



### The context

Burundi suffered from a civil war for 13 years. The security situation in Burundi remains a bit worrying. One of the last groups of rebels of the country, the FNL (National Front for Liberation) signed an agreement for a ceasefire with the government.

The UNHCR helped about 38,900 refugees of Burundi to go back into their country of origin. In June 2008, the number of repatriated persons (19,635) was the highest since the operation started in 2002. The UNHCR continues to promote the voluntary repatriation in Burundi. About 45,000 people were repatriated to Burundi in 2008 and 35,000 should return in 2009.

### The schooling of child refugees is one of the priorities of the UNHCR

In 2008-2009, the schooling rate of the child refugees in primary education reached 30%. Moreover, the education in the primary and secondary levels given in the refugee camps of Burundi in Tanzania and in the classes in Burundi have been coordinated for 8 years. This made it easier for the reintegration of the repatriated schoolchildren in the school system of their country. Since 2006, the government of Burundi decided that primary education would be free. This led to such a crowd that some children could not be registered due to the lack of classrooms or of benches on which to sit.

The main restriction for good schooling and for the success of the repatriated schoolchildren is economic. In fact, the lack of basic school materials and the difficult living conditions, as well as insufficient food, in their own families and in their host families, do not help these young people, and especially the young girls, to have a good schooling.

A flood of people has arrived in the village of Cendajuru. It has a total of 10 primary schools with 7,241 schoolchildren with an average of 85 children per class.

Jacqueline's school is in the village of Cendajuru. It consists of 893 schoolchildren and 13 teachers.

### Jacqueline Banyanka



Portrait de Madame Jacqueline Banyanka



Before the outbreak of the crisis in 1993, Jacqueline Banyanka had a peaceful life with her mother, her brothers and sisters. Her father had passed away naturally. She was a schoolgirl in the 10th year of the secondary school. Her school expenses were paid by her uncle, who was assassinated during the crisis of 1993, in Bujumbura.

After the crisis of 1993, interethnic massacres took place on the hill near to the hill on which Jacqueline was living. Her people dug up the roads and destroyed the bridges to prevent any military intervention. Jacqueline said that after that, militaries had carried off all those who were suspected of having carried out those massacres and innocent people were unfortunately arrested in the same conditions. This situation created a widespread panic and was the cause of massive displacements of the population to Tanzania. Jacqueline Banyanka (who was then 20) had to take refuge in Tanzania with all her family.

Jacqueline Banyanka has been a refugee and has been repatriated twice. She testifies that she and her family went in exile before the camps for refugees of Burundi were put in place. All the refugees welcomed at that time were gathered in a place called Bukiriro in Tanzania which was not strictly speaking a camp for refugees. In this place, the conditions of life were very precarious and very difficult. It is why Jacqueline Banyanka, in spite of the insecure situation in Burundi, decided to go back to her country in 1995 with one of her sisters.

In 1997, some provinces and villages of Burundi had found a relative quietness. Jacqueline Banyanka who, in the meantime, had got married, was living with her family in her native village of Cendajuru until the moment when the combatants of the CNDD-FDD, who had not yet signed the agreement of suspension of hostilities, attacked the village.

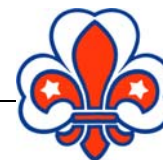
These attacks caused many casualties and led to a climate of fear. The village of Cendajuru was pillaged and burned. It was then that Jacqueline Banyanka, for the second time, left to seek refuge in Tanzania, with her husband, her sister and her child. They were welcomed into the refugee camp established by the government of Tanzania in Karago in the district of Kibondo. All the family remained in this camp until 2002 when Jacqueline's husband decided to leave his family in this camp to join the combatants of the CNDD-FDD.

### **Jacqueline Banyanka received the following trainings when she was in exile:**

- ✓ Peaceful resolution of conflicts, organised by the NGO Tanganyika Christians Refugees Services (TCRS) ;
- ✓ Methods to teach education for peace: training organised by UNICEF;
- ✓ Training on community health and family planning (UNICEF);
- ✓ Training in teaching methods for her qualification (UNICEF); she is now D6 and she intends to become a teacher.

As she was almost sure that a return to peace in Burundi was nearly guaranteed, as she could not keep her three children in exile and as she was alone to bring them up because her husband had joined the rebels, Jacqueline Banyanka preferred to go back to Burundi. She registered in October 2003 and followed the voluntary repatriation process made easier by the UNHCR.

At present, Jacqueline Banyanka lives with her children on her husband's property in a house that the UNHCR helped her to build when she came back from exile



### **These are the activities that Jacqueline Banyanka took on as soon as she came back:**

- Temporary work in the “Maison Shalom” as a social worker: she was responsible for the taking in charge of the orphans
- Further to her training in exile on the peaceful resolution of conflicts, the “Ligue Iteka” (National Ligue on Human Rights in Burundi) gave her a certificate after she had completed her training of village observer of the human rights (the training was organised by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Commission). Jacqueline has been a member of the executive committee of the “Ligue Iteka” in the village of Cendajuru and is now a section leader in the same village.
- She is one of the responsible community women and is a member of the National Association « Dushirehamwe » (National Association of women for the pooling of resources).

### **The concrete tasks**

- Listening, mediation and orientation in the source of conflicts;
- Peaceful resolution of conflicts
- Rapprochement of communities: repatriation of internally displaced people, demobilized people and the resident population;
- Identifying problems of living together
- Resolution of conflicts between local associations

According to the witnesses among Jacqueline Banyanka’s neighbours and of persons who received her services, it is stated that she is very useful to the community. She confirms herself that not only for the fact that she gets material support from her activities for the needs of her family (food, health care and schooling of her children...) but also the services that she offers to the different social sectors of the population make her closer to the population and help her to reinsert and to reintegrate.