



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

980 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 33.3 m net funding requirements for the next six months (August 2020- January 2021)

81, 878 people assisted in July 2020



Operational Updates

Assistance to refugees: In July, WFP resumed food assistance to refugees following the introduction of double distributions in April. WFP reached 48,736 refugees with US\$130,374 and 781 mt of food. Distributions did not take place in June, as there was a double distribution in mid-May, before the then-upcoming elections, which prompted WFP to preposition a two-month ration in refugee camps in April as a contingency measure. During the July distributions, WFP reintroduced the distribution of cash (US\$ 0.09/Person/month) to enable households to buy fresh foods to diversify their ration.

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, WFP introduced food packaging, for the first time in its refugees activity in Burundi. WFP's cooperating partner's staff packaged the food entitlements per family size. Only one family at a time was authorized to enter the distribution site and collect its entitlement. This ensured there was no overcrowding at the distribution sites.

Assistance to returnees: WFP provided food assistance to 2,321 returnees who entered Burundi through Gitara transit centre in the southern province of Makamba, and Nyabitare in eastern province of Ruyigi. They received 107.5 mt of food in the form of cooked ration at transit centres, and a three-month return package to help them reintegrate their communities. Upon arrival in transit centres, the returnees had to comply with protective measures in place against COVID-19, including testing.

Assistance to IDPs: The three-month food assistance for 25,860 people displaced by the recent torrential rains and floods mostly in Gatumba and Bujumbura was completed in June. On 17 July, WFP and other stakeholders involved in humanitarian assistance for the IDPs held an after-action review to assess the effectiveness of the response. The review concluded that, overall, people assisted were satisfied with the assistance provided. Part of the lessons learned, and recommendations provided by the participants and stakeholders was to improve coordination between humanitarian actors and strengthen involvement of local administration.

Nutrition: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) activities reached approximately 5,865 moderately malnourished pregnant and nursing women and 8,498 children aged 6-59 months in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi and Rutana Provinces with 44 mt of Specialized Nutritious Foods (SNF).

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Five Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
195.8 m	117.3 m	33.3 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*

School feeding: On the last three school days of the school year, between 2 and 4 July, WFP assisted schools in Kirundo, Muyinga, and Cibitoke with 7.3 mt of food, which allowed them to provide a hot meal to 16,458 school children. WFP requires US\$ 5.3 million to cover critical shortfalls for this activity, which aims to reach 703 schools in September. If resources are not found, WFP will have to reduce the number of assisted schools by 30 percent. Over the years, the school feeding programme has led to increased enrolment in attendance and retention in schools.

Resilience: Under the environment protection component of its resilience-building programme, WFP distributed 4,340 household cooking stoves to 2,170 households in Nyankanda refugee camp. This initiative is part of broader project seeking to address people's cooking fuel needs and challenges while building community resilience against food insecurity resulting from poor access to energy. Under the current project, improved cooking stoves will be distributed in four out of five refugee camps, and in the host communities mitigate environmental impact of deforestation.

Monitoring

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted from 4-7 May 2020 indicates that 859,000 people are in phase 3 and 4 and need immediate assistance in July. An additional 3.1 million people are expected to be stressed (IPC Phase 2), bringing the total number of people facing acute food insecurity to 3.9 million. Data collection for the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) is under way. The results will inform the analysis of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) covering the period from July to December 2020.

Food prices: After the harvest effect of the 2020 B season which will have lasted only a month since the first harvests, the prices of basic foodstuffs are on the rise again. The mid-July Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) market price monitoring shows a 5 percent price increase for pulses (consisting mainly of beans) during the first fortnight of July on top of another 5 percent increase in the previous fortnight. Prices are generally stable for other food stuffs. During the first half of July, market supply was mainly linked to traders' stocks except for tubers for which the supply by farmers was maintained.

Resourcing and pipeline

From August to December 2020, WFP will face a shortfall of 165 mt SuperCereal (CSB+) urgently needed to complete the refugees' food basket. The inclusion of SuperCereal was recommended by the December 2018 Joint Assessment Mission to improve refugees' nutritional status. An influx of refugees is expected as soon as the borders reopened due to continuous violence in DRC.

As part of its COVID-19 crisis response, WFP Burundi requires US\$ 15.9 million to provide food assistance to severely food-insecure populations, including people affected by climatic hazards and Burundian returnees from neighbouring countries. Among others, this amount includes the need of US\$ 5.6 million to provide food assistance to 195,300 people who are likely to be directly or indirectly affected by COVID-19.