



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Burundi Country Brief December 2018

In Numbers

3,054 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 1,105,000 transferred under assistance for refugees and food assistance for assets

USD 7 m six months (January 2018-June 2019) net funding requirements

912,500 people assisted in December 2018

Operational Updates

- Ebola:** Preparations to respond to an eventual spread of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Burundi from neighbouring DR Congo continued in December 2018. Ebola screening and isolation tents and layout containers are being set up at entry points along the border with DRC and Rwanda. As of 31 December, WFP Burundi has installed 14 tents and two containers; availed 48 square meters storage facility; and a five-metric ton truck for logistic transport for partners. WFP is also involved in the organization of a simulation response to Ebola in partnership with the government and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- In case of an EVD outbreak in Burundi, WFP plans to assist close to 22,000 beneficiaries with a three-month ration within the first three months of the outbreak. Estimated target beneficiaries include contacts, frontline personnel/health staff, healed and discharged patients, and patients in the Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU).
- Food assistance:** In December 2018, under the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP), WFP continued to provide assistance to the vulnerable population. This included, 43,000 Congolese refugees in camps and transit centers who received in-kind food and cash for fresh food worth USD 190,219 in November and December; 1,880 Burundian returnees from Tanzania; 100,000 vulnerable food-insecure people identified by the July 2018 IPC, and 600,000 school going children in targeted food-insecure areas of the country. Further under the prevention of stunting activities WFP assisted, 14,000 children aged 6-23 months and 9,000 pregnant and nursing women. An additional 14,000 children aged 6-59 months and 7,000 pregnant and nursing mothers were also supported under the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) intervention.
- WFP continued to support communities through asset creation activities. In December, 16,400 households (82, 000 beneficiaries) participating in food assistance for assets creation in Gitega province received cash transfers amounting to USD 804,698.

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 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**

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

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.

- WFP also provided an integrated response to malnutrition through stunting prevention and community-based MAM treatment. Prevention of stunting is implemented at health center level using specialized nutritious foods and locally fortified maize flour, sugar and oil, while MAM treatment uses cash-based transfers and is implemented at community level For MAM treatment, moderately malnourished pregnant and nursing women and households with moderately malnourished children aged 6-59 months receive some cash for their participation in nutritional education and social and behaviour change communication sessions. In this, they learn about consumption of diversified and nutritious foods in their families, which they can purchase with the cash provided, and how to save money by participating in community loans associations.

- **Suspension of international Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs):** Five out of six international NGOs partnering with WFP in the implementation of its programmes have been authorized to resume work after the suspension of all international NGOs on 1 October 2018. The NGOs approval was after they submitted four documents attesting their compliance with the INGOs laws. These INGOs include Welthungerhilfe, World Vision International, Concern World Wide, Grupo de Voluntaria Civil (GVC), and ZOA. Only Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO) which partnered with WFP for capacity strengthening of smallholder farmers for access to credit has not resumed work yet, but this has no direct impact on WFP activities.

Partnership for nutrition

- As part of its global strategy to combat malnutrition in Burundi, on 21 December, WFP in collaboration with the Office of the Second Vice-President organised a workshop in Bujumbura to mobilise the private sector to support nutrition. Participants included Government ministries (Agriculture and Public Health), UN agencies (FAO, IFAD and UNICEF), NGOs and private companies. For the first time in a country where 56 percent of children aged under 5 years are chronically malnourished, a private sector nutrition network was set up with the objective of supporting awareness campaigns on malnutrition, developing food value chains, and promoting breastfeeding in the workplace, amongst others.

Challenges

- Delays in delivering cereals purchased from the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) in Dodoma, Tanzania, are affecting the school feeding programme in Burundi. Transport and clearing difficulties caused these delays. Starting in January, the country office has resorted to reducing the cereal ration from 150mg per person per day to 100mg per person per day. The country office is working with WFP Tanzania and Tanzanian authorities to quickly address the situation.

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