# MONTHLY FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION UPDATE

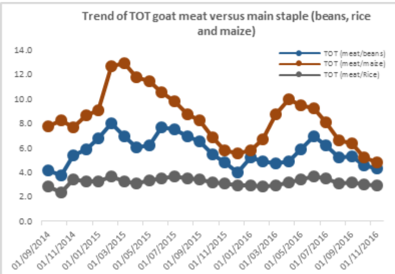
## WFP VAM- Burundi

*December 2016*

- **Food insecurity, sociopolitical and economic crisis continues to displace people into camps and across international borders:**
  - During October November 2016, 24,176 people found refuge in neighboring countries (Tanzania, DRC, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia), driving the total number of refugees to 326,170, the majority of whom continue to be children (54.6%)[1];
  - The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) registered in nine provinces is 102,258 (IOM, October 2016), of which 59 per cent are children;
  - This time of the year (November-December) coincides with the peak of the lean season when food stocks are normally low/ depleted at household level and prices tend to increase;
  - Food insecurity in the context of low access to job opportunities and tight control of movement of food and people (including traditional economic migration to Rwanda and Tanzania) seem to be the main reasons of the current new waves of migrations. Political crisis in the country continues to impact negatively livelihoods.

- **Poor second season production expected to widen food gap in 2017:**
  - An Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) conducted by WFP in April 2016 highlighted the risk of poor performance of the agricultural season B (February 2016 -May 2016) signaling high risk of higher food production deficit in 2016;
  - mVAM monitoring reports of significant rain deficits in: Kayanza, Kirundo, Muramvya , Rutana et Ruyigi that may result in reduced production particularly for crops like maize and beans that are at flowering stage;
  - Preliminary crop assessments[2] indicate low production in the traditionally rain deficit Northern-Eastern provinces of Cibitoke, Muramvya and Mwaro. Kayanza, Muramvya and Gitega also had the lowest per capita agricultural productivity;
  - Total production in the 2016B season is estimated at 743,459 tonnes of cereal equivalent which is 1% lower than the same period last year, the lowest in the last four years;
  - Based on total domestic production of 743,459 tonnes of cereals, legumes, tubers, bananas and plantains, the country has a per caput food supply of 85 kg for 5.7 months. This coverage over time leaves a deficit of 2 months before the next harvest (2017A);
  - This deficit should be covered by an import of food and food assistance usually provided by the humanitarian community;
  - At annual population growth rate of 2.4% against a backdrop of steadily and consistently declining agricultural production, the country is likely to be trapped a vicious cycle of food insecurity.

- **Food access a challenge for net consumers and market dependent segments of the population:**
  - Various restrictions on cross border on trade and movements, currency depreciation, scarcity of dollars (partly due to excessive control of the exchange rates and reduced forex earnings/ low reserves reserves) and low local food production additional pressure on food prices;
  - There has been notable month-on-month price increase over November-December period in many rural markets in line with typical lean seasonal trends. Nonetheless these prices are significantly elevated when compared to the same month last year and in 2014. In particular prices of casava flour, maize grain/flour, small fish and irish potatoes, commodities that are mainly imported from Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda, nearly doubled over the last two years largely as a consequence of increased border trade controls and import bans;
  - Reduced income opportunities and lower purchasing power affecting many casual labourers in the agricultural sector at this time of the season. Analysis of terms of trade between casual labour and beans indicate reduction in the quantity of beans that a whole day labour can afford between October and November 2016 in many provinces. Terms of trade between other agricultural income sources (banana, goats) to beans also decreased over the same period;
  - Price inflation is putting additional pressure on poor net food buyers who have limited income opportunities and we are likely to witness deterioration in the food security situation especially in deficit producing provinces in the Northern-Eastern frontiers as well as among highly market dependent households. Of concern is that the current lean season (October-December 2016) is more severe than usual. Earlier depletion of food stocks by poor households puts them at the risk of hunger.




- **Latest preliminary food security assessment (FSMS) and mass malnutrition screening point to worsening food and nutrition security outcomes in November 2016:**
  - Food consumption score, dietary diversity and reduced copying index all show deteriorating trends when compared to six months ago as well as the same period last year, amplified by seasonality effects and geo-political and economic crisis. We now have more people with poor and borderline food consumption during Nov-December this year than the same time last year,

| Livelihood Zone | Poor FCS % change Dec 15-16 | Borderline FCS % change Dec 15-17 | Acceptable FCS % change Dec 15-18 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dépressions du Nord | 2.6% | 6.0% | -8.6% |
| Buragane | -2.6% | 14.2% | -11.6% |
| Hautes Altitudes | 7.7% | -4.9% | -2.8% |
| Plateaux Humides | -7.8% | 19.4% | -11.6% |
| Plateaux Secs de l"Est | -4.1% | 5.2% | -1.1% |
| Plaine de l'Imbo | 8.8% | 23.1% | -31.9% |
| Dépressions de l'Est | 1.6% | 31.0% | -32.6% |
| Crete Congo Nil | 13.9% | 33.0% | -46.9% |

[1] UNHCR

[2] By Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, WFP etc

an indication of increased number of people in stress, crisis, and emergency phases of food insecurity. The most affected are Crete Congo Nil, Eastern Depression, plaine de límbo livelihood zones;

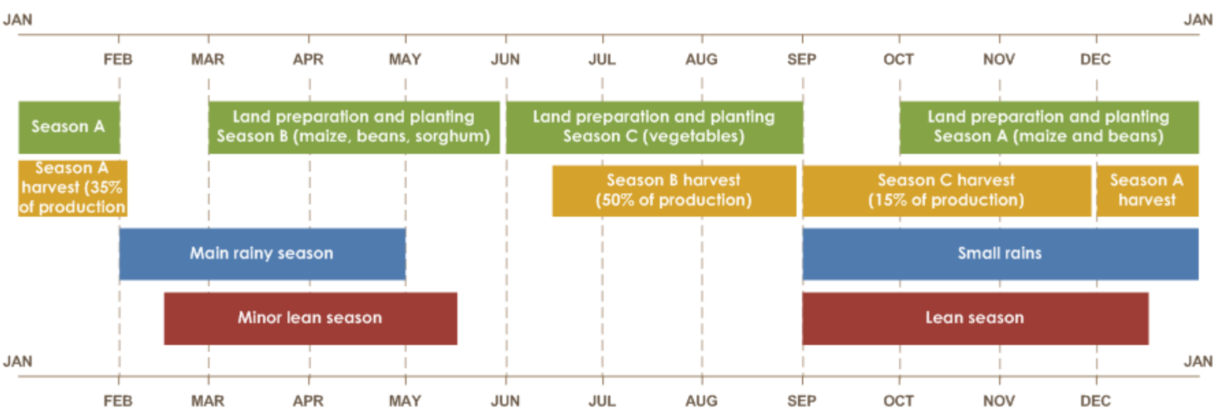
- According to the November 2016 mVAM monthly food security monitoring report more than 7 out of 10 households estimate that the situation has deteriorated compared to October 2016;
- Acute Malnutrition increasing drastically between August- December 2016: Mass screening for children under 5 years done by Ministry of Health together with partners showed drastic increase in overall acute malnutrition rates between August 2016 and November 2016, reaching critical thresholds;
- HRP 2017, 170000 children under five years old are at risk of acute malnutrition and 500,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women in need of nutritional support.

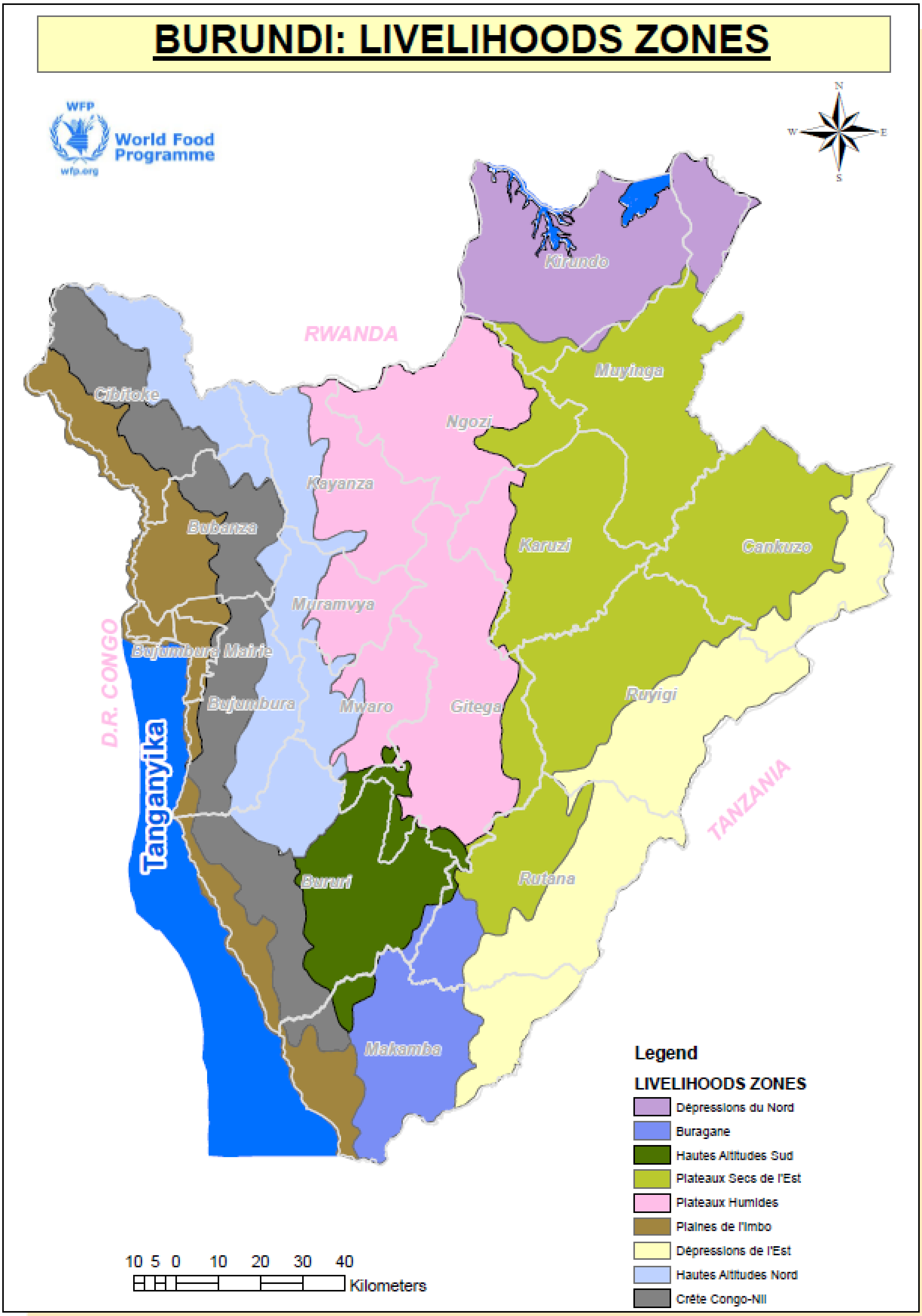
| Communes | Malnutrition aiguë modérée | Malnutrition aiguë sévère | Malnutrition aiguë globale |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Busoni** | 6.16 | 1.48 | 7.64 |
| **Bugabira** | 6.94 | 2.81 | 9.75 |
| **Kirundo** | 8.31 | 2.38 | 10.69 |
| **Bwambarangwe** | 3.84 | 1.54 | 5.38 |
| **Gitobe** | 5.34 | 1.82 | 7.16 |
| **Ntega** | 8.46 | 3.54 | 12.00 |
| **Vumbi** | 5.97 | 2.7 | 8.67 |

- **Number of food and nutrition insecure population expected to increase in December 2016:**
  - 1.5 million People (19%) were classified as food insecure in September-December 2016 period;
  - More people are expected to fall into crisis and emergency acute food insecurity in December 2006 but the situation will likely improve with start of harvests in January-February 2017;
  - In 2017, the Humanitarian Response Plan anticipates that 2.7 million Burundians will be food-insecure among whom 2.1 million will be acutely food-insecure, while 606,000 will be severely acute food-insecure.

- **Factors that determine food security situation and need a close monitoring are:**
  - Continuous population movements crossing to Tanzania especially from north eastern provinces (Kirundo, Muyinga, Cankuzo, Ruyigi and Rutana);
  - Continuous ban on the food exchange trade (including the tight control on the economic migrations) and increased non-formal taxes;
  - Continuous deterioration of the Burundian currency (BIF), the scarcity of the forex currencies to import food, the weak and deteriorating purchasing power of poor population segments that may slow down food imports;
  - Rising food and non-food inflation;
  - Projected below normal food production of the 2017A agricultural season due to rainfall deficits.

*Annexes: Burundi Seasonal Calendar*




BURUNDI: LIVELIHOODS ZONES
World Food Programme
RWANDA
D.R. CONGO
TANZANIA
Tanganyika
Kirundo
Muyinga
Ngozi
Cibitoke
Kayanza
Bubanza
Karuzi
Cankuzo
Muramvya
Bujumbura Mairie
Bujumbura
Mwaro
Gitega
Ruyigi
Bururi
Rutana
Makamba
Legend
LIVELIHOODS ZONES
Dépressions du Nord
Buragane
Hautes Altitudes Sud
Plateaux Secs de l'Est
Plateaux Humides
Plaines de l'Imbo
Dépressions de l'Est
Hautes Altitudes Nord
Crête Congo-Nil
10 5 0 10 20 30 40
Kilometers