



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief, June 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 IPC 3 and 4 as at March 2019). The high population density as well as the 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 in 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**

2018 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

2,123 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 14.3 m for six months (July-December 2019) net funding requirements

668,100 people assisted in June 2019



Operational Updates

- **Voluntary repatriation:** In June, WFP provided food assistance to approximately 3,900 Burundian refugees who returned from Tanzania. A total of 129 mt of food consisting of a cooked meal, and a three-month return food package was provided upon their arrival in transit centers and upon their departure to their zones of origin, respectively. The three-month food package helps the returnees reintegrate into their communities.
- **Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided 670 mt of food assistance to 44,000 Congolese refugees hosted in five camps in Burundi. WFP Cash-based transfers remained suspended due to funding constraints.
- **Under treatment of moderate acute malnutrition,** approximately 12,000 moderately acute malnourished children aged 6-59 months and 8,200 pregnant and nursing women in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi and Rutana provinces received 111 mt of specialized nutritious food to help restore their nutritional status.
- **The school feeding programme** reached over 600,000 schoolchildren in targeted food-insecure areas of the country (Cibitoke, Bubanza, Bujumbura, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo and Gitega), with 1,222 mt of nutritious hot meals served at school during school days.
- **Food fortification:** In collaboration with BSAF (a German chemical company), WFP organized a strategic food fortification workshop in Bujumbura aiming to strengthen the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network and increase awareness on Quality Control and Quality Assurance in food fortification.

Contact info: Michel Rwamo (michel.rwamo@wfp.org)

Country Director: Virginia Villar Arribas

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

Photo credit: Maria Goretti Nduwimana

Photo Caption: Burundian returnees from Tanzania, having a hot meal provided by WFP in Gitara transit centre in Makamba

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	14.3 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.

- **CBT simulation:** WFP together with the Red Cross movement partners and the Burundi Red-Cross are preparing a large-scale simulation exercise to test procedures for cash-based transfers programming in an emergency context. The main objective of the simulation is to test the feasibility of introducing cash transfers within 72 hours of an emergency and get familiar with developing a whole cash project cycle in a crisis situation. The five-day simulation is planned to start on 15 July 2019 in Northern Muyinga province. This simulation exercise is implemented within the framework of the capacity strengthening initiative for the Burundi Red Cross Society (BRC).

Partnership

- WFP continued to enhance its partnership in the field while also enhancing the capacities of the implementing partners. In June, WFP provided five motorbikes to Concern Worldwide Burundi. The NGO is partnering with WFP in the implementation of WFP's multiyear (2019-2021) resilience building project and malnutrition prevention interventions in Kirundo province. The motorbikes will facilitate monitoring of the implementation of activities.

Challenges

- Accelerated depreciation of the local currency and the scarcity of foreign currencies are causing frequent fuel shortages and transportation difficulties.

Top Five Donors: USA, Germany, Japan, World Bank, Burundi