



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi, Country Brief

March 2020



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) carried out 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), 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

2,796 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 8.5m six months net funding requirements, for the next six months (April-September 2020)

666,900 people assisted in March 2020



Operational Updates

Assistance to refugees: In March, WFP provided 737 MT of in-kind food assistance to approximately 48,000 refugees hosted in the five camps in Burundi. In mid-March, Burundi did not register new refugees from eastern DRC. A UNHCR's screening exercise in March revealed a reduction in refugee numbers in camps from 52,000 to approximately 48,000.

Assistance to returnees: Despite border closures due to COVID-19, approximately 400 Burundians return per week from Tanzania. In March, WFP assisted over 1,800 returnees upon arrival, with a total of 84 MT of food. The assistance consisted of a cooked ration provided at transit centers and a three-month ration package to facilitate their reintegration in the communities.

Food assistance to victims of torrential rains: WFP assisted 1,190 people displaced by the torrential rains and floods registered in December-January 2019 in Bujumbura province. In March, a total of 18 MT of food was distributed to help them meet their immediate food needs.

School feeding: Approximately 523,200 school children received a daily hot meal on school days in March, including 28,500, who received 250 ml of milk twice a week. In total, WFP distributed 1,688 MT of food, including 19 MT of milk to children in 702 schools.

Nutrition: WFP supported 36,6000 children of age 6-23 months and nearly 27,200 pregnant and nursing women in Kirundo province with 214 MT of specialised nutritious food, as part of its prevention of chronic malnutrition programme. The treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) activities reached 3,500 moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women and 8,200 children aged 6-59 months in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi and Rutana Provinces with 55 MT tons of specialised nutritious food. WFP reinstated the MAM treatment for malnourished pregnant, and nursing women in March after a 6-month interruption, thanks to a contribution from USAID/FFP.

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Photo credit: WFP/Claver Karikunzira

Photo Cation: Distribution of food assistance to refugees at Bwagiriza camp/Ruyigi

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Fundi Requirements (in US
176.5 m	1.56m	8.5 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*

Support to smallholder farmers: WFP strengthened the capacities of smallholder farmers involved in WFP's support to the local milk value chain under the home-grown school feeding programme. They were trained on techniques to improve the conditions for the collection, storage, and transport of milk. These capacity strengthening activities aimed at improving the quality of milk produced, and the promotion of milk consumption by the population. The farmers received hermetic bags and silos for post-harvest management.

COVID-19 (new needs): On 31 March 2020, Burundi reported its first two cases of COVID-19. Both cases were exported. Hygienic measures, travel restrictions and border closures followed the announcement of the first cases. In preparation for possible movement restrictions or COVID spread, WFP tested its Business Continuity Plan and finalized a Concept of Operations detailing preparedness and response actions. Burundi has a limited capacity to respond to emergencies, and the possible spread among the Burundian population will further compound the already fragile economic and food security and nutrition situation. Burundi's humanitarian situation will further be aggravated, while the country is also affected by cholera and malaria epidemics.

Challenges

In the COVID-19 context, WFP-Burundi's focus is to maintain life-saving food assistance and service provision to local government and the humanitarian actors, while putting in place measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

WFP requires US\$ 13.2 million to assist 250,000 vulnerable people directly or indirectly affected, and vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity. WFP is also prioritizing existing assistance to expected 50,000 Burundian returning from neighbouring countries and 48,000 refugees in camps. These funds include funding to cover 300,000 food-insecure vulnerable people during the lean season, from September to November. This support will be crucial, as it is expected that COVID will severely impact access to food and to livelihood opportunities in the coming months. WFP needs US\$12 million to provide life-saving service provision and capacity strengthening to the Government and partners engaged in the COVID fight.

School feeding: Due to a pipeline break of US\$ 5.2 million in the School feeding programme, WFP-Burundi was able to assist only 57 percent out of 620,000 school children. If no new resources are made available, WFP will be obliged to reduce the number of assisted schools, which will negatively impact school attendance, children's performance, and food security status.

Refugees: Due to pipeline break in beans, WFP had to readjust the food assistance provided to nearly 48,000 refugees. WFP provided half ration of beans and did not provide Corn Soy Blend (CSB+). Although this was compensated with an increased ration of maize meal, the nutritional diet daily requirements will be affected.

Assistance to food-insecure households, including Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and returnees is affected by resource constraints due to a funding gap of US\$ 7.7 million to cater for 350,000 affected persons.

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