



## WFP Burundi, Country Brief

January 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



### Operational Context

According to the 2019 Human Development Index, Burundi ranks 185 out of 189 countries. As stated in 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 45 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), and 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 depends on agriculture for their livelihoods. Burundi's preparedness for emergencies and crises is weak and cannot 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

**2,854 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 6.6m** six months net funding requirements, for the next six months (February -July 2020).

**711,900 people** assisted in **January 2020**



### Operational Updates

**Food assistance to victims of torrential rains:** WFP provided emergency food assistance to victims of the December 2019 torrential rains and flooding. In January, over 7,400 people received 113 mt of food in Bujumbura.

**Assistance to refugees:** 51,650 Congolese refugees hosted in five camps and asylum seekers transiting through Cishemere transit camp in Burundi received 779 mt of in-kind food assistance.

**Nutrition:** Under the prevention of chronic malnutrition programme implemented in Kirundo Province, WFP together with Government and partners reached over 32,100 children aged 6-23 months, and 30,300 pregnant and nursing women with 230mt of specialized nutritious foods. Additionally, over 8,900 moderately malnourished children aged 6-59 months in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi, and Rutana Provinces were reached with 27mt tons of ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). The MAM treatment activity for pregnant and nursing women remained suspended in January due to a shortage of Super Cereal Plus.

**School feeding:** WFP provided food assistance to approximately 581,400 school children in 701 schools. In total, 1,705 mt of food was distributed in assisted schools. The programme has expanded over the past 2 years with resources from donors and an investment of USD 2.4m by the Government in 2019. Some additional successes of the school feeding programme include (i) the establishment of a school feeding unit in the Ministry of Education as well as the development of the National School Feeding Policy in 2019; in partnership with the Rome Based Agencies (RBAs), WFP incorporated a daily milk ration in a number of schools through a private sector partnership with a local milk processor; and the school feeding programme purchases roughly 30 percent of commodities for use in the programme from local farmers through the Home grown School feeding model.

**Innovation Award:** In 17 January, WFP-Burundi received the innovation award for the School Connect pilot project in Burundi. The Innovation showcases WFP's bold ideas to end hunger. The School Connect is a digital solution that enables schools to track attendance and enrolment of school going children, monitor in real-time the level of food stock, and produce reports on food consumption. The solution will also be used to connect schools with local producers who can act as suppliers. The web-based solution is being tested in 20 schools in Burundi and based on its success, WFP will aim for a scale up to 820 schools in 2020.

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**Photo credit:** WFP/Myrline SANOGO-MATHIEU

**Photo Cation:** WFP's Executive Director, David Beasley, during his field visit in Ecofo Gitamo, at Ngozi, Burundi

## WFP Country Strategy

### Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>176.5 m</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6.6m</b>

#### 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*

#### WFP Executive Director visit:

From 12 to 14 January, the WFP Executive Director Mr. David Beasley visited Burundi. The purpose of the visit was to reaffirm WFP's support for the Republic of Burundi for the achievement of the sustainable development goals, on fight against hunger and malnutrition. During his stay, he met with the Second Vice President of the Republic of Burundi and other high-profile authorities as well as the diplomatic community and other UN agencies. He also visited a WFP-supported school feeding site and the port of Bujumbura, which WFP plans to support in order to revitalize trade in the Tanganyika Lake.

## Challenges

WFP has implemented the School feeding programme in seven provinces of Burundi. Currently only 35 percent of the needs are covered, beyond the requirements to provide food assistance to the targeted 620,000 school going children. WFP is facing a shortfall of 65 percent for year-2020, if no resources are received by April 2020, WFP could be forced to reduce rations in the schools. The school feeding programme is mainly funded by the Netherlands, the World Bank through the Burundi Government, Monaco, and the Burundi Government through its budget allocation. The Netherlands's funding is earmarked for the west, and funding from the World Bank and Monaco is allocated for the north. Funding from the Burundi Government is un-earmarked and used to cover the rest of the assisted schools.

Stunting prevention program which is implemented in the most food insecure areas risks being suspended due to funding constraints. Specialized nutritious foods used in this program will have shortages from May, and additional resources are needed in order to continue providing assistance to women and children under this program.

Assistance to returnees, IDPs and other vulnerable food-insecure populations: this activity plans to reach 315,000 most vulnerable and food-insecure people. However, as the current projections only indicate 21 percent of the needs, only returnees and victims of climatic shocks such as flooding will be prioritized.

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