Operational Context

According to April 2021 (lean season) IPC results, 14 percent of the population (1.61 million) is facing emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity (phases 3 and 4). The food security situation could improve in the coming months, thanks to the harvest of the 2021B season. For the projected period (June to September 2021), the number of people in need could decrease to about 1.04 million people (9 percent). However, food security situation will remain worse in livelihood zones of Depression du Nord, Crete Congo Nil and Plaine de l’Imbo”. Factors, such as rainfall deficit, rising waters of Lake Tanganyika, floods, population displacement in the western provinces, consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and recurrent population movements are aggravating the food insecurity in the country: staple food prices have soared highest in the past five years. 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 second country most affected by chronic malnutrition in the world. According to the SMART 2020, the national average stunting rate is at 52 percent well above the emergency threshold (40 percent). WFP has been present in Burundi since 1968.

In Numbers

747 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 716,166 cash transferred under assistance to refugees, returnees, IDPs, and people affected by the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika

USD 13.1 m net funding requirements for the next six months (September 2021 - February 2022)

100,361 people assisted in August 2021

Operational Context

Assistance to refugees

• WFP provided food and nutritional assistance to 50,909 refugees (22,400 males, 28,509 females, 13,745 children aged 0-59 months and 2,036 people aged over 60 years) with 412 mt of in-kind food and cash-based transfers (CBT) of USD 194,722. In-kind food consisted of full ration of cereals, vegetable oil and salt, and a partial ration of pulses (80 grams/person instead of 120 grams). The cash was used to complete the incomplete ration of pulses, due to insufficient stock and procurement issues.

Assistance to returnees

• WFP assisted 5,943 Burundian returnees (2,912 males or 49 percent and 3,031 females or 51 percent) with 215 mt of in-kind food and CBT of USD 184,363. The assistance consisted of hot meals provided at transit centres, and a three-month return package consisting of cereals and vegetable oil. The cash allowed returnees to buy beans and salt, not provided in the food basket. Due to a surge in COVID-19 cases, the transit camp of Nyabitare in Ruyigi is closed. Consequently, distributions could not be carried out.

Assistance to IDPs affected by the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika

• A total of 14,750 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Bujumbura (Gatumba district) and Rumonge Province received CBT from WFP for a total value of USD 180,241, to help them purchase food to meet their daily food needs.

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)

• In August, MAM treatment activities benefitted 7,211 moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs) and 8,713 children aged 6-59 months: 120 mt of specialized nutritious food items were distributed in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi, and Rutana Provinces. Distributions were coupled with social behaviour change communication (SBCC) implemented by health community workers.

Forecast-based Financing Capacity strengthening

• Under WFP’s Forecast-based Financing (FbF) project supported by the European Union/ECHO, WFP transferred cash entitlements for a total value of USD 156,840 to 12,835 people. This assistance allows beneficiaries to implement
WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>270.1 m</td>
<td>0.3 m</td>
<td>13.1 m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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 2:** Food insecure households in targeted areas have safe access to adequate and nutritious food all year round

**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 3:** Smallholder productivity and incomes

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Smallholder productivity and incomes

**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 4:** Enhance global partnership

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Enhance global partnership

**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 5:** Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

**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

**Supply Chain**

- On 5 August, a strategic workshop organized with various governmental authorities and partners, first for the technical level to present the Lake Tanganyika Ports Assessment report. It was then followed by strategic sessions with high-level officials to discuss key topics and opportunities for the Lake corridor development. As a result of the discussions and brainstorming sessions, an action plan was developed with the strategic counterparts that includes concrete actions (reg. security; handling; policies; planning) to be taken towards corridor optimization, which has been shared with the relevant bodies (Maritime Authority, Ministry of Transport, Burundi Revenue Authority (OBR), etc) to take ownership over the implementation where possible.

- From January to August 2021, 1,637 mt of local food commodities (maize and beans) have been purchased. Further contracts were signed with local cooperatives and retailers to procure 2,828 mt of beans and 3,455 mt of maize by the end of September 2021.

**Monitoring**

- In August, WFP and its partners received 364 feedback and complaints from beneficiaries through the complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 346 (95 percent) were resolved, and 18 are currently being addressed. The main complaints included incomplete ration entitlements and were related to the SCOPE card and information request.

**Challenges**

- The food basket distributed to refugees continues to face shortages in SuperCereal due to funding constraints. In addition, constrained funding has led to delays in the implementation of treatment of MAM activities and nutrition support to people living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment and tuberculosis (TB) patients.

- WFP anticipates a shortage in cereals in October due to insufficient funding. If no additional funding is received, the food security and nutrition situation of the refugees will be further compromised.

**Donors** (in alphabetical order): Burundi, Canada, European Union, France, Germany, Global Partnership for Education, Hilton Foundation, Japan, Kerry Group, Monaco, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, United States of America, World Bank.