Civil strife lowers food yield in Burundi - U.N.

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NAIROBI, April 11 (Reuter) - Food output in the central African state of Burundi is forecast to fall 22 percent in 1994 and could even plunge further because of poor weather and political violence, the United Nations said on Monday.

"The fall in food production and other adverse effects of civil strife have seriously affected the population's nutritional status," said the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

"Unless the situation improves, about 20 percent of the children under five run the risk of acute malnutrition. Cases of scurvy were reported in some areas," FAO added in a report.

The report was prepared in February and March, before the outbreak of tribal violence in neighbouring Rwanda last week when the presidents of both countries were killed by a rocket attack on their plane.

Burundi suffers similar ethnic conflicts, which flared up last October when the previous president was murdered.

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