



World Food Programme

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## WFP Burundi Country Brief, March 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 (15 percent population are in phases 3 and 4 in March 2019). 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 scarcity of land, the poorest and most vulnerable populations, mainly women and children, generally depend on marginal lands. Burundi has the lowest productivity in East Africa, while over 90 percent of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Burundi's preparedness for crises and emergencies is extremely low. The country also lacks the capacity to cope with severe shocks such as droughts, epidemics and floods, which often claim lives and undermine livelihoods. At the same time, chronic malnutrition in Burundi is amongst the highest in the world with 56 percent children under five stunted; level that is way above the critical threshold of 40 percent set by the World Health Organization (DHS, 2016/2017). 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

## In Numbers

**2,695 mt** of food assistance distributed

**279,686 USD** transferred under food assistance for assets and stunting prevention

**USD 17.9 m** six months (April- September 2019) net funding requirements

**776,500 people** assisted in March 2019



### Operational Updates

- In March, WFP provided 662 mt of food to approximately 43,300 Congolese refugees hosted in five camps and transit sites in Burundi. A total of 85 mt of food was also provided to approximately 1,800 Burundian refugees returning in Burundi. This assistance consisted of cooked rations in transit centers, and a three-month return package to help beneficiaries reintegrate with their communities.
- Under a **joint FAO/WFP resilience-building** project funded by France, the Country Office distributed USD 81,751, equivalent of two-month cash assistance to over 1,600 participants in the Asset creation and livelihoods activity in Cankuzo province. Assets created include rehabilitation of 21 km of rural roads to facilitate access to markets and health centers, installation of compost holes, food drying platforms, hygienic toilets, kitchen gardens, handwashing stations and the construction of land conservation systems.
- Through a **stunting prevention programme** funded by the European Union, WFP provided cash-based transfers worth USD 197,935 (three-month cash assistance) to 4,241 families with moderately malnourished children under 5, pregnant women and nursing mothers in Gitega province. WFP's strategy to address chronic malnutrition includes distributions of specialized nutritious foods and provision of conditional cash transfers to pregnant women, nursing mothers and caregivers to allow them initiate income generating activities and establish kitchen gardens to ensure dietary diversity and improve food security. WFP beneficiaries also receive key nutrition messages at the health centers to improve infant and young child feeding practices.
- WFP supported approximately 62,300 children and women in Kirundo in the prevention of stunting program and 20,900 children and women for the treatment of acute malnutrition in Cankuzo, Rutana, Kirundo and Ngozi provinces.
- In partnership with the Burundi Red Cross, WFP distributed 188 mt of seed as protection rations to 12,300 farmers in a joint FAO/WFP project in Rutana and Rumonge provinces.
- WFP also distributed 912 mt of food to approximately 2,000 families affected by torrential rains in Gitega, Rumonge and Bujumbura provinces and 22,000 families affected by drought in Kirundo province.

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## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>163.8 m</b>	<b>2.2 m</b>	<b>17.9 m</b>

**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.

- Under the school feeding programme, WFP provided 610 mt of food to over 487,200 school going children from seven different provinces across the country.
- In line with the commemoration of the International Women's Day (IWD), WFP organized briefing sessions and sensitization events with adolescent girls and boys, pregnant women and nursing mothers, farmer cooperative members that benefit from WFP assistance in Bujumbura, Gitega and Ngozi provinces. The main objective was to assess beneficiaries' understanding and perception of the role of women in innovative social protection programming in Burundi.

**Challenges**

- **Government sensitivity to food insecurity and malnutrition information:** The Government of Burundi (GoB) is growing increasingly sensitive to all information, including for food security and nutrition. In early March 2019, WFP provided food assistance to 134,000 drought-affected people in Kirundo province following recommendations from a multi-sectoral assessment led by the government National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Three weeks after WFP intervention, Government Ministers of Interior, Agriculture and Social Affairs visited the Kirundo province and declared that the situation is under control and thus no need for further assistance from partners. The Minister instructed Governors to suspend all planned and ongoing response.
- The multi-sectoral assessment in which WFP participated together with other UN agencies including UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO revealed that an estimated 134,000 people (22,000 households) in Kirundo Province were affected by severe food insecurity and in need of immediate lifesaving assistance. While the moratorium on humanitarian assistance in Kirundo persists, the situation remains worrisome and dire as confirmed by the results of the recently concluded integrated Phase Classification (IPC) report. A multi-phased response plan was developed and is under discussion among food security cluster members.
- **2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP):** the 2019 HRP expected to be launched in January, is yet to be approved because the government is very reluctant to admit and recognize humanitarian issues/needs in the country. There is little to no chance the HRP will be launched this year.
- The Health and Demographic Survey conducted in 2016-2017 revealed that 56 percent of children under 5 are stunted. In a recent meeting with partners, the government also mentioned that these figures are under investigation.

**Top five Donors:**

USA, Germany, Japan, World Bank, Burundi