



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



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Burundi

Humanitarian Response Plan 2021

In 2020, Burundi was hit by devastating natural disasters, triggering population displacements and significantly affecting agricultural production. The situation was further worsened by the socio-economic impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and related necessary containment measures. In addition, a significant proportion of Burundian refugees returned to their home country, adding pressure to the already fragile humanitarian context.

Objectives

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with partners in the Food Security Cluster to:

- Improve the food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable households.
- Safeguard the livelihoods of the most vulnerable households in order to increase their self-reliance and strengthen their resilience to future shocks.

Activities



Safeguard agriculture-based livelihoods

seeds and tools | input trade fairs | conditional cash transfers | set up community income-generating activities (mushroom production, small breeding, fish farming, beekeeping and market-gardening) | Village Savings and Loans Associations



Strengthen food security analysis and coordination

acute food insecurity and malnutrition analysis | community monitoring of fall armyworm | strengthen Food Security Cluster coordination



to assist

158 375 people



FAO requires

USD +3 million



period

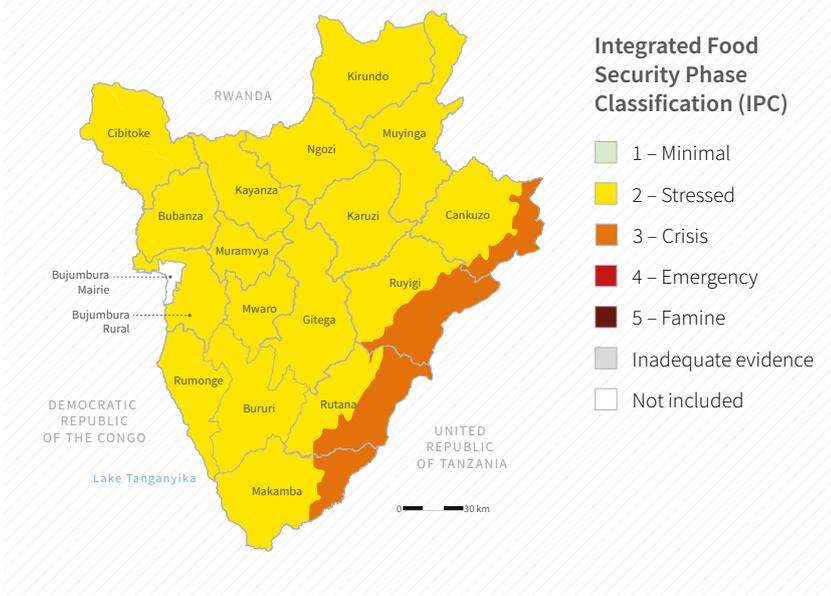
January–December 2021

It is crucial to provide timely agricultural inputs to affected households to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and of the pandemic, while strengthening their resilience to shocks.



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Projected acute food insecurity situation (January–March 2021)



Source: IPC. 2020. *Burundi: Acute food insecurity analysis, August–December 2020* [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 3 February 2021]. http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Burundi_AcuteFoodInsecurity_2020AugDec_Englishsummary.pdf

Situation analysis



1.33 million people projected to be in high acute food insecurity



127 000 internally displaced people, **80 000** returnees and **331 000** Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries



1 500 ha of cropland ready for harvest destroyed by floods



65% of the population lives below the poverty line

Impact on food security

One of the poorest countries in the world, Burundi is characterized by political instability, epidemics and recurrent natural disasters including torrential rains and strong winds. While the current food-insecure caseload is the lowest on record since 2017, the food security situation in the country is structurally fragile due to high population density, land degradation, recurrent natural disasters and high poverty rates. Compounding the situation are the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing humanitarian needs in the country.

The torrential rains in 2020 triggered flooding and landslides in several areas, mainly in western in Cibitoke, Bubanza, Rumonge, Bujumbura Mairie and Bujumbura Rural provinces, affecting and displacing thousands of people, and resulting in the loss of crops and damage to infrastructures. Reduced agricultural production has led to limited availability of food, resulting in increased levels of food insecurity, which continues to account for most of the humanitarian needs in Burundi.

The persistent adverse effects of natural disasters and the pandemic pose serious risks to the country's food security situation. Recurrent shocks are likely to continue to disrupt the livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations, limiting agricultural production and exacerbating food insecurity. FAO's priority in Burundi is to restore the livelihoods of crisis-affected households to ensure their self-reliance and strengthen their resilience.

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