



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief February 2021



Operational Context

According to October 2020 IPC results, 11 percent of the population is facing emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity (phases 3 and 4). The Joint Approach to Nutrition and Food Security Assessment (JANFSA) carried out in December 2018 revealed that 44.8 percent of the population were food insecure, with 9.7 percent in severe food insecurity. Provinces affected by severe food insecurity include Karusi (18.8 percent), Gitega (17.5 percent), Muramvya (16.0 percent), Kirundo (14.3 percent), and Mwaro (12.5 percent). The high population density, as well as the new influx of returnees from Tanzania and refugees from DRC, contributes to competition and disputes over scarce natural resources. Due to the demand for land, the poorest and most vulnerable populations, mainly women, generally depend on marginal land.

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.

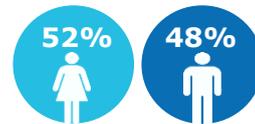


In Numbers

1,864 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 8.2 m net funding requirements for the next six months (March-August 2021)

451,924 people assisted in February 2021



Operational Updates

Assistance to refugees

WFP assisted 49,868 refugees (21,942 males, 27,926 females, 13,464 children aged 0-59 months and 1,995 people aged over 60 years) with 762 mt of in-kind food. Food assistance provided consisted of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and salt.

Assistance to returnees

WFP provided 352 mt of food to 7,428 Burundi returnees (3,640 males and 3,788 females) coming back from neighbouring countries. The assistance consisted of hot meals provided at the transit centres, and a three-month return package consisting of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and salt to facilitate their reintegration in their communities.

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)

The MAM treatment activities continued and 8,200 moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs) and 10,591 children aged 6-59 months received 121 mt of specialized nutritious food items in Kirundo, Ngozi, Ruyigi and Rutana Provinces. Distributions, carried out at health centers, were coupled with social behaviour change communication (SBCC) implemented by health providers.

School feeding

WFP provided a total of 629 mt of food (including 119 mt of milk) to 375,837 school children in the provinces of Bubanza, Cibitoke, Bujumbura, Muyinga, Gitega, Ngozi and Kirundo.

Rapid assessment in Kirundo Province:

A rapid assessment was conducted between 20 and 24 January by WFP and its partners in Kirundo Province, following a drought and excessive rains in some locations of the Province. The assessment brought out occurrences such as the loss of maize and beans harvests, population movements out of the Province, school dropouts, and increased malnutrition rates. In total, 36,780 households were affected, of whom 19,861 are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance, including food assistance, especially during the March-May lean season.

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

Photo: The First Lady of Burundi and WFP's DCD sharing a meal with school children on the African Day of School Feeding. © WFP/Aurore Ishimwe
Contact info: Jacques David (jacques.davif@wfp.org)
Country Director: Housainou Taal (housainou.taal@wfp.org)
Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/burundi>

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
268.2 m	15.6 m	8.2 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

those of the last 5 years at the same period particularly for pulses and tubers. The price of beans was up by 12 percent while those of potatoes and cassava were up by 42 and 38 percent respectively.

WFP and its partners received 311 feedbacks and complaints through the complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 187 were resolved, 12 referred to partners for resolution and 112 are currently being addressed. Most of the complaints and feedbacks included requests for support and information mostly regarding assistance provided to refugees, and late delivery of food under the school feeding programme.

Challenges

Lack of funding highly impacts WFP's operations in Burundi.

- **Assistance to refugees:** The food basket for refugees lacks SuperCereal Plus, thus reducing the calorific value to 1,900 kcal per person per day instead of the full 2,100 kcal. WFP is considering a reduction of rations, diminishing quantities of cereals by 17 percent and quantities of pulses by 33 percent in March and April. Due to resource constraints, treatment of MAM in children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG), as well as the provision of specialized nutritious food items to people living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment and people with tuberculosis (TB) undergoing directly observed treatment could not start yet. If no additional funding is received, the food security of refugees will be further compromised.
- **School feeding:** Due to lack of resources, only 38 percent of schoolchildren were assisted under the school feeding programme. If no additional funding is made available, the risk of school dropouts would increase.

COVID-19 updates

The Ministry of Public Health and Fight against AIDS reports 2,217 positive cases for COVID-19, 2,000 recovered and three deaths since 31 March 2020, following the outbreak of the disease in Burundi. A total of 214 cases are still active and under medical surveillance.

Donors (in alphabetical order):

Burundi, Germany, Japan, Kerry Group, Monaco, Netherlands, United States of America, World Bank

Monitoring

The January market price monitoring bulletin indicates that, overall, food prices in January were slightly lower than in December 2020 thanks to good harvests of beans, rice and maize. Prices of beans, rice and maize has respectively decreased by 21 percent, 3 percent and 2 percent, while the price of tubers remained stable, compared to December 2020.

However, the prices of essential foodstuffs remain well above