



WFP Burundi Country Brief

February 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% (Muyinga: 65.6%, Muramvya: 64.1%, Kirundo: 62.9%, Karusi: 62.8% and Ngozi: 61.3%). 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

2,377 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$85,503 cash based transfers made

US\$9.79 m six months (March-August 2018) net funding requirements *

*The CO is migrating to the ICSP starting on 1 April.

589,312 people assisted in February 2018



Operational Updates

- 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan and WFP response:** According to the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), an estimated 3.6 million Burundians are in need of 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 are in need of 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 (57% children, 40% adults and 4% elderly) for about \$ 23.8 million. From 1 April, WFP's response will be implemented through an Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) for both humanitarian and development interventions.
- Congolese refugees' influx in Burundi:** The influx of Congolese asylum seekers in Burundi through the southern region has significantly decreased following an end to the fight between the Congolese national army forces (FARDC) and the coalition of armed groups Mayi Mayi Yakutumba in the territory of Fizi towards the end of January. Most asylum seekers who were hosted in transit centers have been transferred to Kavumu refugees camp. However, due to continued instability and community conflicts in eastern DRC, Burundi continues to receive Congolese asylum seekers. Thus in February, around 400 Congolese were registered as asylum seekers in Cishemere transit camp in the western province of Cibitoke, and 180 refugees entered Burundi through the southern provinces of Rumonge and Makamba. As of 28 February, the total number of Congolese who sought refuge in Burundi since January amounts to 8,237.
- Voluntary repatriation:** In February, the repatriation of Burundian refugees from Tanzania continued and 3,352 were assisted with their repatriation process, and with transfer to their zones of origin. As of 28 February 2018, a total of 16,981 Burundians had returned home with the support of the humanitarian community, since the launch of the operation in September 2017. More than 60,000 are expected to repatriate in 2018. WFP continues to provide food assistance to returnees in the form of cooked meals upon arrival at the transit centres and a three-month food package.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Michel Rwamo
Caption: Smallholder farmers supported by WFP in one of their warehouses in Kirundo province

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	Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO*			
200655 (01 Jul 2014-31 March 2018)	112.7 m	73.3 m (65%)	0.8m (21%)
CP*			
200119 (1 Jan 2011-31 March 2018)	136.1 m	106.3 m (78%)	0 m (2%)
ICSP			
(1 April 2018-31 December 2020)	163.6 m	12.4 m (8%)	30.5 m (19%)

*ICSP start since 1 April and funding requirements are for March only.

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 3 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