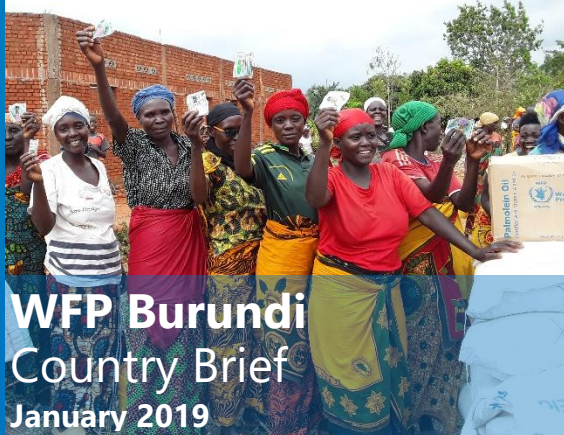




World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief January 2019



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 contribute 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

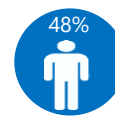
Chronic malnutrition: **56 percent of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

2,189 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 7.4 m six months (February-June 2019) net funding requirements

757,750 people assisted in January 2019



Operational Updates

- Food assistance:** In January, the country office reached 610,100 school going children (110 percent) with 1,132 tons of food assistance in targeted food-insecure provinces of Bubanza, Cibitoke, Bujumbura, Ngozi, Muyinga, Kirundo and Gitega. Through its stunting prevention programme, WFP assisted over 74,700 pregnant women and nursing mothers and children aged 6-23 months (96percent) with 228 mt of food in Gitega and Kirundo. Another 21,900 moderately acute malnourished pregnant women and nursing mothers and children aged 6-59 months were assisted in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi and Rutana. Overall, the CO reached 92 percent of beneficiaries planned under the nutrition programme.

The CO provided 662 mt of in-kind food assistance to over 43,200 refugees hosted in five camps in the country. Assistance to severely food insecure households, IDPs and returnees suffered from a pipeline break during the reporting period. In Gitega province, only 7,600 people representing five percent of planned beneficiaries were assisted. This situation is likely to be resolved towards the end of March when food procured outside Burundi is expected to reach the country.

- Operational risks and mitigation measures:** Main risks identified in January include Ebola outbreak from neighbouring DRC, fuel shortage in the country, and poor quality of locally produced – processed and purchased food. Mitigation measures for Ebola outbreak include the mobilization of contingency resources to provide logistical response, updating the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan- EPRP (MPAs, APAs), and continuous sensitization against the transmission. Regarding fuel shortage, the country office is negotiating contingency stock measures with the Government. On poor local food quality, the Country Office is organizing capacity strengthening on post-harvest management and storage of local producers and food suppliers.

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Further information: <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	7.4 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.

- Preparedness activities on the **Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)** continued during the reporting period. To date, a five-ton truck and 960 square metre storage space have been provided to partners, 22 tents and 23 containers have been installed at 14 sites (out of 24 identified). Preparations for construction of an EVD permanent treatment unit are ongoing, the unit is funded by the World Bank.
- **Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) preliminary results:** Preliminary findings of the joint WFP/UNHCR assessment mission conducted in December 2018 indicate significant improvements since the last JAM in 2014. The introduction of cash transfers, expansion of food fairs and the distribution of Super cereal to prevent undernutrition impacted positively on the quality of life, food security and nutrition status of refugees. Cash-based transfers (CBTs) have enabled households to purchase fresh vegetables and meat/fish in addition to having multiple food choices, varieties and enhanced access to daily nutrition requirement per month than the in-kind food basket. However, these improvements were limited by funding constraints (experienced in 2017 and 2018) which led to the suspension of CBTs and exclusion of Super Cereal from the rations with the adverse effect of reducing the food basket value from 2,120 kcal to 1,932 kcal. Consequently, over the last two years, refugee households had experienced an overall reduction in food consumption scores, a reduction in their dietary diversity scores while the prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children went up in three out of four camps (Bwagiriza, Kinama, Kavumu) but remained within the WHO 'critical' category.

Challenges

- **Logistics:** In January, slow import and clearing procedures delayed delivery of food from the US and the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) in the region for refugees, IDPS, food insecure host communities, and school children. From January, the country office has resorted to reducing the cereal ration in the school meals programme from 150 mg per pupil per day to 100 mg pending the arrival of food in February 2019. WFP Burundi continues to discuss with Government authorities to speed up the import and clearing procedures.

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