Burundi Crisis — Regional Impact

Highlights

- WFP urgently requires USD 81 million for the next six months to meet the needs of existing operations that are responding to the Burundi crisis.
- A standardized expanded nutrition survey (SENS) carried out at the Mahama camp in Rwanda showed global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates of 6.6 percent. Stunting levels are still high according to the WHO classification of severity.

Overview

The security situation in Burundi remains volatile with continued incidents of sporadic violence in the country. Grenade attacks and clashes between the Opposition and the Government security forces continue to occur on a regular basis in the capital city, Bujumbura and other surrounding areas. With the ongoing political unrest, Burundians continue to cross borders into neighbouring countries. As of 03 November, more than 209,000 people had fled the country into the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Burundi

The political crisis in Burundi continues to have a significant impact on the humanitarian needs within the country. Localised violence and the continued deterioration of socio-economic conditions are among the key drivers of the humanitarian needs. Continued cross-border population movement remains a concern for the stability of an already fragile region.

According to FEWSNET, Season B (June-July) harvests were below normal in the conflict-affected areas of Kirundo, Makamba and Bujumbura Mairie Provinces as the main agricultural activities were disrupted. New violence continues to put pressure on livelihoods in these areas. Most households in Burundi will continue to face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity through March 2016. However, households in the conflict-affected areas will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity. The combination of ongoing political unrest, above-average food prices, limited labour opportunities, as well as less food stocks than usual and below average crop sales from limited Season B harvests will inhibit improvements in food security in these areas.

WFP, FAO, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health are conducting an Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in Kirundo, Makamba, Rumonge, Cibitoke, Bujumbura Mairie and Bujumbura Rural Provinces with the aim of determining the impact of the ongoing political crisis on food security and nutrition. Findings from the assessment will guide future interventions.

The operation continues to face serious resource constraints. If new contributions are not received soon, there is a risk of pipeline breaks in the coming months.

In numbers

- >209,000 refugees have crossed borders into neighbouring countries
- >100,000 people in Burundi in need of immediate food assistance
- >1,000 new arrivals weekly into neighbouring countries
- USD 81 million needed for 6 months to support operations that are responding to the Burundi crisis.

Resourcing

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>6-month Shortfall</th>
<th>6-month Shortfall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi PRRO</td>
<td>8 million</td>
<td>62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRC PRRO</td>
<td>32 million</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rwanda PRRO</td>
<td>8 million</td>
<td>59%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanzania PRRO</td>
<td>21 million</td>
<td>76%</td>
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<td>Uganda PRRO</td>
<td>12 million</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>81 million</td>
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Democratic Republic of Congo. As of 12 October, nearly 16,000 refugees from Burundi had crossed the border into the DRC. The majority of the refugees are located in the Uvira and Fizi territories. Relocation of newly arrived refugees to Lusenda camp is ongoing. So far, more than 9,700 refugees have been relocated.

WFP continues to provide food assistance to newly arrived refugees at border crossing points, transit centres and to those settled in the camps. In addition, WFP is providing specialized nutritional products for treatment of acute malnutrition for children below 5 years, pregnant and breastfeeding women.

The “most likely” scenario in the revised Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects the arrival of 30,000 refugees into the DRC until the end of 2015.

Rwanda. As of 02 November, more than 70,000 refugees had arrived in Rwanda. The majority of the refugees are located at the Mahama camp, while the rest are in Kigali and other urban towns.

WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF conducted a Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) at the Mahama camp in October. The SENS results indicate global acute malnutrition rates of 6.6 percent compared to 10.3 percent reported in the SENS conducted in May. Stunting levels did not show a statistically significant reduction between May (47.2 percent) and October (44.6 percent), which is considered very high according to the WHO classification. Anaemia remains a public health concern among children aged 6-59 months, with a prevalence of 44.6 percent for this age group and 61.2 percent among children aged 6-23 months. There is a significant improvement in the prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age, which is 32.4 percent down from 47.6 percent in May. Furthermore, the SENS results indicate prevalence of diarrhoea among children aged 6-59 months as alarmingly high, and 1.3 times higher among malnourished children than non-malnourished children.

To address the worrying nutrition situation, WFP is providing specialized nutritional products to moderately malnourished children enrolled in treatment programmes and a preventative package for children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women. In addition to supporting nutrition interventions, WFP is providing food assistance to newly arrived refugees at border entry points, reception and transit centres and to those settled in the camps. So far, WFP has provided food assistance to about 50,000 refugees at the border entry points, reception and transit centres and at the camp.

The “most likely” scenario in the revised Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects the arrival of 120,000 refugees into Rwanda until the end of 2015.

Tanzania. As of 03 November, more than 109,000 refugees had arrived in Tanzania. Relocation of refugees from Nyarugusu camp to Nduta camp is ongoing. So far, more than 12,000 refugees have been relocated.

WFP continues to provide high energy biscuits and dates to new arrivals at transit centres, hot meals at reception centres and monthly dry rations to those settled in the camp. Blanket supplementary feeding targeting 6-23 months is implemented alongside targeted supplementary feeding for children below 5 years, pregnant and breastfeeding women and for prevention of acute malnutrition among children aged 6-23 months.

The “most likely” scenario in the revised Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects the arrivals of 150,000 refugees into Tanzania until the end of 2015.

Uganda. As of 27 October, more than 15,000 Burundi refugees had arrived in Uganda. New arrivals continue to cite insecurity and family reunion as the main reasons for fleeing Burundi.

WFP continues to provide food assistance to newly arrived refugees at the reception centres and in the settlements, with a particular focus on the nutritional status of children below five years, pregnant and breastfeeding women. WFP is providing specialized nutritional products for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition of children below 5 years.

The “most likely” scenario in the revised Burundi Regional Response Plan projects the arrival of 20,000 refugees into Uganda until the end of 2015.

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