



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Burundi remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with severe food insecurity affecting nearly one in two households. Recurrent natural disasters and epidemic diseases have affected the livelihoods and resilience of the most vulnerable populations. In 2020, a complex political context and the persistence of chronic vulnerabilities are likely to further worsen the food security situation in the country.

Objectives

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

- Provide timely assistance to crisis-affected people in order to improve their food security.
- Restore the livelihoods of vulnerable households to ensure their self-reliance, reduce risks related to protection and malnutrition, and strengthen their resilience to climate-related crises.
- Ensure monitoring, collection, and regular production of food security and nutrition data in order to adequately respond to the needs of vulnerable populations.

Activities



Improve agricultural production

emergency agricultural inputs (seeds, hoes and fertilizers) | *caisses de résilience* activities | income-generating activities | mushroom cultivation | beekeeping and livestock production support | quality seed multiplication | nutrition-sensitive agricultural production



Strengthen food security data collection and analysis

assessment and monitoring of the food security and nutrition situation | coordination | monitoring, data collection and analysis



Burundi

Humanitarian Response Plan 2020



to assist
540 000 people



FAO requires
USD 7.5 million

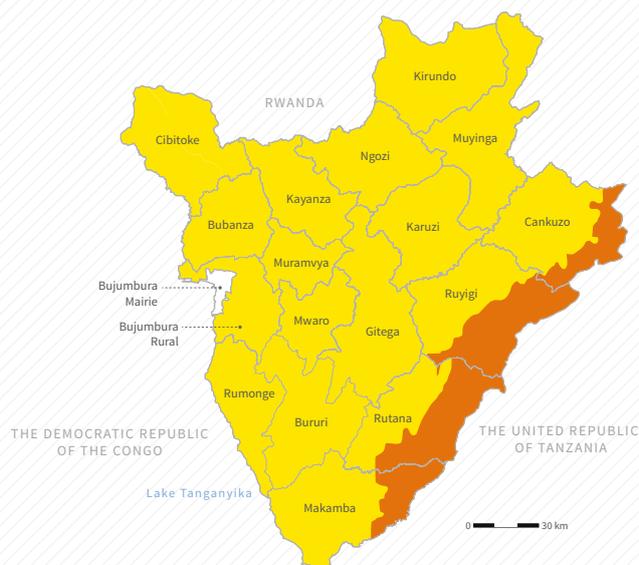


period
January–December 2020

If no assistance is provided, the effects of recurrent natural disasters, a fragile political context, population displacement and epidemics are likely to further worsen vulnerable populations' livelihoods and food insecurity.



Latest acute food insecurity situation (October–December 2018)



Integrated Food Security Phase Classification



Situation analysis



1.7 million people in severe acute food insecurity



87 000 children affected by moderate malnutrition and **45 000** by severe acute malnutrition



103 412 internally displaced persons (IDPs)



2 757 deaths due to malaria (October 2019) and **8** due to cholera

Source: IPC Burundi, July 2018. A new IPC analysis will be released by March 2020. Conforms to UN Burundi map, July 2019.

Impact on food security

In 2019, the outbreak of malaria and cholera, and recurrent natural disasters severely affected the most vulnerable populations in Burundi. In addition to weak infrastructures and chronic vulnerabilities in the country, these factors are expected to lead to limited agricultural production thus increasing the levels of food insecurity.

Burundi is particularly exposed to natural disasters, which is the main cause of population displacement – 77 percent of the IDP caseload in the country was forced to move as a result of climate hazards. Between October 2018 and June 2019, 109 natural disasters were recorded, mostly torrential rains and strong winds, leading to the total or partial destruction of crops, homes, schools and health centres. These extreme events are affecting the whole country, particularly northern provinces and those along

Lake Tanganyika. The northeastern and eastern provinces are the country's most vulnerable areas, where more than 80 percent of returnees and IDPs, and Congolese refugees are adding pressure on local communities' already limited resources. Households' poor livelihoods and resilience means that the slightest shock leads to the severe deterioration of their food security.

In 2020, the upcoming presidential elections may trigger insecurity in an already fragile political context. In addition, the effects of natural disasters, population displacement, epidemic diseases and chronic poverty are likely to continue to worsen households' food insecurity and disrupt their livelihoods. It is essential to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable populations in the country in order to strengthen their resilience against recurrent shocks.

Contact

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