



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Burundi

Humanitarian Response Plan 2019



to assist

546 000 people



FAO requires

USD 6.3 million



period

January–December 2019

Providing agricultural support is crucial to allow vulnerable families to produce their own food and earn an income.

Despite improvements in 2018, acute vulnerabilities in Burundi persist, particularly in areas affected by climate hazards and with a high concentration of displaced people putting pressure on already limited resources. In 2019, there is a high probability of the occurrence of an El Niño-like phenomenon as well as of an influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which could affect the progress made.

Objectives

FAO is working with partners of the Food Security Cluster to:

- Provide timely food and financial assistance to crisis-affected people taking into account age and gender vulnerabilities.
- Restore the livelihoods of vulnerable households to ensure their self-reliance by adopting an environmentally friendly approach and reducing risks related to protection and malnutrition.
- Ensure monitoring, collection and regular production of food security and nutrition data.

Activities



Improve immediate food production

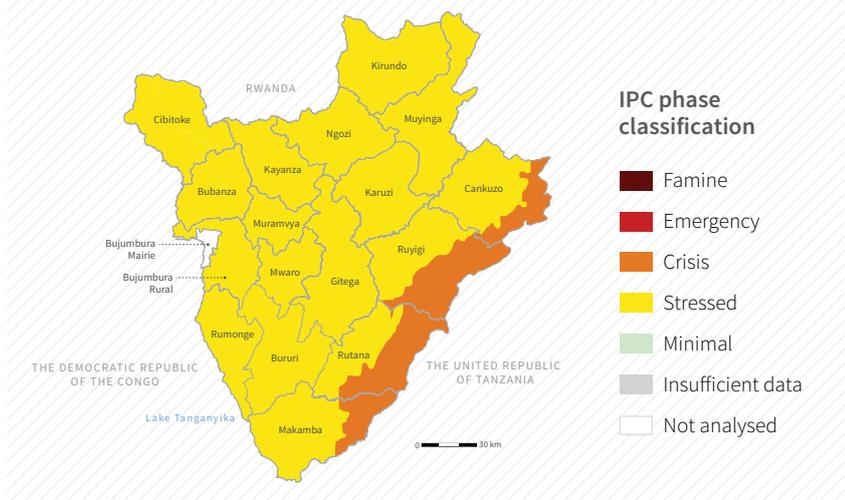
conditional cash transfers | cash for work | agricultural inputs | vegetable production | mushroom cultivation | rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure | income-generating activities



Strengthen monitoring and data collection and analysis

market monitoring | assessment and monitoring of the food security and nutrition situation | production of reports on food security and nutrition taking into account gender, age and protection | coordination | monitoring, data collection and analysis of fall armyworm | awareness raising and technical training on fall armyworm

Food insecurity situation (October–December 2018)



Source: IPC, August 2018

Situation analysis



1.7 million people severely food insecure



121 000 children under five and **62 000** pregnant and lactating women at risk of acute malnutrition



100 000 people affected by natural hazards in 2018



90% of the population relies on subsistence farming



65% of the population lives below the poverty line

Impact on food security

The more favourable weather conditions, a 30-percent reduction in the number of IDPs, the decrease in food prices and the end of the malaria epidemic are some of the factors that in 2018 contributed to a slight improvement of the food security situation in Burundi. Nonetheless, vulnerable families are still affected by weak economic opportunities and purchasing power along with the loss of productive assets, which continue to limit their food access. Furthermore, the outcome of the 2017/18 agricultural season remains below average, mainly due to demographic pressure and climate events – hail, strong winds and floods – that have caused the loss of crops and livelihoods for more than 25 000 households, while maize fields are still affected by fall armyworm.

In a context of chronic food insecurity, whose severe and moderate forms affect half of the Burundian population, the resilience of communities is undermined and the slightest shock has significant consequences. The reception of displaced people by vulnerable host communities with an already high incidence of land conflict also contributes to worsening their food security. The northeastern and eastern provinces that host more than 80 percent of returnees and IDPs are the most vulnerable. The coastal region of Lake Tanganyika is also home to a large number of vulnerable people affected by floods, landslides and disruptions in economic exchanges with the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a result of growing insecurity along the border.

In 2019, intensified voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees, climate variability, the threat of fall armyworm and other crop pests, and weak economic opportunities affect households' livelihoods and are likely to further increase their food insecurity.

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