



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Burundi, Country Brief

April 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

1,787 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 8.5m net funding requirements for the next six months (May-October 2020)

504,203 people assisted in April 2020



### Operational Updates

**Assistance to refugees:** In April, WFP provided 725 mt of food assistance to over 48,200 Congolese refugees in five camps in Burundi. As part of its contingency plan in the COVID-19 and pre-election context, WFP prepositioned two-month food assistance (June-July) in the camps to be distributed in May. However, due to a pipeline break in beans, refugees will receive 63 percent of the beans (75 grams versus 120 grams) pending arrival, in June, of in-kind donation of pulses by USAID/FFP. This has been compensated with a 30 percent increase of SuperCereal ration.

Together with its partners, WFP has put in place preventive and protective measures against COVID-19 during distributions. These include social distancing, which has resulted in distributions extending by one week; and introduction of the contactless SCOPE cards in three of the five camps, soon to be scaled up in all the five camps.

**Assistance to returnees:** WFP assisted nearly 2,500 Burundian refugees who returned from neighbouring countries with a total of 116 mt of food, consisting of a cooked meals provided at transit centres and a three-month food basket package to facilitate their reintegration in the communities. Despite border closure, approximately 500 Burundians returned home per week from Tanzania in April.

**Nutrition:** As part of the prevention of the chronic malnutrition programme, WFP supported approximately 37,800 children aged 6-23 months and 24,100 pregnant and lactating women in the Kirundo province with 191 mt of specialized nutritious food. Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) activities reached approximately 4,300 moderately malnourished pregnant and nursing women and 8,300 children aged 6-59 months in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi and Rutana Provinces with 50 mt of specialized nutritious foods.

**School feeding: School remained open in the month of April.** WFP reached approximately, 378,900 (out of the targeted 620,000) school going children with 705 mt of food in the form of a daily hot meal provided on school days. WFP and its partners ensured necessary measures are in place to prevent spread of COVID-19. This programme continues to be affected by shortage of beans which has led to a reduction in programme coverage, with only 61 percent of the targeted school children being assisted due to lack of resources. The Pipeline breaks are also as a result of increased food prices and heavy rainfalls jeopardizing the

Photo credit: WFP/Divine Munezero

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

Contact info: Myrline SANOGO-MATHIEU ([Myrline.sanogomathieu@wfp.org](mailto:Myrline.sanogomathieu@wfp.org))  
 Country Director: Virginia VILLAR ARRIBAS ([Virginia.Villararribas@wfp.org](mailto:Virginia.Villararribas@wfp.org))  
 Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/burundi>

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

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Fundi Requirements (in USD)
176.5 m	1 m	8 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*

**Flooding and displacement:**

Between January and April, WFP has provided lifesaving assistance to 12,200 flood affected people. In April alone, WFP provided life-saving assistance of a two-month food ration (321 mt) to 1804 flood-affected families (9070 people) who were displaced following heavy rains. Excessive rainfalls, from 17 to April 20, 2020, led to floods in Gatumba (12kms out of Bujumbura), leading to displacement of 28,000, loss of livelihoods and damage to crops. Assessment reports indicated that further movement due to flooding had been recorded in some South and West areas of the Burundi (Rumonge, Cibitoke, and Bubanza), the scale of impact is still unclear. Damage to infrastructure, including bridges and roads, was also reported, hindering access to the affected population.

**The floods have impacted agricultural productivity** in the affected areas, and cross border trade resulting in an economic setback for small traders and smallholder farmers. Market shortages and price increases are caused by a combination of excessive rainfall and trade disruption due to COVID-19 prevention measures.

**COVID-19:**

In April 2020, Burundi registered a total of 19 confirmed COVID-19 cases, as announced by the Ministry of Public Health and Fight against AIDS. While hygiene measures, including handwashing and social distancing are being promoted, social gatherings continue. Borders remains closed except for cargo.

**Resource Overview**

**WFP urgently needs \$ 20 million to scale up food assistance activities** through front-loading of commodities while also providing service provision and capacity building to the Government and partners engaged in the COVID-19 fight. Currently, WFP has very limited resources to cover severely food-insecure people whose livelihood is threatened by COVID-19, climatic shocks, and limitations due to the upcoming elections, transport restrictions and the limited amount of stocks available in the region.

**Impact of food security:** The economic impacts of COVID-19 continue to threaten food security. A decrease in trade activities, economic migration and remittances from outside the country and within the country ( from city to countryside) has been noted.

**Food prices are on the rise** compared to the previous month. Prices of basic foodstuffs are rising- 47 percent for maize, nearly 60 percent for onions and over 35 percent for beans compared to the average of the last five The current levels of food stocks in the markets monitored are deficient, which can be explained by the combination of the hunger gap and the impact of climatic hazards on harvests. With one month to go before the first harvests of the 2020 B season, prices are likely to remain high, due to damage caused by excessive rainfall in some localities, the uncertainty about imports and the low import capacity in the country, and regional production still threatened by locusts, etc.