



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief January 2022



Operational Context

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



Population: **11.7 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **185 out of 189**

65 percent Burundians live under the poverty line

Chronic malnutrition: **52% of children between 6-59 months**

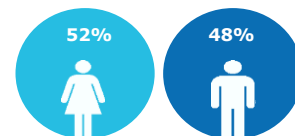
In Numbers

657 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 235,746 cash transferred under assistance to refugees

USD 13.32 m net funding requirements for the next six months (February - July 2022)

182,508 people assisted in January 2022



Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **53,373** refugees (**23,484** males, **29,889** females, **14,411** children aged 0-59 months and **2,135** people aged over 60 years) with the distribution of **421 mt** of in-kind food and **USD 235,746** in cash-based transfers (CBT). In-kind food consisted of a half ration of pulses and cereals and a full ration of vegetable oil. The CBT was distributed to enable beneficiaries to compensate the half ration of cereals and pulses and purchase iodized salt.
- **Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **1,815** Burundian returnees (**889** males or 49 percent and **926** females or 51 percent), distributing **86 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.
- **Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM):** In January 2022, MAM treatment activities benefitted **6,853** moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs) and **8,447** children aged 6-59 months who received **92 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 for distributions.
- **School Feeding Programme:** The programme assisted **112,020 school children** with **58 mt** of food (including 22 mt of milk). WFP assisted only 16 percent of the targeted children due to a pipeline break in cereals. Fortified maize flour was not available for distribution, due to the unavailability of the premix for fortification. As a lesson learned, it was recommended to proceed with the distribution of non-fortified maize meal, should such a case occur in the future.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
271.9 m	0.0 m	13.32 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

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

Monitoring

- In January 2022, WFP and its partners received 185 feedback and complaints from beneficiaries through the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 170 (92 percent) were resolved, and 15 are currently being addressed. The main complaints included assistance request by beneficiaries to be included in distribution lists to get assistance. In terms of priority, 26 complaints were classified as high priority. They included cases of beneficiaries who did not find their names on distribution lists, delay in food delivery and fraud suspicions.
- The January 2022 report on market price monitoring indicates that in January coinciding with the harvest of the first crop season 2022A, the effects of harvests on staple prices were less noticeable than usual; only the price of pulses fell slightly by three percent, while that of cereals remained stable and that of tubers even increased slightly by two percent compared to December 2021.

Challenges

- **Food assistance for refugees will soon face operational shortfalls:** In April 2022, refugees will receive a full ration of pulses and vegetable oil and 35 percent of the cereal ration. From May 2022 onward, the operation will face shortfalls in all food commodities. Consequently, the refugees will resort to negative coping mechanisms and the number of people with poor food consumption will increase.
- If the International Development Association (IDA) funding expected from USAID is allocated before April, it will cover the shortfall for 1.5 months, i.e. until mid-June. Title II donation expected from USAID will reach Burundi seven to eight months later. Meanwhile, WFP will need to find other sources of funding to address refugees' basic food needs.

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: Returnees at Kinazi transit center, from Uganda, having cooked ration donated by WFP.

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