



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi

Country Brief, August 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 most affected by chronic malnutrition in the world. 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

2015 Human Development Index:
185 out of 189

65 percent Burundians live under the poverty line

Chronic malnutrition: 56% of children between 6-59 months

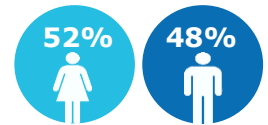
In Numbers

1,050 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 127,010 cash transferred under food assistance for refugees

US\$ 28 m net funding requirements for the next four months (September 2020 - February 2021)

94,146 people assisted in August 2020



Operational Updates

Assistance to refugees: In August, WFP reached 48,933 refugees with 772 mt of in-kind food and US\$ 127,010 for fresh food to diversify the ration. Food packaging was introduced in July as a preventive measure against COVID-19 propagation continued to be applied. It consists of packaging the food entitlements per family size. Only one family at a time is authorized to enter the distribution site and collect its entitlement. This ensures there is no overcrowding at the distribution sites.

Assistance to returnees: On 27 August 2020, 493 Burundian refugees returned to Burundi from Mahama Camp, Rwanda, through the transit centre of Songore in Ngozi province. WFP provided them with a 4-day ration to be consumed during their stay in the transit center, and a 3-month take-home ration to help them reintegrate their communities once in their zones of origin. It was the first convoy of returnees from Rwanda since the signature of the Tripartite Agreement. Meanwhile, the repatriation of Burundian refugees from Tanzania continued through the Gitara transit center in the southern province of Makamba and Nyabitare in the eastern province of Ruyigi. In total, 3,737 Burundian refugees returned to Burundi in August, and WFP assisted them with 170 mt of food.

Food assistance to vulnerable food-insecure populations: WFP worked with the local administration in Ngozi, Ruyigi, Bubanza, Cibitoke, and Rumonge provinces for the preparation of the provision of food assistance to food-insecure populations during the upcoming lean season. In total, WFP is planning to assist 154,000 food insecure people from October to December 2020 with food assistance.

Nutrition: Specialised nutritious foods were provided for the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) to a total of 6,858 moderately malnourished pregnant and nursing women, and 9,424 children aged 6-59 months in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi and Rutana Provinces. In addition, in partnership with Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC), WFP distributed Micronutrient Powders (MNP) to 23,020 children aged 6-23 months in Bubanza and Bujumbura provinces in order to combat micronutrient deficiencies.

Resilience: Following the successful completion of phase one in December 2019, in July 2020 WFP moved to the second phase of its resilience-building activities in Gitega and Karusi. This phase has adapted to focus on household-specific activities due to the COVID-19. With the support of WFP's cooperating partner, World Vision, each beneficiary household was supported to develop its specific development plan, including identifying assets to be created, and an income-generating activity to be implemented.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Four Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
195.8 m	0.25 m	28 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

The project targets 5,338 households who had achieved fairly good results with this first phase, as per cooperating partner's assessment. In August, the beneficiary households started the implementation of their development plans.

Impact of COVID-19: COVID-19 pandemic is negatively impacting the country's already fragile food security situation. Movement restrictions have hindered cross-border markets and exchanges with Tanzania and DRC, decreasing formal and informal imports and severely impacting a vital lifeline for many vulnerable households. The humanitarian community is working to support the population in response to the crisis.

To support the Ministry of Health's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP is dispatching WASH kits and construction materials to 200 health centers. WFP has also built two screening units at the entrance of two health centres in Cibitoke province, supported by Korea International Cooperation Agency.

La Niña: IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC) forecasts a 60 percent likelihood of La Niña phenomenon developing in the final quarter of 2020 and into 2021, with a consequent drier than usual season in conjunction with seasonal rains starting late. This situation raises concerns of a drought, especially in the lowlands of the country (livelihood zones of Bugesera, Moso, and Imbo) which may potentially compromise the performance of the next agricultural season.

Food prices and accessibility: In August, household food accessibility was marked by the progressive exhaustion of food reserves from the poor June-July harvests on the one hand, and the low purchasing power of households (especially those dependent on the sale of labour) on the other hand. Consequently, food prices have started to increase. Moreover, COVID-19 related border and trade restrictions (see above) have negatively affected informal and formal trade exchanges with the consequent impact on livelihoods.

Humanitarian flights: As of 31 August, the WFP-operated humanitarian flights service has operated 22 successful flights between Addis Ababa and Bujumbura. The service has supported a total of 323 incoming and 308 outgoing passengers since 17th June. Since the flights have started operating in June, there have been a considerable number of changes in the quarantine measures envisaged by the Ministry of Health as the COVID-19.

Resourcing and pipeline

WFP Burundi's school meals programme is currently experiencing a funding shortfall of over US\$ 4 million through to the end of the year and a planned requirement for 2021 of US\$ 23.6 million. As a result, WFP will be required to scale back the number of schools to be assisted at the beginning of the school year (in early September), from 703 to 500.

Starting in September 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.

Donors

Top Donors: USA, Netherlands, Germany, Multilateral, Burundi, World Bank, European Union, Japan

Photo credit: WFP/Irenée Nduwayezu

Photo Caption: Food distribution in Nyankanda refugee camp

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