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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Food for the Hungry Assisting Burundian Refugees, Burundian Coup Attempt Reported

PHOENIX (May 14, 2015) – Today, the Burundian African Union reported a military coup attempt in Burundi. The government of the African nation denies the coup, and the coup has not been verified, however there have been reports of people dancing and celebrating in the streets.

Food for the Hungry (FH) has been monitoring the growing conflict in Burundi and the subsequent fall-out and impact, particularly on children in Rwanda, but also the growing refugee crisis as Burundian's flee to neighboring countries. To help ease the suffering FH has launched, together with partners including the United Nations, a response in the refugee camps of Rwanda.

“With over 25,000 Burundians seeking refuge in Rwanda, Food for the Hungry is launching work with other partners in the Mahanga refugee camp in Kirehe, Rwanda, to provide emergency care and to help children and families make the best of an extremely difficult situation,” said Pete Howard, FH’s senior director of emergency response. “Above all, FH is making sure that the basic physical, social and psychological needs of both children and adults are being met.”

Specifically, FH teams will be registering unaccompanied children and working to reunify them with their families. FH staff will also be providing classes to children within the refugee camp tents and working with kids on trauma..

Howard says the emergency situation is expected to last at least three months, and notes that in addition to providing emergency assistance to families and children, FH is also providing transport, supplementary food supply, such as sugar and flour, and other provisions such as mosquito nets. “Our local emergency response team will monitor the situation daily and adjust our efforts as needed.”

To support these activities, Food for the Hungry is seeking donations for its Rapid Response Fund at fh.org/helpburundi.

About Food for the Hungry

Founded in 1971, [Food for the Hungry](https://www.foodforthehungry.org/) provides emergency relief and long-term development programs with operations in more than 20 countries to help the world's most vulnerable people. Learn more by visiting [fh.org](https://www.fh.org/). Social connections include [facebook.com/foodforthehungry](https://www.facebook.com/foodforthehungry) and twitter.com/food4thehungry.

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