



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi, Country Brief

May 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

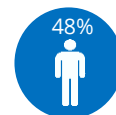
Chronic malnutrition: **56 percent of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

2,228 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 35 m net funding requirements for the next six months (June-November 2020)

504,206 people assisted in May 2020



Operational Updates

Assistance to refugees: In May, with the support of USAID's Office Food for Peace, WFP assisted 48,424 Congolese refugees in five camps with 1,432 mt of food assistance, representing a two-month ration to meet their nutritional needs up to June. During these distributions, WFP and its partners strictly implemented protective measures against COVID-19, including suspension of the use of the point of sale machine which requires PIN-code, and which has been replaced by contactless SCOPE cards. These cards allow for a faster delivery and quicker delivery, considerably reducing the contacts between the refugees. WFP is planning the distribution of cash (US\$ 0.09/Person/month) for four months to buy fresh food to diversify the ration, thanks to donations from German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO).

Assistance to returnees: WFP continues to support repatriation of Burundian refugees by providing food assistance to Burundian returnees. In May, 877 Burundian returnees were assisted with 42 mt of food consisting of a cooked ration at transit centers and a three-month ration package to facilitate their reintegration in the communities. Burundi does not require returnees to be quarantined and has not yet made any plans to quarantine them. At the same time, in mid-May, there were no new arrivals due to the presidential elections.

Assistance to IDPs: WFP provided 62 mt of food assistance to 3,130 people displaced by flooding in the Gatumba area and hosted in four temporary sites. Due to the recent flooding and landslides caused by torrential rains affecting Burundi last April, these internally displaced people (IDPs) lost their assets and crops.

Nutrition: Under stunting prevention activities, WFP provided 94 mt of specialized nutritious food to 37,543 children age 6-23 months and 11,799 pregnant and lactating women in the Kirundo province. Through treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) activities, WFP supported 5,222 moderately malnourished pregnant and nursing women and 8,837 children aged 6-59 months with 67 mt of specialized nutritious foods in four provinces (Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi, Rutana).

School feeding: Schools remain open in Burundi notwithstanding COVID-19 and WFP has implemented protective and preventive measures for the school canteens, together with the Ministry of Education. In May, WFP provided a daily hot meal to 388,374 schoolchildren, distributing 387 tons of food and 145 tons of milk. To protect these children from COVID-19, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, organized sensitization sessions in the assisted schools. **Food prices:** According to the mid-May Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) market price monitoring, all staples' prices continue to increase. The price of beans increased by 18 percent during the two first weeks of May. The peak of the lean season combined with other factors such as the destruction caused by the recent excessive rains and the disruption of trade activity (transborder trade) due to COVID-19 are behind these high food prices. However, this price hike does not include the price of rice, which has started decreasing with the harvest of season B and after months of excessive rains, which have affected other crops negatively.

Contact info: Myrline SANOGO-MATHIEU (Myrline.sanogomathieu@wfp.org)
Country Director: Virginia VILLARRIBAS (Virginia.Villarribas@wfp.org)
 Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/burundi>

Photo credit: WFP/Marie-Claire Nzeyimana

Photo Caption: Distribution of food assistance to people displaced by floods in Gatumba

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
176.5 m	1.7 m	35 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

Emergency budget revision: Following an emergency budget revision to its ICSP to prevent and mitigate the programmatic and logistics constraints related to COVID-19, **WFP requires US\$ 19.2 million** to maintain and scale-up its life-saving food assistance activities, including the COVID-19 related needs. Among the most vulnerable groups classified as severity three of the Humanitarian Needs Overview, WFP will provide a 3-month assistance to an additional 250,000 people, not targeted under the Humanitarian Response Plan, but are most likely to need humanitarian assistance due to COVID-19 impact. Under its strategic objective five, WFP will ensure access to all actors to adequate transport and storage capacity and enough stock of required supplies as well as commodities through an increase of its budget.

Political developments: On 20 May, Burundi held general elections, which resulted in the victory of Evariste Ndayishimiye, candidate of the ruling CNDD-FDD party. The National Independent Electoral Commission announced that he had won the presidential elections with a score of 68.7 percent against his challenger, Mr. Agathon Rwasa, of the CNL party. The latter filed a complaint with the Constitutional Court of Burundi on allegations of fraud, which were dismissed before the ruling party candidate's victory was confirmed. Agathon Rwasa said he accepted the court's verdict. During the electoral period and the COVID-19 context, WFP is implementing its business continuity plan, as part of the protective measures against the outbreak, while life-saving food assistance continues.

Impact of food security: COVID-19 is negatively impacting Burundi's already fragile food security situation. In May, WFP's mVAM revealed that food continues to be in short supply in the local market during the lean season (April-May), while floods seem to have already compromised the 2020 B agricultural season (June-July). Besides, as a result of prevention and protection measures against the virus, COVID-19 became a hindrance to cross-border markets with Tanzania and DRC, where vulnerable households could supply, decreasing formal and informal imports.

Resourcing and pipeline

Assistance to returnees, IDPs and other vulnerable food-insecure populations: With the recent budget revision undertaken to include COVID-19-related needs, the activity is under a critical pipeline break. WFP urgently requires US\$15 m; needs so far are funded at only 29 percent.

School feeding: WFP needs US\$ 8 m to cover the gaps recorded in the primary and pre-primary schools' access to this programme. Out of 620,000 school children targeted, 31 percent are not covered. The Government of Burundi announced US\$ 2.5 million in support of the program for the period July 2020 to June 2021. This funding, however, is not enough to cover the School Feeding requirements. If no new funds are received for the School Feeding program, WFP will need to reduce the number of assisted schools, which will have a very negative impact, especially in the food-insecure areas where this programme is implemented and in the context of increased food insecurity and COVID-19.

Nutrition: The activity is experiencing critical shortfalls for specialised nutritious products, causing stunting prevention activities to be put on hold starting in June. Less impact of the suspension is expected on beneficiaries during the next three months (June-August) as it coincides with the harvest period. WFP requires US\$ 1.2 m to cover 25,783 beneficiaries.