



WFP Burundi Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200119 (Jan 2011 – Dec 2017)	134 m	82.9 m (62%)	-

*October 2017 – March 2018

Through the Country Programme (CP), WFP supports Government's efforts to improve food and nutrition security as well as promote sustainable development. WFP does so by providing school meals to pre-school and primary schoolchildren in food insecure areas to increase enrolment, attendance and retention rates. WFP also supports nutrition activities aimed at preventing stunting for children aged 6-23 months, pregnant and nursing women and girls, and people living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment. In addition, it supports community recovery, resilience and development activities.

WFP supports the government's capacity to develop a school feeding policy and to design and implement home-grown school feeding focusing on local food purchase from smallholder farmers. Through the asset creation activities, WFP provides food during the lean season, while cash transfers are implemented during the post-harvest period when food is available in the local markets.

Given the traditional role of women in household food security, WFP and its partners encourage participation of women in its interventions. WFP has adopted an integrated gender perspective in the design and implementation of cash transfers; and encourages issuance of disbursement cards in the name of women in the households.

Assistance to refugees, and vulnerable food insecure populations	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200655 (Jul 2014 – Dec 2017)	109 m	69.5 m (64%)	10.3 m (53%)

*October 2017-March 2018

The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) provides food and nutrition assistance to Congolese refugees living in camps; Burundian returnees from neighbouring countries and other vulnerable food insecure households facing food crisis or sudden shocks.

Highlights

- The ongoing socio-political crisis, displacements, disruption of livelihood activities, deterioration of the economy, high food prices, and climatic shocks remain the key drivers of food insecurity in Burundi.

Food assistance is provided through targeted distributions; nutrition activities supporting treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition among children under the age of five, pregnant and nursing women; and livelihood and asset creation programmes.

WFP assists refugees through combined food and voucher transfers, which was a recommendation of the 2013 WFP-UNHCR Joint Operational Evaluation of the combined voucher and in-kind food assistance programme for camp-based refugees. The mid-term review concluded that compared with in-kind food distributions, vouchers resulted in an equivalent, or slightly higher food consumption score and fewer negative coping strategies, reducing the exchange of rations for other items and making household rations last longer.

Through the livelihood and asset creation activities, WFP provides food assistance during the lean season. Food insecure households with limited access to markets receive vouchers during post-harvest period.

In Numbers

37,801 refugees assisted

31,033 people assisted through treatment of moderate acute malnutrition programmes

22,933 people assisted through stunting prevention

28,250 people assisted through cash for assets and resilience

People Assisted
September 2017



Operational Updates

- According to the September FEWSNET bulletin, food prices are expected to escalate ahead of the Season A harvest (September-November), spurred by fuel shortages that frequently occur and lead to higher transportation costs. Despite easing of domestic migration restrictions, the income-earning capacity of poor, labour-dependent households is unlikely to improve in the short-term due to uncertainty about security and socio-political conditions.
- The Burundi Geographic Institute (IGEBU) predicts generally normal rainfall throughout the country, but below normal in much of the western parts of the country (Imbo) between October and December. Rainfall will be poorly distributed over time and space, with periods of dry conditions in areas likely to experience below normal rainfall while significant amounts of rains are likely to be recorded in November. Parts of the IMBO (west) and KUMOSO (east) regions will be slightly behind the actual start of the agricultural season planned for the first half of October 2017.
- Upon a request by the Government of Burundi, WFP will provide food assistance to 5,300 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Cashi and Gitega districts relocating to a new site in Kigwena district. The IDPs in Cashi and Gitega lost their homes and crops following heavy rains that resulted in landslides two years ago and settled in a temporary site. The government has identified a permanent site in Kigwena district, south of Burundi for the resettlement of the IDPs.

Impact of Limited Funding

- Limited funding continues to negatively affect the implementation of the CP and PRRO activities. Since February 2017, WFP has reduced general distributions' rations by 50 percent for food insecure households and by 9 percent for refugees, in order to stretch available resources. In addition, the country office has also shifted the transfer modality from cash transfers for vegetables to in-kind transfers. New contributions are required urgently to avert further reduction of assistance.

Country Background & Strategy



Burundi is facing a socio-economic crisis and a notable increase in food insecurity. The high population density is contributing to competition and disputes over scarce natural resources. Due to the demand for land, the poorest and most vulnerable populations, who are mainly women, generally depend on marginal lands and lack the capacity to cope with severe shocks such as droughts, epidemics and floods, which often claim lives and undermine livelihoods. Domestic food production is insufficient to meet the needs of the population, which renders the country vulnerable to economic shocks and fluctuating agricultural prices. Malnutrition is a major concern. While the findings of the 2014 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) show some improvement, the food security and nutrition indicators remain alarming. The average national stunting prevalence is very high at 50 percent, and most provinces in the north and east of the country suffer from even higher rates ranging between 50 and 60 percent.

WFP's strategy is aligned with the government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II (2012 - 2016) promoting a progressive shift from humanitarian interventions to longer-term objectives to address some of the root causes of food insecurity. Both operations pursue Sustainable Development Goal 2, "Achieve zero hunger". The PRRO's is aligned with WFP's strategic objectives 1 and 2 - save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies and support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies. The CP is aligned with strategic objective 3 and 4 - reduce risks and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs and reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger.

WFP has been present in Burundi since 1968.

Population: **10.1 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
184 out of 188

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **49.6% of children between 6-59 months**

Donors

USA, Multilateral, Japan, European Commission, UN CERF, Netherlands, Burundi, Germany and Canada.

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