



A newly arrived Burundian refugee carrying his rations home at a food distribution site at the Nyarugusu Refugee Camp. Photo: WFP/ Tala Loubieh



World Food Programme

## Burundi Crisis Regional Impact

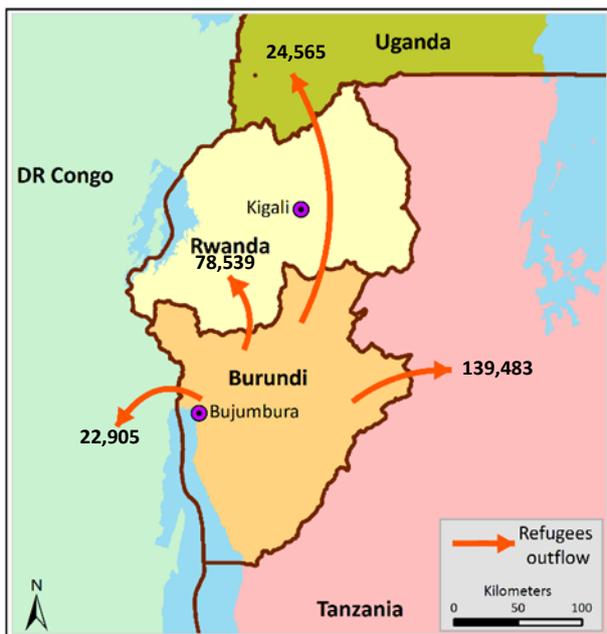
### Highlights

Food stocks are stretched and WFP requires USD 57 million for the next six months to meet the needs of new arrivals and existing refugees, particularly in Rwanda and Uganda.

### Overview

Peace talks aimed at resolving Burundi's political crisis were held on 21 to 24 May in Arusha, Tanzania under the leadership of the East African Community (EAC) co-facilitator of the process, former Tanzanian President Mkapa. Senior government officials, representatives of civil societies and representatives of some opposition parties attended the talks. However, several leading opposition groups were absent. In his closing remarks, Mr. Mkapa said he will continue consultations with the groups that did not participate in the talks over the coming weeks.

Amid these attempts by the international community and regional bodies to find a political solution to the crisis, Burundians continue to flee into neighbouring countries. As of 30 May, more than 265,000 Burundians had fled the country into the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and as far away as Zambia.



### In numbers



> 265,000 refugees have crossed borders into neighbouring countries

>1,000 new arrivals weekly into neighbouring countries

USD 57 million needed for 6 months to support operations that are responding to the Burundi crisis.

### Burundi

The Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) conducted in April 2016 in 18 provinces across the country concluded that about 4.6 million people are food insecure. Of these, about 590,000 are severely food insecure and require urgent emergency food assistance.

The assessment further indicates that the socio-political crisis has aggravated an already fragile food security, nutrition, and socio-economic context in Burundi, and identified the following as drivers of food insecurity: (i) increasing poverty levels mainly because of loss of jobs, reduced income opportunities and reduced purchasing power due to depreciation of the Burundian Franc; (ii) reduced agricultural production, which is linked to limited availability and the high cost of agricultural inputs and reduction of cultivated land, which increased due to the socio-political unrest and related violence; (iii) El Nino phenomena associated with heavy rainfall, flooding and landslides, which resulted in displacements and destruction of crops; (iv) adoption of severe livelihood coping strategies such as reduction of expenditure on agricultural inputs, begging, selling of farm land; and (v) disruption of markets.

The assessment recommends provision of short-term food assistance and farm inputs for shorter season crops. In addition, the assessment recommended strengthening of resilience activities for vulnerable food insecure households and strengthening or expanding social protection programmes for the most vulnerable, to enable them to cope with shocks.

Resourcing		
	6-month Shortfall USD	6-month Shortfall %
Burundi PRRO	9 million	46%
DRC PRRO	16 million	21%
Rwanda PRRO	6 million	44%
Tanzania PRRO	6 million	22%
Uganda PRRO	20 million	44%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57 million</b>	

## Regional Update

**Democratic Republic of Congo.** While still low, the number of new arrivals into the DRC has steadily increased since the crisis started in April 2015. As of 30 April, more than 22,000 Burundians had arrived in the country.

WFP continues to provide food assistance to refugees in the form of voucher-transfers. Each voucher is worth USD 15 per household per month, and allows refugees to purchase food of their choice at food fairs held at the camp. During the food fairs, approved traders contracted by WFP display their products, and refugees use their vouchers to purchase the food they need. In addition to allowing refugees to purchase food of their choice, voucher transfers also boost the local economy and cut WFP's food transport and storage costs.

In addition, WFP and partners continue to support treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for children below five years, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers and blanket supplementary feeding for prevention of moderate acute malnutrition targeting children aged 6-23 months, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.

The 2016 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects a total of 30,000 Burundian refugees in the DRC by the end of December 2016.

**Rwanda.** As of 30 May, more than 78,000 Burundians had crossed the border into Rwanda. Of these, more than 47,000 are registered at the Mahama camp, while the rest are in Kigali and other urban centres.

The resource situation is critical. If new contributions are not received soon, there is a risk of pipeline breaks starting as early as July.

New arrivals continue to receive high energy biscuits at the border entry points and hot meals at reception centres. Monthly general food rations are distributed to those settled at the Mahama camp. As part of its efforts in addressing malnutrition, WFP is supporting treatment of moderate acute malnutrition targeting children under five years, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers and prevention of chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies for children aged 6-23 months, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. In addition, WFP is implementing an emergency school feeding programme at the Mahama camp.

The 2016 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects a total of 100,000 Burundian refugees in Rwanda by the end of December 2016.

**Tanzania.** Refugees from Burundi continue to cross borders into Tanzania. As of 29 May, more than 139,000 people had arrived in Tanzania.

WFP continues to provide food assistance to newly arrived refugees at border entry points, transit and reception centres and those settled in camps, with a particular focus on the nutritional status of children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. WFP and partners support treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among children under five, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. Blanket supplementary feeding programme for prevention of moderate acute malnutrition among children aged 6-23 months is implemented alongside the targeted supplementary feeding programme.

The 2016 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects a total of 170,000 Burundian refugees in Tanzania by the end of December 2016.

**Uganda.** As of 24 May, more than 24,000 Burundian refugees had crossed the border into Uganda. Burundians continue to flee from Kirundo, Bujumbura Marie, Cibitoke, Muyinga, Rumonge, and Gitega Provinces. Those interviewed, cite insecurity and family reunification as the reasons for fleeing Burundi.

The operation which also supports refugees from South Sudan and the DRC is facing serious resourcing constraints. If additional funding is not available, the operation risks significant pipeline breaks in July, and may need to reduce rations to stretch available resources further.

Despite these challenges, WFP is providing food assistance to newly arrived refugees at the reception centres and to those who have been settled, with a particular focus on the nutritional status of children below 5 years. WFP is supporting treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for children below 5 years.

WFP continues to participate in joint activities with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR to increase refugee self-reliance through support for agricultural livelihoods. The joint refugee self-reliance project is targeting 3,500 households in Rwamwanja and Kyangwali refugee settlements, of which 30 percent are from the host community and 70 percent from refugee households. The two communities are supported with land for their use, community infrastructure, modern agricultural technologies, and training in agricultural skills, business skills and post-harvest crop loss reduction. In line with government policy, this approach promotes economic development for nationals and economic engagement between host and refugee populations, thereby protecting the asylum space and encouraging peaceful coexistence.

The 2016 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects additional 10,000 refugees, bringing the total population planning figure to 30,000 Burundian refugees in Uganda by end of December 2016.

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