



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief July-August 2018



Operational Context

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world. It is facing a socio-economic crisis and has very high levels of food insecurity (13 percent population are in phases 3 and 4 in July 2018). The high population density as well as the new influx of returnees and refugees from DRC contributes to competition and disputes over scarce natural resources. Due to the demand for land, the poorest and most vulnerable populations, mainly women, generally depend on marginal land. Burundi has the lowest land productivity of East Africa, while over 90 percent of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Burundi's preparedness for emergencies and crises is extremely low and lacks the capacity to cope with severe shocks such as droughts, epidemics and floods, which often claim lives and undermine livelihoods. It is the country in the world most affected by chronic malnutrition. According to the Demographic and Health Survey conducted in 2016/2017, the national average stunting rate is at 56 percent well above the WHO emergency threshold of 40 percent. WFP has been present in Burundi since 1968.



Population: **11.6 million**

2017 Human Development Index:
185 out of 189

65 percent Burundians live under the poverty line

Chronic malnutrition: **56 percent** of children between 6-59 months

Contact info: Michel Rwamo (michel.rwamo@wfp.org)

Country Director: Virginia Villar Arribas

Further information: <https://opweb.wfp.org/country/mng?UNC=108>

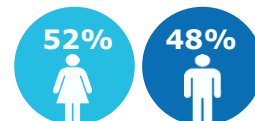
In Numbers

1,499 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 824,584 transferred to refugees

USD 13 m six months (September 2018-February 2019) net funding requirements, representing

557,565 people assisted
in July-August 2018



Operational Updates

- **CBT resumption in refugee camps:** After 15 months of interruption due to resource constraints and market uncertainty, WFP resumed, in July, cash-based transfers (CBT) to Congolese refugees living in four camps in Burundi. The shift from in-kind food distributions to CBT was mainly dictated by a favourable market context (availability of food from the biggest harvest season in July-August). The CBT used the SCOPE platform (electronic vouchers) allowing the 43,000 Congolese refugees to purchase food in fairs organized with local traders in the camps. For families with children under 5 years of age, WFP complemented CBT with in-kind distribution of SuperCereal. WFP also provided oil and salt, as they were very expensive in the fairs. The CBT modality is planned to continue until October, during the lean season.
- **Scaling up school feeding:** With the new school year starting in September and with the support of the World Bank (WB), WFP is preparing to scale up its school feeding programme in Burundi. A total of 97 new schools in Kirundo and Muyinga, two provinces chronically affected by food insecurity, will be included in the programme. This will increase school feeding coverage in the country by 14 percent thanks to the World Bank's three-year contribution of US\$ 7 million. The programme will continue to use food procured locally from smallholders organized in cooperatives whenever the market allows. In 2018 (as at August), WFP had procured 2,300 tons of food from local smallholders, for a total cost of USD 1.68 million, which was invested in the local economy.
- **Ebola:** WFP is preparing to take the lead in the revitalization of the logistics sector/ cluster, as a preparedness plan against the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Actions include the designing and contribution to the construction of an Ebola Treatment Centre (ETC), and ensuring the pre-positioning of Ebola kits, and inclusion of rations (ready to eat) for isolated people. The country office is also adapting its EPRP risk analysis to the actual Ebola context. WFP staff continue to be informed on Ebola risks, and individual measures are being put in place to mitigate the risk. WFP is also liaising with other actors within the Ebola Task Force chaired by the Ministry of Health.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
163.8 m	38.2 m	13 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations including refugees in camps, internally displaced people (IDPs), and returnees in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food needs all year round.

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- Provide unconditional food and/or cash-based assistance to refugees in camps;
- Provide unconditional and/or conditional food and/or cash-based assistance to severely food insecure households among local populations, IDPs and returnees.
- Provide capacity strengthening to Government and humanitarian partners on early warning systems, emergency food security assessments and analysis, and food security and market monitoring

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Food insecure households in targeted areas have safe access to adequate and nutritious food all year round

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- Provide conditional food and/or cash based assistance to food insecure households through productive assets creation, livelihood diversification and nutrition counselling;
- Provide Home Grown school meals to school-aged children and support national institutions on the formulation of a national home-grown school meals policy and social protection programmes

Strategic Result 2: No one suffer from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Children 6-59 months, adolescent girls, and pregnant and lactating women (PLW), in the targeted provinces and communes have improved nutritional status throughout the year.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Provide specialized nutritious foods in combination with SBCC activities to children, adolescent girls and PLW/G, and support the implementation of a national food fortification policy and strategy.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 4: Food-insecure smallholders and communities in targeted areas have enhanced livelihoods to better support food security and nutrition needs by 2020.

Focus area: *Root Causes*

Activities:

- Provide technical support on post-harvest solutions, equipment and capacity building (SBCC will be used to empower smallholder farmers to improve post-harvest management and enhanced food diversification) to smallholder farmers and farmers' organizations/cooperatives.

Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnership

Strategic Outcome 5: Government, humanitarian and development partners have access to effective supply chain management and logistics all year round.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Provide external services to Government, humanitarian and development partners.

Monitoring

- **Food security:** Provisional results from the July 2018 Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) survey indicate that 1.4 million Burundians or 13 percent of the population are food-insecure and in need of emergency food assistance. Among them, 98,000 are in emergency (IPC 4) and 1.3 million in crisis (IPC 3). People in crisis phase are mainly victims of the recent climatic shocks (flooding and landslides) in Rumonge and Bujumbura provinces. IPC projections indicate a possible increase by 3 percent of food insecure population during the lean season (October-December) when most households will have depleted their food stocks and food prices will be soaring in the market.
- Monitoring of some moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment sites revealed that some key health staff were not trained on the National Protocol for Management of Acute Malnutrition. The monitoring report recommended the organization of such trainings as soon as possible. The CO management has taken up the issue to the nutrition cluster where discussions are ongoing to find a solution.

Challenges

- **Food fortification:** Since 2015, WFP has been collaborating with MINOLACS, a private milling company in Bujumbura for the production of fortified wheat flour for WFP programmes. Despite its willingness to cooperate with WFP, MINOLAC has limited capacity to meet WFP food requirements. This is negatively impacting implementation of nutrition activities. To address the situation, WFP is providing support, including training and provision of equipment to other local millers, in order to increase the production of fortified flour.

Top five Donors: USA, Germany, European Commission, Netherlands, Multilateral

Miscellaneous

- **Revitalization of Tanganyika Corridor:** In mid-July, WFP conducted an assessment of the Zambia – Bujumbura corridor with a view to revitalize the Lake Tanganyika trade corridor between Southern and Eastern Africa with the Port of Bujumbura as a central transit hub for other WFP operations in the region. Findings from the assessment are yet to be released.
- **SCOPE - CODA and RapidPro for monitoring:** WFP and UNICEF are working together to explore ways to improve data collection and data sharing at health centre level using innovative monitoring tools such as SCOPE - CODA and RapidPro. These tools will help track and establish links between needs, assess impact of operations in malnutrition at all levels as well as in other areas. SCOPE – CODA is a beneficiary and outcome-tracking tool that is being piloted in several countries as means of replacing paper documentation and allows for automatic report generation at health centre level. RapidPro is an open-source platform of applications that can help governments deliver rapid and vital real-time information and connect communities to lifesaving services.
- **An Urgent Call to Tackle Chronic Malnutrition in Burundi:** WFP in partnership with UNICEF, the Government of Burundi, The Netherlands and Switzerland is organizing a high profile campaign to raise awareness on the malnutrition situation and the needs in Burundi. The campaign will consist of several events organized throughout the second half of 2018. They include a campaign in the media and social media -written and TV, parliamentary and other visits to Burundi, and a few events in key capitals, including a high-profile launching event which was originally planned for the UNGA high level week but will now be postponed for fear of the politicisation of the event in the current context. The event will present the nutrition situation in Burundi and will give a summary of the most impactful programmes underway. It will also present how the UN and its partners can work closely together and in full coordination to deliver key results for the country.