



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi, Country Brief June 2020



Operational Context

According to the 2019 Human Development Index, Burundi ranks 185 out of 189 countries. As stated in the IPC index from April 2019, 15 percent of the population are facing emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity (phases 3 and 4) with 263,000 people in phase 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 affected by food insecurity, 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 livelihoods. 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 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: 11.7 million

2019 Human Development Index:
185 out of 189

65 percent Burundians live under the poverty line

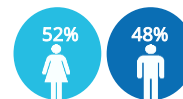
Chronic malnutrition: 56 percent of children between 6-59 months

In Numbers

1,126 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 39.6 m net funding requirements for the next six months (July-December 2020)

498,278 people assisted in June 2020



Operational Updates

Assistance to Internally Displaced persons (IDPs): The April-May 2020 floods affected over 50,000 people, of these, approximately 27,972 people were displaced. In June, WFP assisted 4,546 Burundian households, representing 22,730 people affected by the floods in the Gatumba and Bujumbura areas. WFP provided 527 metric tons (mt) of food, which ensured households' meet their immediate food needs.

Nutrition: 5,838 moderately malnourished pregnant and nursing women and 8,682 children aged 6-59 months received 71 mt of specialized nutritious foods in four provinces (Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi, Rutana) as part of the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). To combat micronutrient deficiencies, WFP distributed 1.3 mt of Micronutrient Powders (MNPs) to 43,320 children aged 6-23 months in Bubanza and Bujumbura provinces.

School Feeding: The school feeding programme continued to face funding challenges. In June, out 570,000 targeted, WFP reached 324,356 school going children in 97 schools in Muyinga and Kirundo provinces in north Burundi with 352 mt of food. In Gitega and Ngozi provinces, the programme reached 93,352 school going children with 175 mt of milk for seven days. As the schools close at the end of June for summer vacation, WFP continues to mobilize funds and organize available resources to minimize the impact of shortfalls for the next school year, starting in September.

Food prices: The mid-June Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) market price monitoring show a significant increase in food stocks with a subsequent decrease in Burundi's main staples' prices. During the two first weeks of June, the proportion of markets with over five tons of food stock increased by 27 percent for beans, 39 percent for maize, and 15 percent for rice. The prices of beans decreased by eight percent, while that of other food commodities varied to a four percent decrease. Markets with low food stocks are in the western provinces of Bujumbura, Bubanza, and Cibitoke, which were most affected by the recent torrential rains. The restrictions in place to curb the spread of COVID-19 have disrupted cross border regional trades and reduced food imports into the country resulting in low supply of food commodities, and increased food prices. This is likely to worsen the food security situation, especially in border areas.

Monitoring and Evaluation: In mid-June, WFP, in collaboration with UNHCR conducted Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) in refugee camps to assess refugees' food security and the outcome of the assistance provided to them in May. Due to the COVID-19, post distribution monitoring was conducted remotely using mobile phones. Provisional results show a slight increase (by 1.5 percent) of the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption score since December 2019. The PDM full results will be published early in mid-July.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
176.5 m	1.6 m	39.6 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*

COVID-19's impact on food security: On 30 June, Burundi's newly appointed President announced a mass COVID-19 testing campaign set to start early in July and expressed support for preventive measures, including subsidizing soap and water prices. As cases continue to rise, the pandemic is negatively impacting the country's already fragile food security situation. Prevention and protection measures against COVID-19 have disrupted cross-border markets with Tanzania and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and decreased formal and informal imports. Meanwhile, the humanitarian community is working to support the population in response to the crisis.

Humanitarian flight: Since 17 June, Burundi, the WFP Global Air service has facilitated humanitarian flights in and out of Burundi, allowing transportation of humanitarian staff amidst COVID-19 pandemic. As of 30 June, around 100 inbound and outbound passengers travelled with these flights scheduled which are scheduled every week.

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Pitch competition: WFP is organizing a national-level SUN pitch competition that will bring together local private sector actors, leveraging the SUN Business network supported by WFP and the local Government. The competition aims at accelerating Burundi's nutrition-sensitive small and medium enterprises, provide technical assistance, and create and connecting them to investment opportunities. The competition is planned for August.

Resourcing and pipeline

Assistance to refugees: WFP urgently needs to procure 165 mt SuperCereal (CSB+) to complete the food basket for refugees from August to December 2020. The inclusion of SuperCereal was recommended by the December 2018 Joint Assessment Mission to improve refugees' nutrition status. The addition of this commodity in the refugees' food basket is crucial to prevent malnutrition among the most vulnerable groups among the refugees.

Assistance to returnees, IDPs and other vulnerable food-insecure populations: With the recent budget revision undertaken to include COVID-19-related needs, the activity is under a critical pipeline break. WFP requires US\$5.3 million to provide cash-based transfers and procure stocks to cover for increased needs due to COVID19, and US\$5 million for the lean season. Currently, only 413 mt of food commodities available in stock are prioritized for Burundian refugees returning from neighbouring countries. The upcoming lean season (September-December) is likely to be acute for people who have lost their crops due to floods in 2019/2020, and due to the expected socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable. If not assisted during the critical time of the year, the affected populations are more likely to resort to negative coping mechanisms.

School feeding: WFP needs US\$5 million to resume the school feeding programme from September to December 2020, based on existing gaps. For the next school year starting in September, WFP expects US\$2.5 million from the Government of Burundi and about US\$0.9 million from the Global Partnership for Education for the period from September 2020 to June 2021. However, these resources are far behind the current deficit. As the most significant safety net in Burundi for the poorest households, their children could be deprived of their only daily nutritious meal, which could jeopardize their nutritional status and lead to a decrease in enrolment rate starting in September 2020.

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