



IN NUMBERS



1.46 million

people food insecure, of which nearly 349 250 severely food insecure



30 000 ha

of farmland destroyed by climate hazards related to El Niño for the 2015/16 season



412 411

people displaced by ongoing crisis and floods, of which 108 459 internally and the rest in neighbouring countries



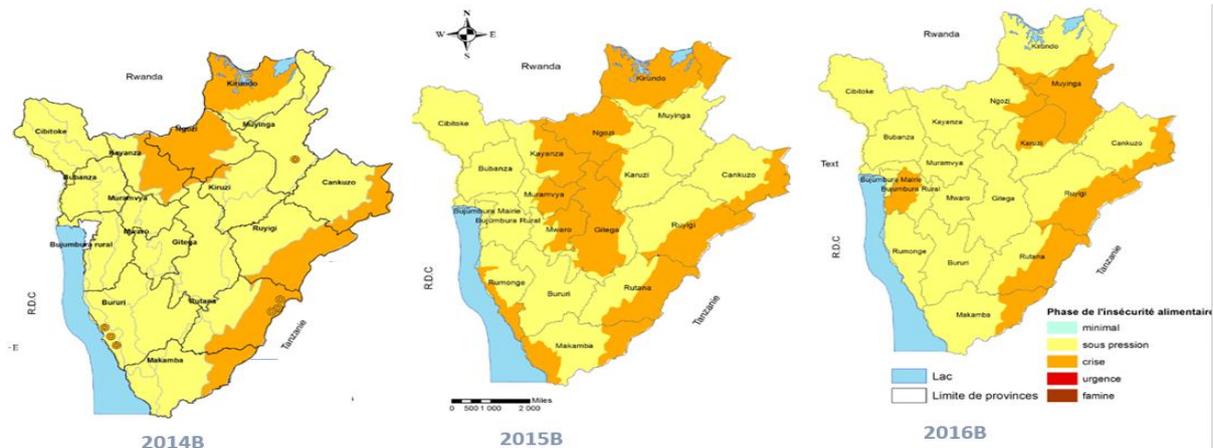
USD 6.8 million

still needed for the implementation of FAO's 2016 emergency programme¹

KEY POINTS

- An estimated 90 000 people were affected by El Niño (heavy rains, strong winds, floods and landslides) in late 2015 and early 2016, and now the country is experiencing late, irregular and insufficient rainfall. An estimated 10 000 households from Ruyigi, Kirundo, Cankuzo and Rutana are fleeing their homes due to food insecurity and current rainfall deficit.
- Agricultural production is insufficient to cover household food security or generate enough income to meet other needs; subsequently, households are more dependent on markets where products are lacking and prices rising.
- The progressive decline of the economy and rising inflation are significantly deteriorating households' livelihoods.
- FAO urgently requires USD 2.41 million to: (i) continue supporting around 25 000 vulnerable households with emergency agricultural kits to set up kitchen gardens in response to the rainfall deficit; (ii) provide livestock to access manure and restore household assets; and (iii) diversify income generating activities (mushroom production and aquaculture), mainly involving youth and women, to contribute to strengthening their resilience.
- Additional support is needed to enhance quality seed multiplication and the use of planting materials resistant to drought and pests.

MAPS INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION (IPC)



BACKGROUND

In an already precarious context characterized by structural vulnerabilities, the sociopolitical crisis that started in April 2015 has increasingly affected the population in the country with 1.46 million Burundians food insecure in August 2016, of which nearly 349 250 in IPC Phase 4 (emergency). The significant reduction of financial contributions from resource partners, the growing socioeconomic crisis, the depreciation of the local currency (-38 percent against USD in October 2016) and reduced currency circulation, have resulted in a decreased capacity to import, reduced basic public services and quality, closing of private businesses, lack of quality inputs in markets and price inflation. In turn, this has increased households' vulnerability and reduced their purchasing power. Communities are forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms, triggering the deterioration of their livelihoods, increasing food insecurity and reducing dietary diversity. While in September 2016, 62 percent of IDPs were willing to return to their homes (against 47.5 percent in March) and 34 percent to remain with their host communities, localized natural disasters and insecurity still cause population displacements within the country and to neighbouring countries. In addition, given the current below-average rainfall and expected drought, increased population movements are seen and may grow further, which are likely to worsening the previously-mentioned progressive trends.

¹ This figure includes USD 2.3 million requested by FAO under the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan and USD 9.3 million for FAO's wider response in the country.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

While Burundi today is still not in the midst of a massive humanitarian emergency, early warnings on protection situation, socioeconomic crisis and climate hazards indicate the situation deteriorating and a huge risk of facing severe consequences in the next months. The food security and nutrition situation is worsening with 19 percent of the population food insecure (IPC analysis, August 2016). Restrictions of movement due to insecurity have seriously impacted economic activities, income opportunity for households, limiting access to and availability of food. The latest evaluation on harvests, food availability and the nutrition situation (season B 2016) shows a 0.8 percent reduction of the main staple production (-15 percent for bananas and +0.7 percent for beans) compared with 2015 which had already decreased by 3.7 percent and 14.2 percent compared with the 2014 and 2013 seasons, respectively. This is mainly due to climate hazards (heavy rains and floods but also water shortage in some areas), persistence of plant disease (cassava mosaïque and Banana BXW), lack of agricultural inputs and degradation of land productivity. Subsequently, food prices in markets have risen – increase of 23 percent for main staples and of 34 percent for beans – while households' purchasing power continues to decrease. Floods have exacerbated humanitarian needs in the country for the 2015/16 season. According to government estimates (April 2016), about 30 000 ha of farmland was damaged by floods, strong winds, hail and landslides attributed to El Niño. As a result, about 23 000 tonnes of beans, 60 000 tonnes of maize and 75 000 tonnes of paddy rice were lost. The current agriculture season (A 2017) is affected by irregular and below-average rainfall, which will negatively impact the production level of the first 2016/17 season.

FAO'S RESPONSE

2016 PLANNED RESPONSE



320 000 people
(64 000 households)



Provide 13 100 households with small livestock, veterinary kits and fishery inputs to restore their productive capital, as well as ensure and diversify their animal protein intake



Support 24 000 households to produce vegetables (kitchen gardening and off-season/irrigated production) and mushrooms to diversify their diet and sources of income (season C – May 2016)



Distribute emergency agricultural kits (seeds, tools and fertilizers) to 50 000 households (season A)



Ensure capacity building and follow-up of 25 000 producers (improved agricultural techniques and culinary practices).



Support 7 500 households to strengthen their resilience through the *caisses de résilience* approach

2016 RESPONSE TO-DATE



Provided 6 591 households with vegetable production inputs (season 2016 C), 27 606 households with emergency agricultural kits (season 2017 A) and 442 households through training and support for mushroom production; 347 households have been identified for kitchen gardening activities

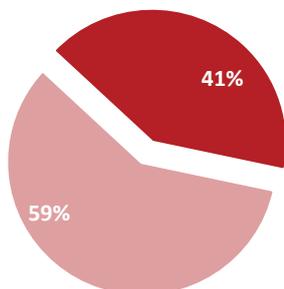


880 households have been identified for fish ponds



The establishment of a sustainable early warning system is ongoing (approval of key indicators by stakeholders, household survey and methodology, data collection)

FUNDING



- Funding to-date: USD 4.8 million
- Funding gap: USD 6.8 million

FAO still requires To assist
USD 6.8 million 320 000 people (166 400 women and 153 600 men)

ASSESSMENTS

FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock are undertaking the harvest assessment for season 2016 C that includes an estimate of losses due to plant diseases (worms) and an evaluation of the ongoing planting for season 2017 A with forecast on production. The pilot IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification (2014) has been updated in 2016 and states that 50 percent of the population is classified in Phases 4 (21 percent acute) and 3 (29 percent moderate). A total of 60 PRAs exercises were undertaken by food security partners in 13 provinces in preparation for 2017 the Humanitarian Needs Overview/ Humanitarian Response Plan process. It appeared that 21 percent of households classified themselves as very poor and 43 percent as poor, according to their own criteria (availability of land, inputs, animals and food stocks). Their main constraints are: unstable access to food in sufficient quantity and quality, insufficient access to quality seeds and other inputs (animals for manure and technical support) to improve productivity, their vulnerability linked to climate change/climate hazards and lack of profitable jobs.

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