



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP BURUNDI Country Brief October 2018

## In Numbers

2,662 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 414,397 transferred to refugees

USD 9.8 m six months (November 2018-April 2019) net funding requirements

673,334 people assisted in October 2018

52%



48%



WFP  
SAYS  
NO to  
GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE

## 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. Burundi is the country in the world most affected by chronic malnutrition. According to the Demographic and Health Survey 2016/2017, the national average stunting rate is at 56 percent well above the emergency threshold (40 percent). WFP has been present in Burundi since 1968.



Population: 11.7 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

## Operational Updates

- WFP continued to provide food assistance to targeted beneficiaries under the Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020. About 43,000 refugees hosted in four camps and in transit centers received food assistance through cash transfers, while 141,800 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and host community members received lifesaving food mainly in Rumonge and Bujumbura provinces; WFP also assisted over 442,800 school going children in food-insecure areas of the country, providing them with hot meals at schools.
- Through the Stunting prevention programme,** WFP-covered an estimated 25,500 children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and nursing women in Karusi and Gitega. In addition, 21,000 children aged 6-59 months, and pregnant women and nursing mothers received treatment for moderate acute malnutrition in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi, and Rutana.
- International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO's) resume work:** Twenty-five foreign Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Burundi have been authorized to resume operations after re-registration, following a month of suspension. This is good news for WFP operations as most of WFP's cooperating partners were granted authorization to work. These include, World Vision International, Concern Worldwide and Civil Volunteers Group (GVC). Only Welthungerhilfe, which collaborated, with WFP in the implementation of the school feeding programme in Kirundo remains suspended. However, the school feeding programme in Kirundo did not stop as WFP immediately took over food deliveries to the schools.
- Furthermore, the planned Joint UNHCR/WFP Assessment Mission (JAM) in refugee camps which had been suspended is rescheduled to 26 November. The repatriation of Burundian refugees from Tanzania has also resumed.

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# WFP Country Strategy

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
163.8 m	2.2 m	9.8 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.

- **Revitalization of Tanganyika Corridor:** WFP is working with the government and other partners on an Integrated Lake Tanganyika Transport Corridor Programme. The programme objective is 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. The initiative will allow a reduction of transport costs by 20 percent, and reduction of lead-time by more than 8 weeks for international shipments.
- **Ebola Preparedness:** the outbreak of the Ebola virus in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo has the potential to spread to Burundi. As a preparedness plan against an eventual outbreak, WFP is leading the revitalization of the logistics sector/ cluster and has set up two containers for temperature check/Ebola screening in Gatumba, the border area between Burundi and DRC. In total, nine containers will be installed at the entry points along the Lake Tanganyika to support Ebola screening.

## Monitoring

- In October, the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism for the refugees recorded 69 complaints of which 22 percent were filed through the toll-free hotline and the remaining 78 percent went through the complaints and feedback table. Women filed most complaints, as they are the ones who are registered to collect food for the household. The complaint feedback mechanism ensures WFP is transparent and accountable to beneficiaries, through resolving their complaints as well as providing them with programme information.

## Challenges

- **Funding shortfall:** The school feeding programme will face a funding shortfall starting in March 2019. If no new funding is received in the near future, WFP Burundi will not be able to sustain the operation and the risk for increased dropouts is foreseeable.
- **Access to sites:** access to WFP-supported schools and health centers remains a challenge during the ongoing rainy season (October-December). Access to over 780 Schools are scattered in remote and difficult to access areas has been a challenge since heavy rains have left the unpaved roads impassable. As a result, WFP was not able to achieve its distribution targets in October.

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, increasing the number local transporters, and providing capacity trucks as part of WFP strategic fleet.