



WFP Burundi Country Brief

March 2018

Operational Context

Burundi is facing a socio-economic crisis and a notable increase in food insecurity. The high population density is contributing to competition and disputes over scarce natural resources. Due to the demand for land, the poorest and most vulnerable populations, who are mainly women, generally depend on marginal lands and lack the capacity to cope with severe shocks such as droughts, epidemics and floods, which often claim lives and undermine livelihoods. Domestic food production is insufficient to meet the needs of the population, which renders the country vulnerable to economic shocks and fluctuating agricultural prices. Malnutrition is a major concern. Burundi is the second country in the world most affected by chronic malnutrition. According to the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS 2016/2017), national average stunting rate is at 56%, and prevalence rates are well above the emergency threshold (40%) in 17 out of 18 provinces. Five provinces have prevalence levels above 60 percent, these include: Muyinga, Muramvya, Kirundo, Karusi and Ngozi: these are some of the highest prevalence levels in the world.



Population: 11.6 million

2016 Human Development Index: 184 out of 188

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 56% of children between 6-59 months

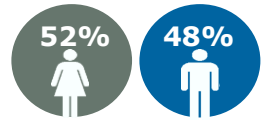
In Numbers

1,034.5 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$85,045 cash based transfers made

US\$ 11.2 m six months (April-September 2018) net funding requirements

593,191 people assisted in March 2018



Operational Updates

Voluntary repatriation: The Tripartite (Burundi/Tanzania/UNHCR) Commission for the Voluntary Repatriation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania, which held its 20th meeting in Bujumbura on 28 March, adopted an action plan for the voluntary repatriation of 72,000 Burundian refugees from Tanzania between April and December 2018. According to the plan, 2,000 refugees will be repatriated each week, starting on 5 April, with the possibility of progressively increasing the number. The priority will be given to the 19,148 refugees already registered for voluntary repatriation. WFP will be supporting the process by providing the returnees with a three-month food package for their reintegration. As of 31 March 2018, a total of 20,768 Burundians had returned home with the support of the humanitarian community since the launch of the operation in September 2017. In March 2018, 4,319 Burundians returned home.

Advocacy for Cankuzo province WFP and FAO are jointly advocating for assistance in the province of Cankuzo, one of the provinces most affected by food and nutrition insecurity due to high food prices, reduced labor markets due to limited trans-border movements in Tanzania and slow recovery of agricultural livelihoods after the 2016 drought. The province is among those receiving the largest number of returnees from Tanzania. The food security situation is expected to deteriorate from May to June. According to 2016-2017 Burundi Health and Demographic Survey-III, chronic malnutrition rates are at 59.4 percent, while acute malnutrition is at 6.3 percent. Assistance is urgently needed to improve the food security of the population of Cankuzo.

Provision of assistance to IDPs: 2,000 IDPs displaced by torrential rains that hit south Burundi 3 years ago have recently been relocated by the government to Kigwena, Rumonge province in southern Burundi. In March, WFP provided them with food assistance; a total of 95 mt was distributed representing a three-month ration. WFP will continue to closely monitor their food security situation. In June, a multi sectoral assessment including food security will be conducted in the site, and the results will determine the type of assistance to be provided.

Credit: WFP/Hugh Rutherford

Caption: Schoolchildren taking a meal provided by WFP at Cumva School in Kirundo province

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Main Photo

WFP provided food assistance to 47,700 school going children, 42,867 refugees in camps and transit centres and 6,000 vulnerable people hosted in charity institutions. Nutrition assistance was provided for the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing mothers.

2018 Humanitarian Response Plan and WFP response:

According to the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), an estimated 3.6 million Burundians need assistance and protection. The 2018 humanitarian plan targets 2.4 million most vulnerable people for an estimated budget of \$ 141.8 million. The targeted people are the displaced, refugees, returnees, those who have been hit by shocks and who need immediate assistance, and those whose vulnerability is at a high risk of falling into an aggravated phase if they are not supported. Response to food insecurity alone targets 670,000 people of which 57 percent are children, 40 percent adults and 4 percent elderly. Due to funding uncertainty based on trends, WFP is targeting 150,000 people in 2018 under the interim country strategic plan.

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
ICSP			
(1 April 2018-31 December 2020)	163.6 m	12.4 m (8%)	11.2 m

Challenges

Access to assisted schools and health centers remains an issue particularly during the rainy season. School feeding sites amount to more than 780 and are scattered in remote areas which are difficult to access. This sometimes hinders the achievement of WFP’s distribution objectives. The country office is exploring alternative ways to reach the beneficiaries including engaging partners to deliver the food to final distribution points, prepositioning three-month rations to schools where storage capacity allows, and increasing incentives to local transporters, and capacity trucks as part of WFP strategic fleet.

Donors

USA, Multilateral, Japan, European Commission, UN CERF, The Netherlands, Burundi, Germany, Belgium, France, and Monaco