Burundi: Food Assistance to Affected Populations of Political Violence in Burundi

Highlights

- The security situation is improving in Burundi. Search operations carried out by the police continue in quarters which opposed the president’s third term.
- The September general food distributions (GFD) are being implemented in Makamba, Kirundo, and Bujumbura Rural. Around 790 mt of food will have been distributed to 128,130 beneficiaries by the end of September.
- According to the UNHCR statistics, an estimated 191,407 Burundians are seeking asylum in neighboring countries.

Situation Update

- The security situation in Burundi continues to normalise with children returning to school and traffic returning to pre-crisis congestion levels.
- Cordon and Search operations remain frequent in the peripheral neighbourhoods of Bujumbura where there was vocal opposition to the president’s third mandate during the protests of April/May.
- According to a recent report issued by the government, demonstrations against the President’s third term cost at least USD32.7 million in material damage.
- Seven cases of cholera have just been identified in Cibitoke province. The ministry of health is investigating to confirm the outbreak and take the necessary steps to stop the disease.
- The National Geographic Institute (IGEBU) indicates that the current agricultural season is likely to be affected by the El Nino phenomenon. The west, east and north will be the most affected areas towards the end of October.
- According to UNHCR statistics, 191,407 Burundians are registered as refugees in neighboring countries.

WFP Response

- WFP in cooperation with partner is implementing the September general food distribution to people affected by the ongoing socio-political crisis in the three targeted provinces (Kirundo, Makamba, Bujumbura Mairie).

Food Assistance

- The September general food distribution is being implemented in the provinces of Kirundo, Makamba and Bujumbura Mairie.
- In Kirundo, 75,000 beneficiaries targeted are being given a half month ration. A total of 574 metric tons is planned to be distributed.
- In Makamba, the food distribution is taking place in Kabonga. Commune. In total, 27,800 beneficiaries will receive assistance and a total of 213 mt is planned to be distributed.
- In Bujumbura Mairie, around 3 tons of food are being distributed to 330 beneficiaries.
Logistics

- WFP dispatched around 790 mt of food in Makamba, Kirundo and Bujumbura Mairie. The food is being distributed to people affected by the current crisis. Food delivery also continues in the framework of normal operations.

Clusters

- Clusters are not yet activated

Partnerships

- WFP is partnering with Red Cross Burundi for the general food distribution, with oversight and support from WFP Bujumbura office as well as Gitega, Ngozi and Cibitoke sub-office.
- WFP is also partnering with UNICEF in a joint nutrition project to be carried out in Kirundo and Makamba.
- Another joint project with UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, and UN Women on food security and nutrition is under preparation.

Resourcing Update

- For the next six months (September 2015-February 2016), the operation is facing shortfalls amounting to USD 8.2 million. If new resources are not received soon, the operation is likely to face serious resource shortfalls from November onwards. While the country office addresses these needs, it is essential to ensure ongoing programmes continue to be funded so as to continue normal programming, otherwise many already very food insecure families may find themselves even more vulnerable and liable to be impacted by the crisis.

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