



WFP Burundi Country Brief

Highlights

- The ongoing socio-political crisis, displacements, disruption of livelihood activities, deterioration of the economy, high food prices and lower than normal Season A crop production remain the key drivers of food insecurity in Burundi.

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)	131 m	80.6 m (62%)	-

*May - October 2017

Through the Country Programme (CP), WFP supports the 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 women and breastfeeding mothers and for people living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment. In addition, it supports community recovery, resilience and development activities.

WFP supports the capacity of government institutions to develop a school feeding policy and to design and implement home-grown school feeding to help smallholder farmers. Through the food assistance for assets (FFA) activities, WFP provides in-kind food during the lean season, while cash-based transfers (CBT) are provided in the post-harvest periods when food is available.

Given the traditional authority of women over household management, WFP and its partners encourage participation of women in its interventions. WFP has adopted an integrated gender perspective in the design and implementation of CBTs; 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 Next Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200655 (Jul 2014 – Dec 2017)	109 m	65 m (60%)	8 m (45%)

*May - October 2017

The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) meets life-saving needs of Congolese refugees living in camps; Burundian expelled migrants from Tanzania and Rwanda; and other vulnerable food insecure households facing food crisis or sudden shocks.

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 women and breastfeeding mothers; 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 after harvests.

In Numbers

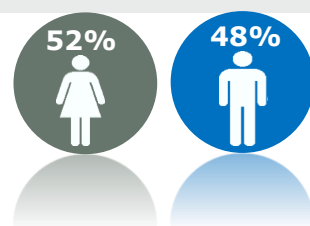
420,000 children assisted through school meals

37,534 refugees assisted

34,102 people assisted through treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition programmes

47 980 people assisted through cash for asset and resilience

People Assisted
April 2017



Operational Updates

- In April, WFP provided food assistance to 582,713 people in food insecure areas, including refugees in camps, through general distributions, nutrition interventions, and the school meals programme.
- A joint multi-sectoral rapid assessment of needs (MIRA) conducted in March indicates that the food security situation is worsening in most parts of the country. The results further indicate that crop production has fallen sharply as compared last year. Household food stocks were extremely reduced or already depleted, which is resulting in households engaging in negative coping strategies.
- The country is facing a malaria outbreak, with almost 2 million cases reported since the beginning of 2017. Since the beginning of the year, more than 2.2 million cases and 1,000 deaths have been reported. The preliminary results of a joint multi-sectoral rapid assessment (MIRA) indicate that malaria is one of the main causes of death in 84 percent of the collines visited. The most affected provinces are Cankuzo, Muyinga, Karusi and Kirundo Province with an incidence rate of 100 percent.
- The second mass screening conducted by the nutrition sector between October and November 2016 confirmed an alarming nutrition situation in the province of Kirundo. The overall prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in Kirundo Province was above 10 percent (critical) while severe acute malnutrition (SAM) levels exceeded the emergency threshold of 2 percent. Out of the seven communes in the province of Kirundo, the four communes of Bugabaria, Kirundo, Ntega and Vumbi had SAM rates of 2.8 percent, 2.4 percent, 3.5 percent and 2.7 percent respectively. In response to the worrying malnutrition levels, WFP is providing specialised nutritious foods for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition for children under five years in Ntega, Kirundo, Vumbi and Bugabira Communes.
- In addition, WFP has started treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) programme in Cankuzo targeting a 29,000 children under five years and 4,200 pregnant and nursing women. The programme covers the entire 29 health centres in Cankuzo province.
- As part of building resilience and reducing the impact of future shocks among communities in Gitega, Karusi, Ruyigi and Cankuzo Provinces, WFP is supporting asset creation activities using cash based transfers.

Impact of Limited Funding

- Limited funding continues to negatively impact the implementation of CP and PRRO activities. Since February 2017, WFP has reduced general distributions' rations by 50 percent for food insecure households under the PRRO, in order to stretch available resources.

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. As a result of 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 risk 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.

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

Country Director a.i: Nicole JACQUET

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/burundi