



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief, September-October 2019



Operational Context

According to the 2017 Human Development Index, Burundi ranks 185 out of 189 countries. According to the IPC index from April 2019, 15 percent of the population are facing emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity (phases 3 and 4) with 263,000 people in phase 4. The Joint Approach to Nutrition and Food Security Assessment (JANFSA) implemented in December 2018 revealed that 44.8 percent of the population were affected by food insecurity with 9.7 percent in severe food insecurity. Provinces affected by severe food insecurity include Karusi (18,8 percent) Gitega (17,5 percent), Muramvya (16,0 percent), Kirundo (14,3 percent) et Mwaro (12,5 percent). The high population density, as well as the new influx of returnees from Tanzania 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. Over 90 percent of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Burundi's preparedness for emergencies and crises is weak 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

4,642 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 587,403 cash transferred under food assistance for assets

USD 11.8 m six months (Nov. 2019- April 2020) net funding requirements

805,793 people assisted in September and October 2019



Operational Updates

Resilience building: WFP continued the implementation of asset creation activities in three communes in Gitega and Karusi provinces which were selected based on the seasonal livelihoods programming and the level of food and nutrition security. The project aims to build the resilience of the targeted communities and improve their nutrition. The six-month project started in June and focuses on asset creation activities at the household and community levels. At the household level, activities include the establishment of kitchen gardens, household composters, improved toilets and handwashing stations. While at the community level, they comprise feeder road rehabilitation, watersheds management for erosion control and afforestation. Through this project, 8,250 participants (approximately 41,200 beneficiaries) received US\$ 587,403 in September and October 2019.

Nutrition: Prevention of chronic malnutrition activities implemented in Kirundo reached approximately 33,300 children aged 6-23 months and 33,000 pregnant and nursing women with 516 mt of specialized nutritious food. WFP also continued to support the treatment of malnutrition interventions in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi and Rutana where approximately 11,750 moderately malnourished children were reached. Due to funding constraints, WFP suspended MAM treatment for pregnant and nursing women. Additional funding recently received from USAID/FFP should allow the resumption of distributions in January 2020.

Assistance to returnees and other food-insecure populations:

In collaboration with the Government, and UNHCR and other partners, WFP continued to support repatriation of Burundian refugees from Tanzania. WFP provided 176 mt of food assistance to 3,770 Burundian returnees who came back in Burundi September and October. They received a hot meal in transit centers as well as a three-month repatriation package consisting of beans, maize meal, vegetable oil and salt.

To meet the immediate food needs of the food insecure populations, WFP provided 260 mt of food to 10,185 vulnerable food-insecure people in Ngozi in October coinciding with the start of the lean season.

Assistance to refugees: 48,743 Congolese refugees hosted in five camps in Burundi received in-kind food assistance. WFP provided them with 1,315 mt of beans, rice, maize meal, vegetable oil, and salt.

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Photo credit: WFP/Remy Kibinakanwa

Photo Caption: Distribution of cash through the resilience building project in Bugendana/Gitega

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 176.5 m | 3.3m* | 11.8 m |

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

*Contribution received during the reporting period: \$3.2 million from USAID/FFP, and \$100,000 from ROK.

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 counseling;
- 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

School feeding: With the opening of the new school year in September, WFP resumed its food assistance to school children in seven provinces. In total, 623,690 school children in 702 schools were reached with 2,306 mt of food in September and October. Due to lack of funding, WFP could not reach all the intended schools (820 schools).

Digitalizing schools: In line with WFP corporate Digital Transformation operationalization to achieve operational excellence, WFP launched a pilot School Connect project in October. This digitalization project which uses a web-based application to track and report attendance of children eligible for school meals, the number of meals served, the monitoring of the quantity of each meal ingredients, stock inventory of all commodities, and deliveries registration (date, quantity, potential quality issues), as well as other indicators like presence of nutrition clubs and performance. The digitalization of school feeding will ensure there is real time data facilitating: timely reporting, enhanced transparency, governance and overall efficiency of the school feeding program. The piloting phase started with 20 schools and will be rolled out in all schools covered by the school feeding programme in 2020.

Malaria epidemic: Malaria remained rampant in the country during the reporting period. According to WHO, the country recorded more than 7.2 million cases, with 2,757 deaths between January and October 2019. The prevalence of the disease reached a level which WHO describes as consistently exceeding the malaria epidemic threshold since April. The northern and eastern regions of the country have a particularly high incidence. WHO predicts the risk of a new peak in this lean season (November-December) coupled with high rainfall. WFP is mobilizing resources to provide food assistance to affected people in areas most stricken by the disease and the Government of Burundi is organizing a national campaign for the distribution of treated mosquito nets in December. Following a request made by UNDP in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, WFP is preparing to dispatch over 6 million treated mosquito nets across the country until the end of the year.

Challenges

As the rainy season is in full swing in the country, poor road conditions are creating an access challenge. Wherever possible, WFP is using small trucks and pickups adapted to slippery roads to ensure timely and cost-effective food deliveries.

The road to the Kavumu refugee camp is particularly in a poor condition, which is making access in general a challenge including for trucks transporting food but also for UNHCR and other partners.

Further, the number of delivery points particularly for school feeding and nutrition programs are significantly high. WFP is exploring mechanisms to enhance operational efficiencies and effectiveness in transportation this include scale up of food delivery to cooperating partners who, in turn, dispatch the food to final distribution points. WFP is also mapping partners' storage capacity so as to preposition food in their warehouses and reduce the number of trips per month.