IN NUMBERS

2.1 million
people food insecure, of which more than 800 000 severely food insecure[1]

30 000 ha
of farmland destroyed by climate hazards related to El Niño for the 2015/16 season

428 170
people displaced by ongoing crisis and climate hazards, of which 139 000 internally and the rest in neighbouring countries
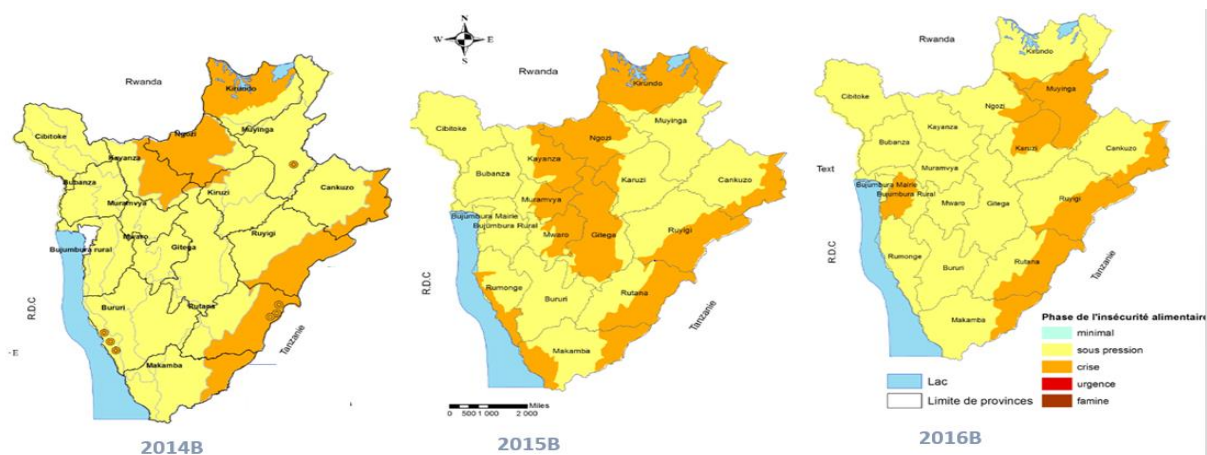
USD 6.8 million
still needed for the implementation of FAO's 2016 emergency programme[2]

KEY POINTS

- An estimated 90 000 people were affected by El Niño (heavy rains, strong winds, floods and landslides) in late 2015 and early 2016, and now the country is experiencing late, irregular and insufficient rainfall. An estimated 10 000 households from Ruyigi, Kirundo, Cankuzo and Rutana are fleeing their homes due to food insecurity and current rainfall deficit.
- Agricultural production is insufficient to cover household food security or generate enough income to meet other needs; subsequently, households are more dependent on markets where products are lacking and prices rising.
- The progressive decline of the economy and rising inflation are significantly deteriorating households' livelihoods.
- FAO urgently requires USD 4 million to: (i) continue supporting 25 000 vulnerable households with emergency agricultural kits to in response to the rainfall deficit; (ii) provide livestock to access manure and restore household assets; (iii) diversify income generating activities to strengthen resilience; and (iv) allow for access to seeds for households affected by the rainfall shortages of season 2017A to resume their agricultural activities and ensure outcome of season 2017B.
- Additional support is needed to enhance quality seed multiplication and the use of planting materials resistant to drought and pests.

MAPS: INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION (IPC)

2014B   2015B   2016B

Phase de l'insécurité alimentaire
- minimal
- sous pression
- crise
- urgence
- famine

Lac
Limite de provinces

BACKGROUND

In an already precarious context characterized by structural vulnerabilities, the sociopolitical crisis that started in April 2015 has increasingly affected the population in the country with an estimated 2.1 million people food insecure of which over 800 000 severely food insecure (PRAs, October 2016). The significant reduction of financial contributions from resource partners, the growing socioeconomic crisis, the depreciation of the local currency (-38 percent against USD in October 2016) and reduced currency circulation have resulted in a decreased capacity to import, reduced basic public services and quality, closing of private businesses, lack of quality inputs in markets and price inflation. In turn, this has increased households' vulnerability and reduced their purchasing power. Communities are forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms, triggering the deterioration of their livelihoods, increasing food insecurity and reducing dietary diversity. While in September 2016, 62 percent of IDPs were willing to return to their homes (against 47.5 percent in March) and 34 percent to remain with their host communities, localized natural disasters and insecurity still cause population displacements within the country and to neighbouring countries. In addition, given the current below-average rainfall and expected drought, increased population movements are seen and may grow further, which are likely to worsening the previously-mentioned progressive trends.

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[1] Based on Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs), October 2016; while in August 2016 the IPC identified 1.46 million people food insecure of which nearly 349 250 severely food insecure.

[2] This figure includes USD 2.3 million requested by FAO under the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan and USD 9.3 million for FAO's wider response in the country.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

While Burundi today is still not in the midst of a massive humanitarian emergency, early warnings on protection situation, socioeconomic crisis and climate hazards indicate the situation deteriorating and a huge risk of facing severe consequences in the next months. The food security and nutrition situation continues to worsen with 21 percent of the population food insecure (PRAs, October 2016). Restrictions of movement due to insecurity have seriously impacted economic activities, income opportunity for households, limiting access to and availability of food. The latest evaluation on harvests, food availability and the nutrition situation (season B 2016) shows a 0.8 percent reduction of the main staple production (-15 percent for bananas and +0.7 percent for beans) compared with 2015 which had already decreased by 3.7 percent and 14.2 percent compared with the 2014 and 2013 seasons, respectively. This is mainly due to climate hazards (heavy rains and floods but also water shortage in some areas), persistence of plant disease (cassava mosaïque and Banana BXW), lack of agricultural inputs and degradation of land productivity. Subsequently, food prices in markets have risen – increase of 23 percent for main staples and of 34 percent for beans – while households' purchasing power continues to decrease. The current agriculture season (A 2017) is affected by irregular and below-average rainfall, which will negatively impact the production level of the first 2016/17 season. Families who have not planted tend to move in seek of food and livelihoods. This rainfall shortage is reducing the prospect of households' availability of food and income to cover other non-food needs, as well as jeopardizing the availability of seeds for the next planting season – Burundi's main agricultural season.

FAO'S RESPONSE

2016 PLANNED RESPONSE

320 000 people (**64 000** households)

Provide 13 100 households with small livestock, veterinary kits and fishery inputs to restore their productive capital, as well as ensure and diversify their animal protein intake

Support 24 000 households to produce vegetables (kitchen gardening and off-season/irrigated production) and mushrooms to diversify their diet and sources of income (season C – May 2016)

Distribute emergency agricultural kits (seeds, tools and fertilizers) to 50 000 households (season A)

Ensure capacity building and follow-up of 25 000 producers (improved agricultural techniques and culinary practices).

Support 7 500 households to strengthen their resilience through the *caisses de résilience* approach

2016 RESPONSE TO-DATE

Provided 6 591 households with vegetable production inputs (season 2016 C), 27 606 households with emergency agricultural kits (season 2017 A) and 442 households through training and support for mushroom production; 347 households have been identified for kitchen gardening activities
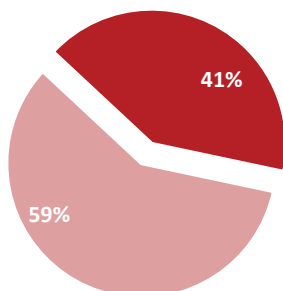
880 households have been identified for fish ponds

The establishment of a sustainable early warning system is ongoing (approval of key indicators by stakeholders, household survey and methodology, data collection)

FUNDING

41% **Funding to-date: USD 4.8 million**

59% **Funding gap: USD 6.8 million**

FAO still requires
USD 6.8 million

To assist
320 000 people (166 400 women and 153 600 men)

ASSESSMENTS

FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock are undertaking the harvest assessment for season 2016 C that includes an estimate of losses due to plant diseases (worms) and an evaluation of the ongoing planting for season 2017 A with forecast on production. The pilot IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification (2014) has been updated in 2016 and states that 50 percent of the population is classified in Phases 4 (21 percent acute) and 3 (29 percent moderate). A total of 60 PRAs exercises were undertaken by food security partners in 13 provinces in preparation for the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview/Humanitarian Response Plan process. It appeared that 21 percent of households classified themselves as very poor and 43 percent as poor, according to their own criteria (availability of land, inputs, animals and food stocks). Their main constraints are: unstable access to food in sufficient quantity and quality, insufficient access to quality seeds and other inputs (animals for manure and technical support) to improve productivity, their vulnerability linked to climate change/climate hazards and lack of profitable jobs.