



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief, July 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 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 6-59 months**

In Numbers

1,319 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0 transferred under assistance for refugees and food assistance for assets

USD 10.7 m six months (August 2019 – January 2020) net funding requirements

518,114 people assisted in June 2019



Operational Updates

- In July, WFP provided assistance to 2,265 Burundian returnees from Tanzania going back to their homes of origin. The assistance consisted of a cooked meal at the transit centers and 104 mt of food (three-month ration) as part of a re-integration package. In addition, 44,700 Congolese refugees hosted in six camps received 681 mt of assorted food commodities.
- WFP continued to support treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) programme in the provinces of Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi and Rutana. Approximately 9,000 moderately acute malnourished children aged 6-59 months and 6,745 pregnant women and nursing mothers received 77 mt of specialized nutritious food in combination with Social Behavioral Change Communication activities to improve their nutritional status.
- Under the stunting prevention programme, 32,400 pregnant women and nursing mothers and children aged 6-23 months received 196 mt of specialized nutritious foods in Kirundo province. In addition, WFP supports community nutrition education where women teach other local women. Main topics include dietary diversity, exclusive breast feeding, hygiene practices and family planning. Through this approach, women exert social control among themselves to facilitate behaviour changes at the household level and to impact social and cultural norms in the longer term.

Contact info: **Michel Rwamo (michel.rwamo@wfp.org)**
Country Director: **Virginia Villararribas**

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

Photo credit: Aurore Ishimwe

Photo Caption: Women waiting for their children to be treated at a Health Centre in the province of Ngozi

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Fund Requirements (in USD)
163.8 m	2.2 m	10.7 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:** From 15 to 19 July 2019, WFP Burundi conducted a large-scale 72-hour cash simulation for the Burundi Red Cross (BRC) in Burundi's northeastern province of Muyinga. The exercise was conducted in collaboration with the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and the Belgian Red Cross. During the exercise, BRC developed and implemented a whole cash project cycle and tested the capacity to refine standard operating procedures (SOPs), with the support of WFP. This activity is part of a global capacity strengthening initiative launched between WFP and IFRC to operationalize the Grand Bargain commitment on localization of aid.

- As part of the joint WFP/FAO/UNICEF project to address malnutrition in the province of Ngozi, WFP has installed food fortification units at different milling stations in the province to support community access to fortified foods. This project is financially supported by the Switzerland Cooperation in Burundi.

- **Complaint and Feedback Mechanism (CFM):** In July, WFP Burundi organized training sessions for the CFM agents on key principles of accountability to beneficiaries including protection and confidentiality regarding CFM data collection and analysis, and respect for the beneficiaries of WFP programmes. WFP's CFM has been put in place in response to beneficiaries' preferences to have a two-way communication system on food assistance in a safe and confidential manner. All complaints and feedback are logged, categorized and recorded in real time in a database allowing WFP to provide adequate responses.

Challenges

- Accelerated depreciation of the local currency and the scarcity of foreign currencies are causing frequent fuel shortages, transportation difficulties and price increase of basic food commodities and other essential products in local markets.

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