Burundi Crisis
Regional Impact

Highlights

In Burundi, the security situation remains highly volatile. On 11 December, 87 people were killed in clashes between government forces and armed gunmen, who attacked three military sites in Bujumbura.

Overview

High levels of political instability and frequent violence persist, having begun in April when President Nkurunziza declared his intentions to run for a third term. The security situation remains volatile and is deteriorating rapidly across the country, particularly in the capital Bujumbura. On 11 December, in the worst outbreak of violence since the failed coup, reports indicate that 87 people were killed in clashes between government forces and armed gunmen, who attacked three military sites in Bujumbura.

The influx of Burundian refugees into neighbouring countries continues, causing concern for the stability of an already fragile region. As of 17 December, more than 225,000 people had fled Burundi into the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and as far away as Zambia.

The 2016 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) launched on 07 December requests USD 313.9 million to provide protection and assistance to 330,000 Burundian refugees expected to have arrived in the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda by the end of December 2016. Of these, USD 73 million is required by WFP to respond to the needs of the refugees in the four hosting countries.

In numbers

> 224,000 refugees have crossed borders into neighbouring countries
> 645,000 people in Burundi are food insecure
> 1,000 new arrivals weekly into neighbouring countries

USD 55 million needed for 6 months to support operations that are responding to the Burundi crisis.

Burundi

In Burundi, the political crisis and deteriorating insecurity is worsening the humanitarian situation, given the deteriorating food security situation and declining economy. According to the recently concluded Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), about 645,000 people in the affected provinces are food insecure. Of these, about 35,000 people are severely food insecure and require urgent emergency food assistance. The assessment recommends strengthening of resilience activities for moderate food insecure households. In addition, there is need to strengthen treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition among children below 5 years, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers in Bujumbura rural, Makamba, Rumonge and Bujumbura Mairie Provinces, which reported an increase in global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels.

The operation continues to face serious resource constraints. Critical pipeline breaks are expected in February 2016, if new contributions are not received soon. This will negatively impact WFP’s interventions for the vulnerable people affected by the crisis, as well as normal operations planned under the ongoing programme. An increase in the number of people in need of immediate food assistance, resulting from the ongoing crisis, would exacerbate already existing resource shortfalls.
Regional Update

Democratic Republic of Congo. As of 10 December, more than 19,000 Burundian refugees had arrived in the country. The 2016 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects a total of 30,000 Burundian refugees in the DRC by the end of December 2016.

WFP continues to provide food assistance to refugees at the transit centres and to those settled in the camp, with a particular focus on the nutritional status of children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. WFP is providing specialized nutritional products for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for children below 5 years, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.

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 15 December, more than 70,000 refugees had arrived in Rwanda. Of these, about 45,000 are registered at the Mahama camp, while the rest are in Kigali and other urban centres. The 2016 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects a total of 100,000 Burundian refugees in Rwanda by the end of December 2016.

WFP continues to provide high energy biscuits to newly arrived refugees at the border entry points, hot meals at reception centres and monthly family rations to those settled at the Mahama camp. As part of its efforts in addressing malnutrition, WFP is providing specialized nutrition products for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition targeting children under five years, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. Blanket supplementary feeding for children aged 6-59 months, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers is implemented alongside the targeted supplementary feeding programmes. In addition, WFP has started implementing an emergency school feeding programme at the Mahama camp targeting school-age children in preparation for the next school year, starting in January.

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. Refugees from Burundi continue to cross borders into Tanzania and as at 17 December, more than 118,000 had arrived. The 2016 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects a total of 170,000 Burundian refugees in Tanzania by the end of December 2016.

WFP continues to provide food assistance to newly arrived refugees at border entry points, transit and reception centres and those settled in camps, with a particular focus on the nutritional status of children, pregnant and breastfeeding women. WFP provides specialized nutrition products for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among 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 10 December, more than 17,000 Burundian refugees had crossed the border into Uganda. The 2016 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan projects additional 10,000 refugees, bringing the total population planning figure to 30,000 Burundian refugees in Uganda by end of December 2016.

WFP continues to provide food assistance to newly arrived refugees at the reception centres and to those who have been settled, with a particular focus on the nutritional status of children below 5 years. WFP is providing nutritional products for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for 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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WFP Rubihati at Mahama camp, Rwanda. Photo © WFP/Challiss McDonough