Operational Context

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 185 out of 189 on the 2018 Human Development Index (HDI). It is facing a socio-economic crisis and has very high levels of food insecurity. In March 2019, 15 percent population were in phases 3 and 4 of food insecurity, with 291,000 people in phase 4 (Integrated Food Security Phases Classification-IPC). Burundi has the lowest productivity in East Africa, while over 90 percent of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Burundi’s preparedness for crises and emergencies is extremely low. The country also lacks the capacity to cope with severe shocks such as droughts, epidemics and floods, which often claim lives and undermine livelihoods. At the same time, Burundi is the country in the world most affected by chronic malnutrition, with a rate of 56 percent of children under five stunted (DHS, 2016/2017). WFP has been present in Burundi since 1968.

In Numbers

- **2,472 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **122,613 USD** transferred under food assistance for assets and resilience building
- **USD 21 m** six months (May-October 2019) net funding requirements
- **710,530 people** assisted in April 2019

Operational Updates

- **Food Security Updates**: The results of April 2019 integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) indicate that 15 percent of Burundian population (1.6 million people) are acutely food-insecure (IPC 3&4) in April and May and in need of immediate food assistance. Kirundo, Muyinga, Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Rutana and Makamba provinces are the most affected. In the north (Kirundo and Muyinga), poor rainfall is the cause of the food insecurity, while in the eastern part, it can be attributed to the continuation of the 2018 October-December lean season in January 2019.

- In April, WFP continued the implementation of activities planned under the Interim Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020. **Under crisis response**, WFP provided food assistance to over 43,800 refugees hosted in six camps in Burundi, and over 3,000 Burundian refugees returning from neighboring countries. WFP supported them with 897 mt and 140 mt of food assistance respectively. Returnees were assisted in transit centers in Makamba, Ruyigi and Muyinga, with a hot meal upon their arrival and a three-month ration upon departure to their areas of origin.

- **Under resilience building**, approximately 570,000 school-going children were assisted with 1,048 mt of food in the form of hot meals served in schools during school days to encourage enrolment and retention and mitigate the drastic effect of food insecurity on affected households.

- **Nutrition** activities included stunting prevention and treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) programmes. Stunting prevention was implemented in Kirundo where about 32,000 children aged 6-23 months received 51 mt of ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF), and 33,000 pregnant and nursing women were provided with cereals, sugar and oil. MAM treatment reached over 8,000 pregnant and nursing women and over 8,000 children aged 6-59 months in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Rutana and Ngozi provinces who received over 98 mt of nutritious food to help restore a good nutritional status.
**WFP Burundi**

**Country Brief**

**April 2019**

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**WFP Strategy**

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**Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>163.8 m</td>
<td>2.2 m</td>
<td>21 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

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**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.

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**Strategic Result 2:** No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Children 5-59 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.

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**Strategic Result 3:** Smallholder productivity and incomes

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Food insecure smallholders 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 farmer to improve post-harvest management and enhanced food diversification) to smallholder farmers and farmers’ organizations/cooperatives.

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**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.

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Further information: [https://www1.wfp.org/countries/burundi](https://www1.wfp.org/countries/burundi)

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**WFP Burundi**

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**Challenges**

- The School Feeding programme is facing a shortfall in all commodities and, if no resources are made available immediately, the country office will resort to reducing the number of assisted schoolchildren by 25% in May.

- The 2019 HRP expected to be launched in January, is yet to be approved because the government is very reluctant to admit and recognize humanitarian issues/needs in the country.

**Top five Donors:** USA, Germany, Japan, World Bank, Burundi

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**Asset creation and livelihoods:** Through a joint FAO/WFP resilience building project implemented in Cankuzo, WFP continued to support communities to create livelihood assets to enable them to be more resilient to shocks. These include, the rehabilitation of 21 km of rural roads to facilitate access to markets and health centers, installation of compost holes, food drying platforms, hygienic toilets, kitchen gardens, handwashing stations and the construction of land conservation systems. In the month of April, WFP also transferred USD 122,613 to 1,672 participants in the project.

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**High-level nutrition event:** In April, WFP-Burundi in cooperation with UNICEF facilitated a high-level advocacy event on nutrition organized by the Government of Burundi in Washington in the margins of the World Bank Spring event. Through the event, Burundi sought to position itself as one of the countries to have adopted the Word Bank Group’s human capital approach and put the nutritional situation in Burundi on the international scene. At the end of the event, a number of participating countries including Netherlands and Switzerland committed to support the Government of Burundi in implementing and scaling up a national multi-sectoral nutrition plan, amongst others.

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**Ebola:** WFP continued to support Ebola preparedness activities in Burundi through Logistic support in the event of Ebola outbreak. WFP installed six additional screening/isolation containers and tents. With these infrastructures, the necessary facilities are now in place as was requested by the Government and WHO. The infrastructures will soon be handed over to the Government.

**Monitoring**

- In April, the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) linked to the provision of food assistance to refugees recorded 231 complaints. Most of the complaints were about food entitlements. The complaints were settled on the spot measures put in place before start of distribution, this include calibration of scales before starting the distribution.

- In preparation of the introduction of CFM in schools, WFP conducted training sessions for Directors of primary schools assisted under WFP’s School feeding programme to ensure a smooth implementation of the mechanism.

**Partnerships**

- WFP Burundi donated ten new laptops to Caritas Burundi- WFP’s cooperating partner- for the implementation of humanitarian food assistance, in order to improve performance and timely submission of reports.

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