutes. However, given the limited time frame to meet everyone (over sixty individual interviews would have been necessary) and the lack of a presence of some donors in Burundi, the evaluation team had prepared and sent by electronic mail three questionnaire forms (one for donors – including those covering Burundi from Nairobi-, one for UN agencies and one for NGOs) to obtain some critical information and statistical evidence on some of the key issues. The questionnaire survey received practically no response (two replies only) and subsequently has been discarded as inconclusive.

- **MAIN FINDINGS** structured along points 4.1. to 4.5 of the TOR

A) Critical issues in the context

1. Burundi is currently undergoing a major transitional process which should eventually lead to general elections in November 2004 and hopefully lasting peace in the country. As in any other country in transition, the provisional government is weakened, and many things are halted until a new democratically elected government takes office. It is therefore both a constraint and an opportunity for humanitarian aid: slow pace or suspension of reforms, but also the time to send the proper message to those holding power or those expected to be in power shortly. Given the number of inhabitants, Burundi is comparable to a large city, in which personal relations are of paramount importance as practically everyone knows each other. The small donor community present in country could have seized this opportunity to send a common message to the GoB. However this requires an agreement as to which message should be sent, and there is no consensus amongst the donor community on a clear humanitarian aid agenda.
2. Protection has been and remains a major issue in Burundi. Access to vulnerable populations remains at times hindered by military operations or fighting; security of humanitarian staff remains a constant worry (Burundi ranks amongst the highest numbers of expatriate humanitarian workers deaths over the past ten years). Impunity and a weak judicial system are further difficulties which form part of the operational context for the past eleven years. Humanitarian aid is limited to those areas controlled by the government. While currently this is the vast majority of the country (except Bujumbura rural and other specific small areas) this

¹¹ The list of documents reviewed are mentioned in the TOR.