



WFP Burundi Country Brief

Highlights

- A depreciating national currency, shortage of foreign exchange reserves, and trade restrictions with neighboring countries continue to limit Burundi's capacity to import food, keeping staple food prices above five-year average levels.

WFP Assistance

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	3 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200119 (Jan 2011 – March 2018)	136 m	106.3 m	-

*January – March 2018

Through the Country Programme (CP), WFP supports Government's efforts to improve food and nutrition security as well as promote sustainable development. WFP does so by providing school meals to pre-school and primary schoolchildren in food insecure areas to increase enrolment, attendance and retention rates. WFP also supports nutrition activities aimed at preventing stunting for children aged 6-23 months, pregnant and nursing women and girls, and people living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment. In addition, it supports community recovery, resilience and development activities.

WFP supports the government's capacity to develop a school feeding policy and to design and implement home-grown school feeding focusing on local food purchase from smallholder farmers. Through the asset creation activities, WFP provides food during the lean season, while cash transfers are implemented during the post-harvest period when food is available in the local markets.

Given the traditional role of women in household food security, WFP and its partners encourage participation of women in its interventions. WFP has adopted an integrated gender perspective in the design and implementation of cash transfers; and encourages issuance of disbursement cards in the name of women in the households.

Assistance to refugees, and vulnerable food insecure populations	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	3 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200655 (Jul 2014 – March 2018)	112.7 m	73.3 m	3.5 m (47%)

*January – March 2018

The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) provides food and nutrition assistance to Congolese refugees living in camps; Burundian returnees from neighbouring countries and other vulnerable food

insecure households facing food crisis or sudden shocks.

Food assistance is provided through targeted distributions; nutrition activities supporting treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition among children under the age of five, pregnant and nursing women; and livelihood and asset creation programmes.

WFP assists refugees through combined food and voucher transfers, which was a recommendation of the 2013 WFP-UNHCR Joint Operational Evaluation of the combined voucher and in-kind food assistance programme for camp-based refugees. The mid-term review concluded that compared with in-kind food distributions, vouchers resulted in an equivalent, or slightly higher food consumption score and fewer negative coping strategies, reducing the exchange of rations for other items and making household rations last longer.

Through the livelihood and asset creation activities, WFP provides food assistance during the lean season. Food insecure households with limited access to markets receive vouchers during the post-harvest period.

In Numbers

454,162 schoolchildren assisted

37,729 refugees assisted

38,934 people assisted through treatment of moderate acute malnutrition programmes

69,930 people assisted through stunting prevention

69,930 people assisted through cash for assets and resilience



People Assisted
December 2017



December 2017

Operational Updates

WFP introduced the SUGAR-based complaint and feedback mechanism (CFM) in its programme implementation as an innovative way to improve programme effectiveness and accountability to affected population. The SUGAR-based platform uses a hotline toll-free number through which beneficiaries directly submit their complaints to a WFP line operator, who records them in the SUGAR platform. A designated committee settles the cases and feedback is provided to the complaining beneficiary. The SUGAR-based CFM will be piloted in the refugee camps in January 2018, and will then be expanded to other programmes.

According to the December 2017 FEWSNET report, initial Season A harvests begun countrywide, slightly improving household food availability and access. However, late and erratic rainfall, particularly in the northwest Imbo Plains, have potentially affected harvests, primarily maize. If the rains continue until mid-January, total national production is likely to be near normal, but localized areas are likely to be below-average. Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are expected through May 2018, but there are likely to be some poor households in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), especially in the northwest lowlands.

Staple food prices decreased slightly in November 2017 and are likely to drop further through January 2018 with the increased local supply. Due to the continued fragile macro-economic situation, food prices are expected to remain above the five-year averages. Maize prices may not ease significantly due to possible shortfalls from erratic rainfall and the ongoing Fall Armyworm (FAW) infestation, as evidenced by an assessment carried out by FAO in December 2017. WFP continues to closely monitor the situation to take the necessary action.

Impact of Limited Funding

From January to March 2018, until the launch of the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) 1 April, food assistance will be provided using available resources under the PRRO and CP. The food assistance for assets (FFA) under the Country Programme will not be implemented during this period because of resource shortfalls.

Country Background & Strategy



Burundi is facing a socio-economic crisis and a notable increase in food insecurity. The high population density is contributing to competition and disputes over scarce natural resources. Due to the demand for land, the poorest and most vulnerable populations, who are mainly women, generally depend on marginal lands and lack the capacity to cope with severe shocks such as droughts, epidemics and floods, which often claim lives and undermine livelihoods. Domestic food production is insufficient to meet the needs of the population, which renders the country vulnerable to economic shocks and fluctuating agricultural prices. Malnutrition is a major concern. While the findings of the 2014 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) show some improvement, the food security and nutrition indicators remain alarming. The average national stunting prevalence is very high at 50 percent, and most provinces in the north and east of the country suffer from even higher rates ranging between 50 and 60 percent.

WFP's strategy is aligned with the government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II (2012 - 2016) promoting a progressive shift from humanitarian interventions to longer-term objectives to address some of the root causes of food insecurity. Both operations pursue Sustainable Development Goal 2, "Achieve zero hunger". The PRRO's is aligned with WFP's strategic objectives 1 and 2 - save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies and support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies. The CP is aligned with strategic objective 3 and 4 - reduce risks and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs and reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger. WFP has been present in Burundi since 1968.

Population: **11.6 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **184 out of 188**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **56% of children between 6-59**

Donors

USA, Multilateral, Japan, European Commission, UN CERF, the Netherlands, Burundi, Germany and Canada.

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