



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Burundi Country Brief December 2020



## Operational Context

According to April 2019 IPC results, 15 percent of the population is facing emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity (phases 3 and 4) with 263,000 people in emergency (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 food insecure, 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 (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% of children between 6-59 months

Photo: Returnees at the Gitara transit center enjoying a meal provided by WFP. WFP/Maria-Goretti Nduwimana

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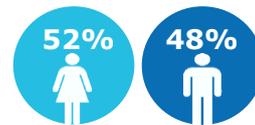
Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/burundi>

## In Numbers

2,900 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 27.9 m net funding requirements for the next six months (January – June 2021)

538,681 people assisted in December 2020



## Operational Updates

### Assistance to refugees

WFP provided 49,519 refugees (21,788 males, 27,731 females, including 13,370 children aged 0-59 months and 1,981 people aged over 60 years) with 758 mt of in-kind food. Due to lack of funding the cash transfers for fresh food was discontinued in December 2020.

### Assistance to returnees

WFP assisted 8,024 returnees (3,932 males and 4,092 females, including 2,004 boys and 2,000 girls) returning to Burundi with 288 mt of food. Most of them came from Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya. The assistance consisted of hot meals provided at the transit centres, and a three-month return package consisting of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and salt to help returnees reintegrate into their communities.

### Food assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs)

WFP provided 147 mt of food to 3,891 IDP households representing 19,455 beneficiaries (9,617 males, 9,838 females, including 4,860 boys and 4,848 girls), including those who are still living in displacement sites and those who have returned to their zones of origin in Gatumba District.

### Food assistance to vulnerable food-insecure populations

WFP continues to provide food assistance to food-insecure populations to mitigate the effects of the October-December lean season in Ngozi and Ruyigi Provinces: a total of 73,810 beneficiaries (36,167 males and 37,643 females, including 18,438 boys and 18,393 girls) received 843 mt of food items in December.

### Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)

WFP provided assistance to 8,292 moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW) and 12,406 children aged 6-59 months (6,240 boys and 6,166 girls): 124 mt of specialized nutritious food items were distributed in Kirundo, Ngozi, Ruyigi and Rutana Provinces. Distributions, carried out at health centers, were coupled with social behaviour change communication (SBCC) implemented by health providers using image boxes provided by WFP.

### Stunting prevention activities

In Kirundo Province, WFP distributed 156 mt of SuperCereal Plus to 32,496 pregnant and lactating women and girls and 65 mt of specialized nutritious food (plumpy doz) to 43,726 children aged 6-23 months (22,038 boys and 21,688 girls). The distribution of Micronutrient Powders (MNPs) continued in Bubanza and Bujumbura Provinces to address micronutrient deficiencies: 1 mt of MNPs was provided to 21,933 children aged 6-23 months (11,054 boys and 10,879 girls). Both activities were combined with SBCC sessions on good nutritional practices.

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
195.8 m	1.09 m	27.9 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: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

**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: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 5:** Government, humanitarian and development partners have access to effective supply chain management and logistics all year round.  
**Focus area:** *Resilience Building*

- Activities:**
- Provide on-demand services for the humanitarian community and development partners.

Provide technical assistance through the logistics sector to the National Disaster Platform and humanitarian partners to improve emergency logistics coordination and supply chain management

### Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 6:** Government and partner institutions and systems in Burundi have enhanced supply chain capacities by end of 2021.  
**Focus area:** *Crisis response*

- Activities:**
- Provide capacity strengthening through supply chain technical advice and services to the Government of Burundi and to humanitarian and development partners

## School feeding

WFP distributed a total of 518 mt of food to 270,266 school children (134,782 boys and 135,484 girls) in 400 schools in the provinces of Bubanza, Cibitoke, Bujumbura, Muyinga and Kirundo.

## Monitoring

WFP resolved 89 percent of the 343 complaints and feedbacks received through the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM). Most of the complaints and feedbacks included beneficiary registering and targeting issues and requests for support and information.

## Challenges

Lack of funding highly impacts WFP's operations in Burundi.

- If no funding is received urgently, the food security and nutrition situation of refugees will soon deteriorate further. The shortfall of SuperCereals in the food basket distributed to refugees consequently reduces the intakes to 1,900 kcal instead of the full 2,100 kcal.
- The number of school children assisted under the school feeding programme was reduced from 530,000 children to 230,000 and the monthly number of feeding days reduced from 20 to 16 since the beginning of the school year. If the situation persists, the dropout rates are likely to increase in assisted and non-assisted schools.

## COVID-19 updates

- As at 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Public Health and Fight against AIDS reported 822 confirmed COVID-19 cases and two deaths since the outbreak of the disease in Burundi on 31 March 2020.

## Donors (in alphabetical order)

Burundi, European Union, Germany, Netherlands, Russia, USA, World Bank.