**Operational Context**

According to the projections for April 2021 (lean season) IPC results, 9 percent of the population (1.04 million) is facing emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity (phases 3 and 4). However, food security situation remains 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**

- **1,306 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **USD 469,730** cash transferred under assistance to refugees and resilience-building activities
- **USD 11.5 m** net funding requirements for the next six months (November 2021 - April 2022)
- **651,145 people** assisted in October 2021

---

**Operational Updates**

- **Assistance to refugees**: WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 51,444 refugees (22,635 males, 28,809 females, 13,890 children aged 0-59 months and 2,058 people aged over 60 years) through the distribution of 232 mt of in-kind food and USD 337,995 in cash-based transfers (CBT). In-kind food consisted of a full ration of pulses, vegetable oil and iodized salt. The CBT was distributed to enable beneficiaries to purchase cereals, which are lacking in the food basket, due to unavailability.

- **Assistance to returnees**: WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 2,696 Burundian returnees (1,321 males or 49 percent and 1,375 females or 51 percent), distributing 127 mt of in-kind food. The assistance consisted of hot meals provided at transit centres, and a three-month return package consisting of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and iodized salt.

- **Resilience**: Under the joint FAO/UNICEF/UNFPA/WFP Community Resilience-Building project implemented in Bubanza, Ruyigi and Cankuzo Provinces, WFP provided CBT entitlements amounting USD 131,735 to 5,911 farmer households (29,555 people). The cash distributed prevents the consumption of seeds for farming purposes provided by FAO to stimulate production for season A to address food availability gaps.

- **Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)**: In October, MAM treatment activities benefitted to 7,496 moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs) and 9,078 children aged 6-59 months who received 125 mt of specialized nutritious foods in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi, and Rutana Provinces. Distributions were coupled with social behaviour change communication (SBCC) implemented by health community workers and targeting the PLWGs, and guardians present at the health centers.

- **Stunting prevention**: WFP provided 181 mt of specialized nutritious food to 16,803 PLWGs and 42,963 children aged 6-23 months in Kirundo Province. Activities included a strong SBCC component targeting the community in general.

- **School Feeding Programme**: The programme assisted 491,110 school children with 641 mt of food (including 114 mt of milk) in Ngozi, Muyinga, Kirundo and Gitega Provinces. Fewer schoolchildren than planned were reached due to unavailability of maize meal caused by milling issues: only one miller is currently being contracted by WFP; two others were suspended due to food safety issues.

- **Do No Harm analysis**: As part of the “Prevention of Malnutrition and strengthening of Resilience” project funded by KfW, WFP and UNICEF collaborated, as implementing partners, to produce a Do No Harm analysis to ensure the assistance does not unintention-
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>3.3 m</td>
<td>11.5 m</td>
</tr>
</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: No one suffers from malnutrition**

**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: Everyone has access to food**

**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 PLWGs, and support the implementation of a national food fortification policy and strategy.

**Strategic Result 4: 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 5: 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

**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 6: 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

---

**Monitoring**

- In October, WFP and its partners received 336 feedback and complaints from beneficiaries through the complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 292 (87 percent) were resolved, and 44 are currently being addressed. The main complaints included assistance request. In terms of priority, 44 complaints were classified high priority. They included cases of beneficiaries who did not find their names on distribution lists, repetitive postponements of distribution dates, the surge in meal price on the market, food quality and suspicions of fraud.

**Challenges**

- Lack of resources impact WFP's activities. WFP was not able to provide any SuperCereal Plus in 2021 nor start the MAM treatment programme for children under 5 years of age, PLWGs, TB patients and people living with HIV/AIDS in refugees camps.
- In addition, WFP anticipates cereal shortages from January 2022 onwards. If no funding is made available the soonest, WFP will resort to reducing the ration of cereals for refugees to half starting in December to stretch the available stock.

Consequently, the refugees will resort to negative coping mechanisms and the number of people with poor food consumption will increase.

- Activities for the treatment of MAM will face shortfalls of SuperCereal Plus starting in February 2022. If no funding is received, the nutritional status of moderately malnourished PLWGs will further deteriorate.

**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.

---

**Photo:** The President and First Lady of Burundi and WFP Country Director preparing for a photo during the Forum of Women Leaders on the Fight against Malnutrition. © WFP/Irene Nduwayezu

**Contact info:** Selamawit Mamo (selamawit.mamo@wfp.org)
Country Director: Housainou Taal (housainou.taal@wfp.org)
Further information: https://www.wfp.org/countries/burundi

---

WFP Burundi Country Brief
October 2021