



WFP Burundi Country Brief November 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 and food crop 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

In Numbers

4,006 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 393,000 transferred to refugees

USD 5.5 m six months (December 2018-May 2019) net funding requirements

820,990 people assisted in November 2018



Operational Updates

- In November, WFP continued the implementation of activities planned under the Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020. Over 44,000 refugees hosted in four camps received in-kind food. Cash disbursements for fresh food could not be distributed as the process of contracting a new financial service provider was ongoing. Around 3,900 returnees were assisted with cooked meals in transit centers in Ngozi, Ruyigi, and Bujumbura, and a three-month ration upon departure to their zones of origin. Another 100,000 vulnerable food-insecure people identified by the July 2018 Integrated food security Phase Classification (IPC) received lifesaving food in Kirundo, Muyinga, Cankuzo, Makamba and Rumonge.

Over 600,000 school going children in targeted food-insecure areas of the country (Cibitoke, Bubanza, Bujumbura, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo and Gitega) were assisted with hot meals in school. Activities for the prevention of stunting continued in Gitega where approximately 14,000 children aged 6-23 months received ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF), and 9,000 pregnant and nursing women were given cereals, sugar and oil.

- WFP continued to support treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) programme in Ngozi, Kirundo, Cankuzo and Rutana. Approximately 14,000 moderately malnourished children aged 6-59 months received RUSF while 7,000 pregnant and nursing women received fortified blended foods. Approximately 16,400 people participating in a resilience building programme through assets creation and livelihoods activities in Gitega province received cash disbursements of USD 393,000 to cater for their families' food needs.
- 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP): Preliminary data of the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) estimate that 1.7 million people are food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance. These include people in stressed (IPC 3) and crisis (IPC 4) phase (July 2018 IPC), and 116,000 Burundian refugees expected to return to their country in 2019 (UNHCR data). Out of these, the food security and livelihoods sector of the HRP will target 500,000 people based on the food security situation and 2019 outlook.

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	5.5 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.

- Ebola: As part of the preparedness plan against the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), WFP is taking the lead in the provision of logistic support in the preparedness response.
- The UN agency has hired a full-time logistics expert for Ebola response who is preparing the installation of the necessary facilities for prevention and response. Fifteen sites meant to host Ebola treatment facilities were identified all along the border with DRC and Rwanda. In addition to providing logistical support in terms of storage space and vehicles, WFP will also contribute to the construction of an Ebola Treatment Centre and is involved in the organization of an Ebola response simulation.
- 16 days activism against GBV: WFP actively participated in various activities organized during the 16 days activism against gender-based violence in the country. The campaign which started with a photo session organized for WFP staff wearing orange in protest against gender-based violence, continued with an orange discussion session at the UN agencies. On 27 November, WFP management participated in the official launch of the campaign by the government in Kirundo province and on 29 November, WFP took part in a visit to a centre hosting victims of gender-based violence.

Monitoring

- The Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) which had been postponed in October following the suspension of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the country was conducted between 26 November and 5 December 2018. The results of the current JAM, which are yet to be released, will guide WFP refugee operations in the next two years. The report is expected to be disseminated in March 2019.
- A rapid assessment mission conducted on 29 November following damages caused by torrential rains in Rumonge recommended, amongst others, the provision of immediate food assistance to 164 affected households. Most of the affected households have lost their homes, crops and food stock in the flooding and are hosted by their neighbours and relatives.

Challenges

- Access to sites: access to WFP-supported schools and health centers remains a challenge during the ongoing rainy season (October-December). Over 780 school feeding sites are scattered in remote and difficult to access areas making food deliveries challenging. 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 of local transporters, and providing capacity trucks as part of WFP strategic fleet.

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