



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Burundi Country Brief September 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 livelihood. 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 of 15 percent. Burundi has been present in



Population: <b>11.7 million</b>	2015 Human Development Index: <b>185 out of 189</b>
<b>65 percent</b> Burundians live under the poverty line	Chronic malnutrition: <b>56% of children between 6-59 months</b>

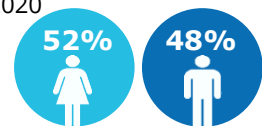
## In Numbers

1,895 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 392,296 cash based transferred under food assistance for refugees and resilience-building activities

US\$ 13.2 m net funding requirements for the next three months (October-December 2020)

564,370 people assisted in September 2020



## Operational Updates

- Assistance to refugees:** In September, WFP reached 49,064 refugees (of which 21,569 males, 27,495 females, 13,462 children 0-59 months and 1,948 people aged over 60 years) with 752 mt of in-kind food and US\$ 124,555 for fresh food to diversify the ration. All the fresh food is purchased from the local markets.
- Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided 343 mt of food assistance to 7,255 returnees (3,592 males and 3,663 females) from Tanzania and Rwanda. The assistance consisted of cooked rations of maize meal and beans provided at transit centers, and a three-month return package consisting of maize, beans, vegetable oil and salt to help returnees reintegrate their communities.
- WFP is preparing to shift from in-kind food provision to cash-based transfers (CBT) for assistance to returnees, starting November 2020. This has been informed by a protection assessment that was conducted jointly with UNHCR. The introduction of CBT will support to mitigate protection concerns related to in-kind food provisions, such as the transportation of heavy bags of food on long distances and the obligation to share the ration with host communities once in food-insecure zones of origins. Due to sharing, the returnees continue to be more vulnerable and food insecure as they lack any other source of subsistence. Each returnee will receive the equivalent of US\$0.5 in local currency, per day and for three months instead of the usual 3-month in-kind food package.
- Nutrition:** Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) activities reached 7,336 moderately malnourished pregnant and nursing women, as well as 10,136 children aged 6-59 months, through the provision of 111 mt of specialized nutritious foods.
- Stunting prevention resumed in Kirundo province after a two-month (July-August) interruption, coinciding with the harvest period when the intervention is not necessary thanks to availability of food. In September, WFP provided 132 mt of specialized nutritious food to 45,351 children age 6-23 months and 1,392 pregnant and lactating women.
- To tackle micronutrient deficiencies, WFP distributed 0.6 mt of Micronutrient Powders (MNPs) to 42,281 children aged 6-23 months in Bubanza and Bujumbura provinces.

Photo credit: WFP/Filippo Barbagli

Photo Caption: First Lady and Minister of Education giving food to schoolchildren during celebration of the Africa Day of School Feeding on 22 September.

\*October-December 2020 net funding requirements because the BR4 extending the ICSP (2020 to 2021) is pending approval.

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

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Three Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>195.8 m</b>	<b>4.5 m</b>	<b>13.2 m</b>

**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:** As soon as the schools opened in September, WFP started the distribution of school meals to assisted schoolchildren. Thus, 454 mt of food were distributed to 271,060 school children. In addition, 102 mt of milk were also distributed to 103,805 school children in Gitega and Ngozi provinces.
- **School Connect:** WFP is intensifying the training on the *School Connect* interface for the schools' staff, in preparation of the scale-up of the platform to all assisted schools. By the end of the month, WFP has reached 42 school staff (27 men and 15 women) in 14 schools. WFP plans to complete these trainings by the end of the year. *School Connect* is a web-based application that enables schools to track attendance and enrolment of all school children, monitor the level of food stock, and produce reports on food consumption. The platform helps to generate in real-time the needed information available online and accessible from anywhere.

**Monitoring**

- During September, beneficiaries of almost all WFP's activities (assistance to refugees, assistance for returnees, school feeding, assets creation, and livelihoods) had access to the complaints and feedback mechanism, in the form of complaints table and toll-free number. In total, 428 feedback and complaints were received. Seventy percent of complaints were addressed, with the remaining 30 percent forwarded for further investigation. Twenty-one percent of the received feedback was positive, mostly commending the distribution of the cash under Assets Creation and Livelihoods. Of the 428 received feedback, 235 were from women and included topics such as cash claims, food packaging errors, etc. There was a 13 percent increase in the use of the toll-free number by men.

**Challenges**

- WFP Burundi's school meals programme is currently experiencing a funding shortfall of over USD 4 million until the end of the year and a planned requirement for 2021 of USD 23.6 million. As a result, WFP have scaled back the number of assisted schools from 703 to 500 with the new school year which started on 06 September. With the aim to raise the profile of the school meals programme and attract funding, WFP has started an assertive advocating campaign among donors, international and local stakeholders and decision-makers. The First Lady of Burundi has joined in these efforts by sponsoring the home-grown school feeding programme.

**Supply Chain**

- **Humanitarian flights:** The WFP Global Passenger Service has operated 16 successful flights between Addis Ababa and Bujumbura, as of 30 September. The service has supported a total of 486 incoming and 465 outgoing humanitarian passengers since 17 June 2020.

**Top Donors**

USA, Netherlands, Germany, Multilateral, Burundi, World Bank, European Union, Japan.

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