



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)	134.2 m	80.6 m (60%)	-

*June – November 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, supporting pregnant and lactating women 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 assets creation activities, WFP provides food during the lean season, while cash-based transfers (CBT) modalities (cash – vouchers) are applied during the post-harvest period when food is available in the market.

Given the traditional role of women in 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%)	8.8 m (54%)

*June - November 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.

Highlights

- The ongoing socio-political crisis, displacements, disruption of livelihood activities, deterioration of the economy, high food prices, and climatic shocks than the 5-year average 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

422,381 children assisted through school meals

36,884 refugees assisted

14,923 people assisted through treatment of moderate acute malnutrition programmes

19,034 people assisted through stunting prevention

15,530 people assisted through cash for asset and resilience

People Assisted
June 2017

52%



48%



Operational Updates

- With support of the Regional Bureau in Nairobi, the country office is preparing to pilot an integrated complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM) using helpdesks in the refugee camps, centralized WFP hotlines with a toll free number and the SUGAR™ software to better manage complaints from refugees and feedback from WFP and other partners. A support mission was organized to review and build on the existing CFM in refugee camps.
- According to FEWSNET, the prices of many staple foods have continued to significantly decrease since mid-May, with the initial harvest, resulting in increased household food access. The Ministry of Agriculture in Muyinga reports the price of beans has decreased from 1250 BIF/kg in mid-April to 700 BIF/kg at the end of May in Muyinga.
- WFP is planning to provide food assistance to around 230,000 food insecure people in the areas identified by the recent integrated food security phase classification (IPC) as likely to be the most vulnerable to food insecurity during the upcoming lean period (September-November). These areas include: Cibitoke, Bubanza, Muyinga, and Kirundo Provinces. Of the 230,000 people targeted for emergency food assistance, 25,000 people are located in provinces hosting refugee camps, 6,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who had been displaced by floods last year and 200,000 people classified as facing *crisis* (IPC 3) and *emergency* (IPC 4).

Impact of Limited Funding

- Limited funding continues to negatively impact the implementation of the CP and PRRO activities. Since February 2017, WFP has reduced general distributions' rations by 50 percent for food insecure households, in order to stretch available resources. The country office has also shifted the transfer modality from cash-based transfers to in-kind transfers for refugees.
- Given the poor resource situation affecting the refugee operation, WFP also has reduced general distribution rations by 9 percent and has removed SuperCereal from the general distributions, in order to stretch available resources. New contributions are required urgently to avert further reduction of 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.

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