



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief, August 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 May 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 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**

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

1,166 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 15.9 m six months (September 2019-February 2020) net funding requirements

130,944 people assisted in August 2019



Operational Updates

Under the **crisis response** component, over 46,000 Congolese refugees hosted in five camps and transit centers were assisted with 742 mt of food. A further 588 Burundian refugees returning from Tanzania received 27 mt of food assistance in the form of cooked rations at transit centers and a three-month return food package upon departure to their zones of origin. From October, the repatriation is expected to continue through a framework of a recent agreement signed on 4 August 2019 between Tanzania and Burundi to intensify the returns to 2,000 people per week.

WFP provided nutrition assistance under **the resilience building** component which comprised of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment and stunting prevention interventions. MAM treatment reached approximately 8,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and over 11,500 children aged 6-59 months in Kirundo, Ngozi, Cankuzo and Rutana provinces. In total, 30 mt of RUSF was issued to children and 53 mt of super cereal to PLW. Stunting prevention was implemented in Kirundo province and assisted approximately 65,000 beneficiaries (approx. 32,000 children aged 6-23 months and 33,000 PLW) with 314 mt of food.

Ebola preparedness: WFP has been supporting the government in Ebola preparedness by taking the lead in the provision of logistical services for Ebola preparedness. The government is requesting more support in preparedness measures such as facilities, transport and storage capacity; however, WFP has no funding available. DFID has agreed to fund a stand-by-partner for Ebola preparedness logistics coordination for four months.

Photo credit: WFP/Djaounsede Madjiangar

Photo Caption: Lactating woman receiving SuperCereal Plus distributed under the WFP-supported MAM treatment programme

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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)
176.5 m	0 m	15.9 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 suffers 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*

Partnerships

On 8 August, WFP hosted an event to acknowledge a one-million US dollar contribution provided by the Government of Japan in support of stunting prevention in Kirundo province. WFP will use the contribution to distribute specialized nutritious foods to pregnant and lactating women to cover nutrient gaps and prevent low birth weight that lead to increased child mortality. So far in 2019, WFP has received USD 2.8 million from the Japanese government for the treatment and prevention of malnutrition and the provision of daily school meals to students in areas that are most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition across the country.

Challenges

WFP is facing funding challenges in refugee operations, school feeding, and MAM treatment activities for pregnant and lactating women. With the limited resources, WFP will be forced to reduce rations for the refugee operations. This will include reducing the ration of pulses by half starting in September to stretch the available resources.

Further, MAM treatment of PLW will be suspended in September due to a shortage of SuperCereal affecting approximately 9,000 women. Under the school feeding programme, shortfalls are expected to affect all the food commodities starting in October, and if no new resources are immediately received, WFP will have to reduce the number of assisted school-going children. The reduction in rations will negatively affect the refugees, PLW and school going children. WFP requires additional funding to be able to continue providing assistance in the coming months.

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