



WFP Burundi Country Brief September 2018

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world. It is facing a socio-economic crisis and has very high levels of food insecurity (13 percent population are in phases 3 and 4 in July 2018). The high population density as well as the new influx of returnees 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.

Burundi has the lowest land productivity of East Africa, while over 90 percent of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Burundi's preparedness for emergencies and crises is extremely low and lacks the capacity to cope with severe shocks such as droughts, epidemics and floods, which often claim lives and undermine livelihoods. Burundi is the country in the world most affected by chronic malnutrition. According to the Demographic and Health Survey 2016/2017, the national average stunting rate is at 56 percent well above the emergency threshold (40 percent). WFP has been present in Burundi since 1968.



Population: **11.6 million**

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

65 percent Burundians live under the poverty line

Chronic malnutrition: **56 percent of children between 6-59 months**

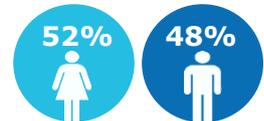
In Numbers

1,827 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 410,250 transferred to refugees

USD 11.2m six months (October 2018-March 2019) net funding requirements*

604,870 people assisted
September 2018



Operational Updates

- Suspension of international NGOs:** On 27 September 2018, the government of Burundi announced the suspension of all international Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) from operating in Burundi. The government justified the decision on the non-alignment of INGOs with the law that regulates NGO activities in the country. The resumption of INGO activities is conditioned to the submission of four documents. These include: a cooperation agreement, a memorandum on the implementation of the 2017 law on foreign NGOs and the National Development Plan, an agreement with the Ministry of Finance that they will respect banking regulations including financial articles of the new NGO law, and a plan to progressively rectify ethnic quota (60 percent Hutu and 40 percent Tutsi) in the staffing within three years.
- The three-month suspension has directly impacted WFP operations as INGOs represent more than 50 percent of WFP cooperating partners. WFP is looking into options to contract local NGOs to ensure continued assistance wherever possible.
- WFP provided assistance in form of cash and in-kind food transfers** to 43,000 Congolese refugees in Burundi, 10,000 Burundian refugees returning from Tanzania, 52,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities (mainly in Rumonge and Bujumbura provinces). This has facilitated their access to diversified and nutritious foods.
- WFP together with implementing partner – CARITAS Burundi **organised a trade fair in the refugee camps** which brought together local traders. Through this, over USD 430,000 was invested in the local market.

Contact info: Michel Rwamo (michel.rwamo@wfp.org)

Country Director: Virginia Villar Arribas

Further information: <https://opweb.wfp.org/country/mng?UNC=108>

*Funding figures provided are as at October 2018

WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
163.8 m	2.9 m	11.2 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: *Resilience Building*

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 suffer 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 external services to Government, humanitarian and development partners.

- WFP works closely with UNHCR in **providing hot meals to returnees in transit centres**. WFP also provides a three-month ration to returnees to meet their food needs in their areas of return. As a result of the suspension of INGOs, repatriation of Burundian refugees from Tanzania was put on hold.

Monitoring

- A Joint WFP/UNHCR Assessment Mission (JAM) planned in refugee camps between 1 and 10 October was suspended following the Government decision to suspend international NGO activities in the country. The joint assessment mission aims to identify key issues and opportunities prevailing in the refugee camps and adjust humanitarian response accordingly.

Challenges

- The three-month suspension of international NGOs will affect 28 percent of WFP operations. These include, school feeding programme implemented by Welthungerhilfe in Kirundo province, capacity strengthening of smallholder farmers implemented, resilience building activities in Cankuzo and Gitega implemented by World Vision International, and nutrition activities in Kirundo province to be implemented by Concern Worldwide. Most of these activities were funded on contributions expiring on 31 December 2018. As a mitigation measure, WFP is considering partnerships with local NGOs, and requesting an extension for expiring grants.

Top five Donors: USA, Germany, European Commission, Netherlands, Multilateral