



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi, Country Brief, November 2019



Operational Context

According to the 2019 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**

2019 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**

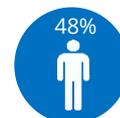
In Numbers

4,524 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 610,197 cash transferred under food assistance for assets

USD 13.7 m six months (Dec. 2019- May 2020) net funding requirements

812,135 people assisted in November 2019



Operational Updates

General food distributions to vulnerable food insecure people: Was implemented in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi, and Ruyigi provinces during November, targeting the most vulnerable and food-insecure people. WFP successfully distributed 1,702 mt of unconditional in-kind food to 73,293 people.

Assistance to refugees: The recent upsurge of insecurity in eastern DRC has caused the monthly influx of Congolese refugees in Burundi to double between October and November. In November, WFP provided for 51,414 Congolese refugees, hosted in five camps in Burundi, with 759 mt of in-kind food assistance. WFP and the humanitarian community continue to monitor the situation in order to appropriately respond to any new developments.

Resilience building: Asset creation activities which started in June 2019 continued in Gitega and Karusi provinces. The activities implemented aim to build the resilience of targeted communities and improve their livelihoods. At household level, activities include the establishment of kitchen gardens, household composters, improved toilets, and handwashing stations; at the community level, they comprise of feeder road rehabilitation and, watersheds management for erosion control and afforestation. Through this project, 8,559 participants received USD610,197 (benefiting their family members estimated at approximately 42,795) in November 2019. Since the launch of the project in June, approximately USD1.2 million has been transferred to participants to the project. The project also offers participants an opportunity to have access to small credits through their participation in village savings and loans associations (VSLAs). In total, 343 VSLAs have been set up in both provinces to which all the participants to the project are members.

Nutrition: WFP reached 33,155 children aged 6-23 months and 32,710 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with 258 mt of specialized nutritious food (SuperCereal for PLW, and Plumpy doz for children) in Kirundo province, through nutrition activities aimed at preventing chronic malnutrition. Through the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) activities, an additional 10,511 moderately malnourished PLW and children 6-59 months in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi, and Rutana were reached with 32 mt of nutritious food (SuperCereal for PLW, and Plumpy sup for children).

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
176.5 m	3.3 m*	13.7 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 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

School feeding: The provision of school meals to WFP-assisted schools continues in seven provinces in November. In total, 568,257 school children in 702 schools were reached with 1,773 mt of food. Out of these, 127 mt of milk were distributed to school children in Gitega and Ngozi as per the plan. Due to lack of funding, WFP could not reach all the intended schools (820 schools).

Launch of the milk value chain revitalization project: On 29 November, WFP in cooperation with the Government of Burundi and the Embassy of France launched a project aimed at revitalizing the milk value chain in Gitega province. WFP will strengthen the capacities of the smallholder farmers to improve milk collection, storage and transport conditions, and will purchase the milk to be distributed to the school children in food-insecure areas in order to improve their nutritional status. The project, funded by France, targets 18,500 beneficiaries: 13,500 school children and 5,000 smallholder farmers.

Challenges

Assistance to refugees: Based on recent refugee figures in-country and ongoing influx of new refugees, WFP plans to assist 51,000 Congolese refugees in camps and transit centers. However, available and forecasted resources can only cover approximately 50 percent of the total annual requirements. Forecasted resources are to be received as in-kind food, which is expected to reach Burundi in September 2020. With current resources, WFP will only be able to provide assistance until June 2020 and suspend assistance until September, should no new resources are obtained. With current resources, WFP will have to reduce the refugee food parcel to be able to cover 2020, to ensure planned beneficiaries continue to receive assistance.

Assistance to returnees, IDPs, and other vulnerable food-insecure populations: This activity plans to reach 315,000 most vulnerable and food-insecure people through unconditional and/or conditional food distributions. However, as current funding projections indicate possible availability of only 21 percent of the requirements for 2020, only returnees (50,000) will be prioritized as they return to their region of origin with no belongs, relying heavily on humanitarian assistance, at least for the first three months.

Digitalizing schools: Since October 2019, WFP is implementing 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.