

SAVING
LIVES

CHANGING
LIVES



Burundi

Annual Country Report 2020

Country Strategic Plan
2018 - 2021



World Food
Programme

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2020 Overview

In 2020, WFP supported the food and nutrition needs of 1.07 million vulnerable people throughout Burundi, out of 1.3 million planned. Despite funding challenges, particularly for the CBT modality, WFP provided essential daily food assistance to the refugees in camps and a three-month assistance package to Burundian returnees as they arrived back in-country from neighbouring countries.

Cooperation with local authorities to advance the Home-grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme gained momentum as the First Lady of Burundi chose to champion the programme and the Government further increased its contribution towards the programme from USD 2 million to USD 2.5 million. However, due to the withdrawal of some donors, the programme faced resource constraints which compelled WFP to reduce the number of assisted children from 602,168 in the early months of 2020 to 412,000 from September onward. Despite the reduced funding, the HGSF programme remained active throughout 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of Burundi identified the HGSF programme as the largest and most important safety net for vulnerable people in Burundi and has placed nutrition at the top of its agenda. In addition to strengthening social protection through school feeding as a critical safety net, WFP supported the Government's priority of establishing a social registry.[1]

An early engagement with the new administration established after the May general elections was key for positioning WFP and ensuring new key decision-makers understood all areas of WFP's work in-country. This fostered trust and identified concrete areas of collaboration between WFP and the Government. While WFP continued its assistance to the Congolese refugees, following the elections there was an influx of Burundian returnees from September requiring WFP to significantly scale-up support.

While treatment of moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) and children aged 6 to 59 months continued in four provinces, WFP adopted an integrated approach to tackle the root causes of chronic malnutrition by involving grassroot communities through the "care group" approach and through social and behaviour change communication. The fight against malnutrition was further enhanced through WFP's support to the strengthening of the milk value chain and the promotion of milk consumption by vulnerable communities in general, by providing milk and fish to school children through the HGSF programme. WFP provided 602,000 school children with milk, cereals, pulses, vitamin A fortified vegetable oil and fish. These efforts, coupled with WFP's promotion of locally fortified food, the fight against micronutrient deficiencies and other multisectoral nutrition interventions initiated by other stakeholders play a crucial role in improving the nutrition situation in-country. Results of the November Standardised Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey showed a decrease of four percent in the chronic malnutrition rate in Burundi over three years.[2] While the fight against malnutrition remains Burundi's main challenge, this is a remarkable achievement considering only a two percent reduction was achieved over the eight years between 2008 and 2016.[4]

Resilience-building activities implemented in Karusi and Gitega equipped targeted households with kitchen gardens, small livestock, soil with improved fertility, improved toilets and contributed to enhancing the overall food security of beneficiaries. A key lesson learned from programme implementation is that in order to enhance effectiveness and resilience sustainability, longer project periods and linkages with nutrition interventions need to be considered in areas with heightened vulnerability and food insecurity.

To promote the use of the Three-Pronged Approach (3PA) [4] in programmatic planning, WFP provided capacity strengthening to the Government and partners on this approach for building community resilience. WFP's support to the Government and the humanitarian community in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic enhanced the capacities of WFP partners.

Within the framework of the Government's COVID-19 response plan, WFP contributed to strengthening the COVID-19 screening and testing infrastructure and the transport and storage capacities of the national pharmaceutical warehouse. WFP's Global Air Service facilitated humanitarian flights in and out of Burundi, allowing for transportation of humanitarian staff amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, important milestones have been met on the Lake Tanganyika Corridor Revitalization initiative,[5] with the organization and implementation of the Corridor Competitiveness Analysis, the recruitment of a port captain and the organization of a pilot shipment.



1,087,199

Total Beneficiaries in 2020

Estimated number of persons with disabilities: 119,482 (51% Female, 49% Male)

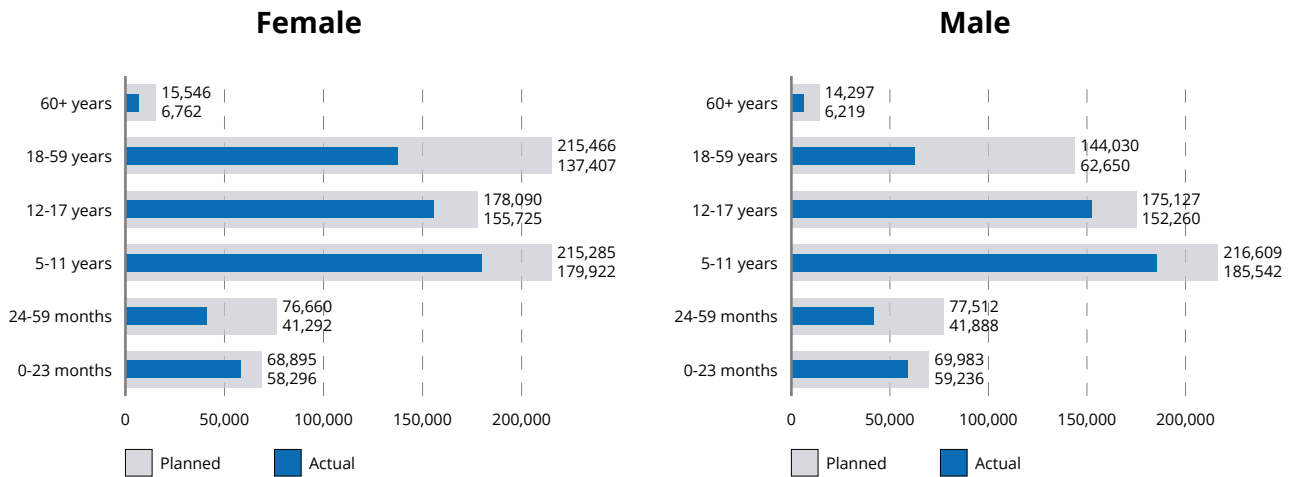


53% female

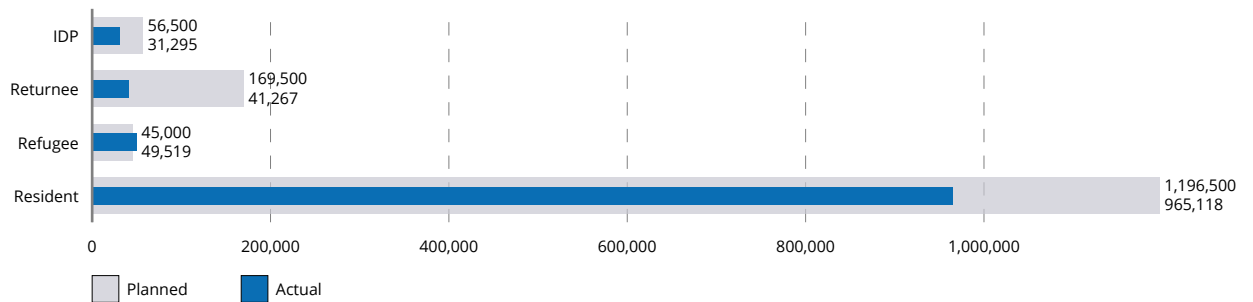


47% male

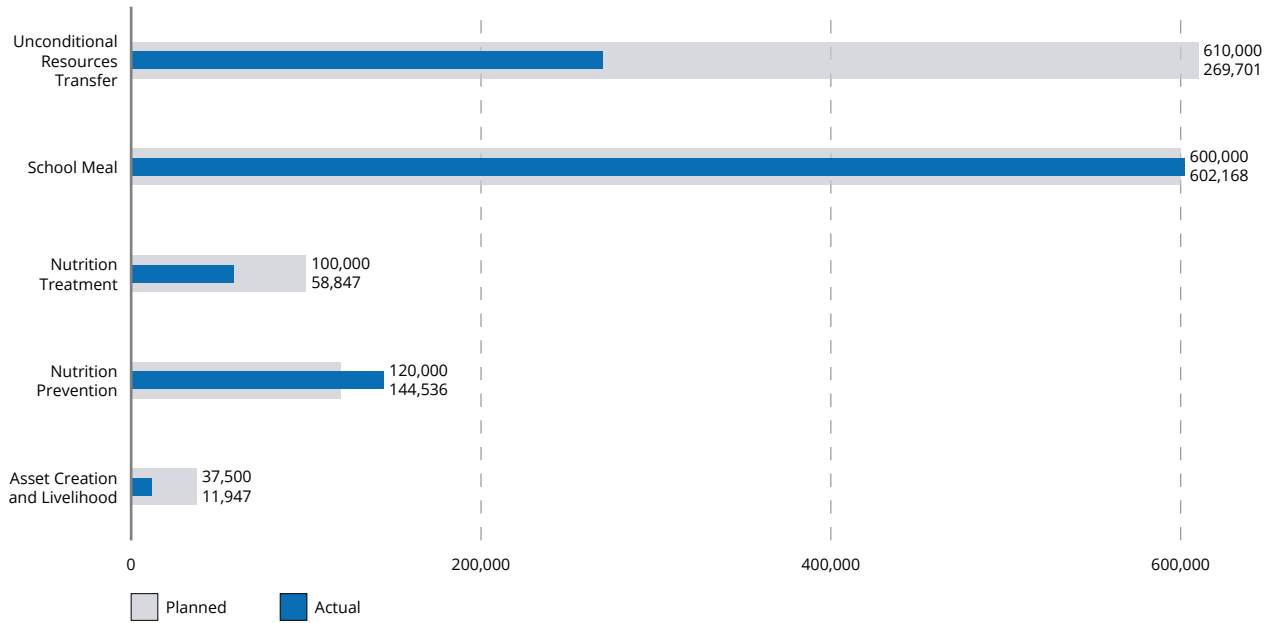
Beneficiaries by Sex and Age Group



Beneficiaries by Residence Status



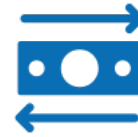
Beneficiaries by Programme Area



Total Food and CBT

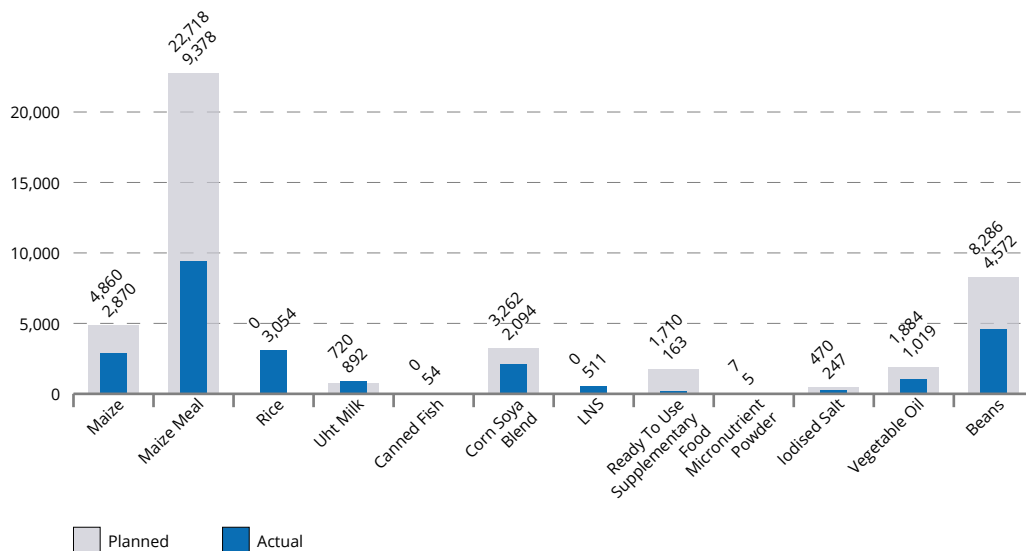


24,858 mt
total actual food transferred in 2020
of 43,918 mt total planned

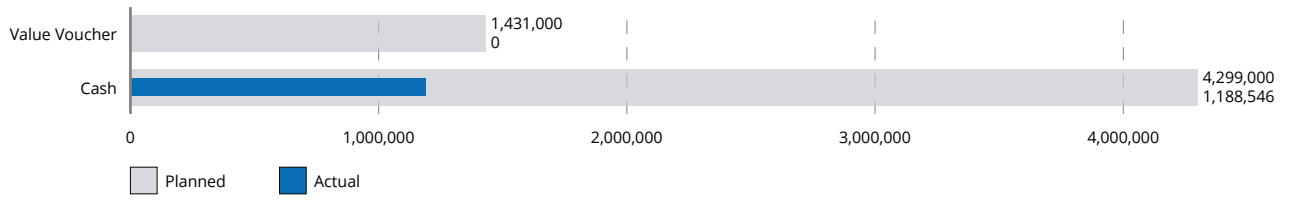


US\$ 1,188,546
total actual cash transferred in 2020
of \$US 5,730,000 total planned

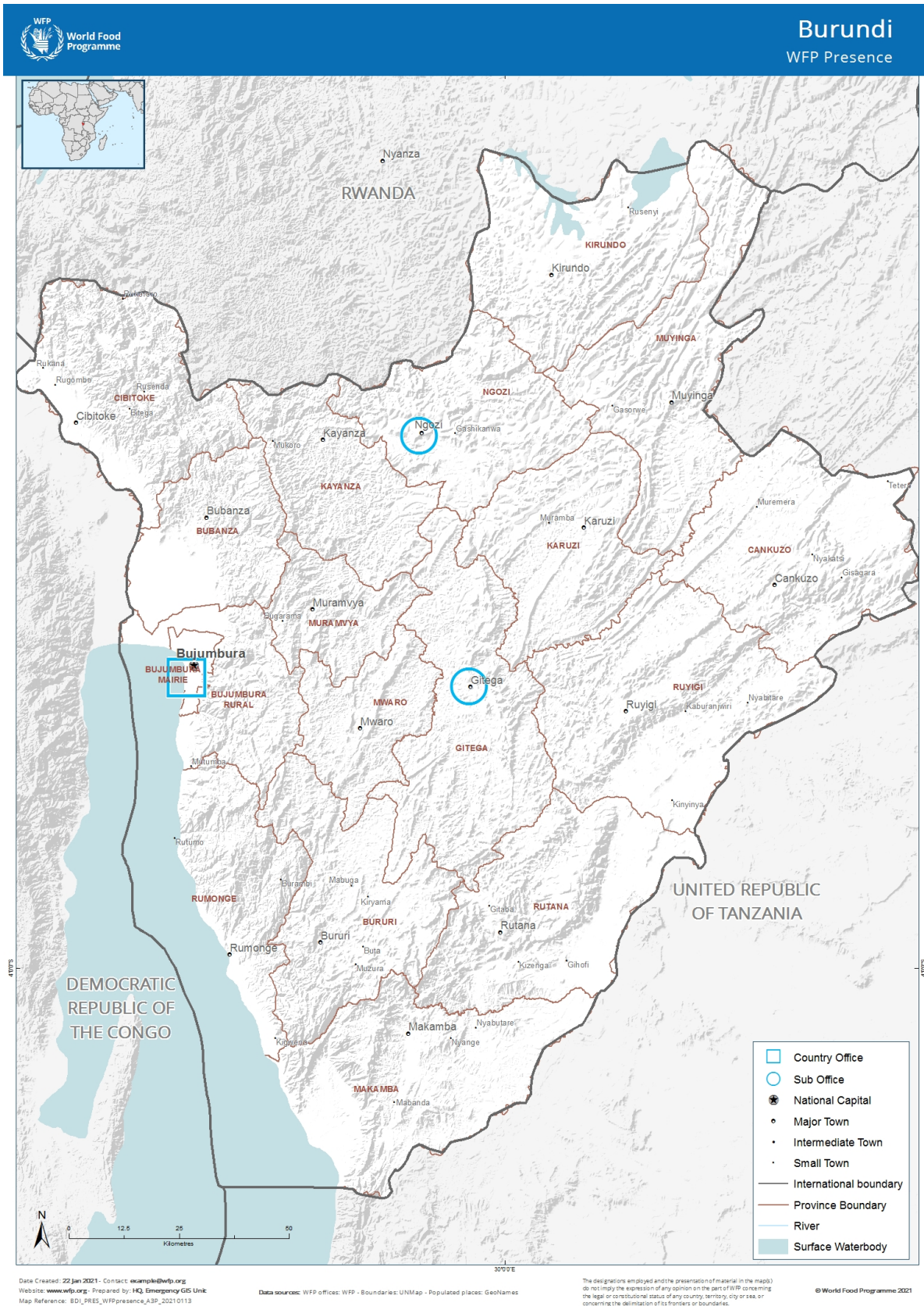
Annual Food Transfer



Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher



Context and operations & COVID-19 response



Burundi is a landlocked country with 12.3 million people and a yearly population growth rate of 3.2 percent. The country ranks 185 out of 189 countries in the 2019 Human Development Index, and over 65 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line of USD 1.90 per day. The food security and nutrition situation in Burundi remains worrying, with 44 percent of Burundians classified as food insecure and a prevalence of chronic malnutrition of 52 percent, the second highest in the world.[1] Gender disparities continue to affect household food security. The gendered division of labour relegates most household tasks to women, while men, traditionally, are involved with

production-related activities that are more financially productive.

In 2015, a socio-economic crisis linked to political developments resulted in donors suspending direct budget support, leading to a 50 percent decrease in the national budget. The successful general elections in May and the subsequent political developments, including the removal of Burundi from the UN Security Council agenda fostered improved cooperation with the international community.

The humanitarian situation in Burundi remains worrying because of an increasing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to recurrent climate shocks, poverty, poor localized agricultural performance and cessation of cross-border trade as a result of COVID-19 containment measures. Between January and April, flooding caused by heavy rains drove thousands of people out of their homes in west Burundi. In addition, Burundi hosts 80,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 50,000 of whom are in camps and are entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance. Following a peaceful electoral process and the establishment of a new administration, an influx of Burundian returnees from neighbouring countries led to a surge in food insecurity as a result of increased competition over scarce resources.

According to 2020 Spectrum modeling, Burundi's HIV prevalence is 0.7 percent. The most affected age group is 40-49 years old among both men and women (3.0 percent). Tuberculosis (TB) affects all segments of the population. TB incidence was estimated at 12,000 (range: 8,000-18,000) in 2018, including HIV-coinfected populations, with a rate of 111 per 100,000 population.

WFP implemented the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) 2018-2020 in line with national policies and with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as WFP's overarching goals. Working towards SDG 2 and in line with the implementation of Burundi's National Development Plan, WFP's Strategic Outcome 1 focused on meeting the basic food requirements of refugees hosted in camps, returnees and other food-insecure people through unconditional cash and food transfers. Under Strategic Outcome 2, WFP strengthened community resilience through asset creation, improved educational outcomes and supported the Government in establishing a social registry. Strategic Outcome 3 helped to combat malnutrition by coordinating efforts with the Government and partners, while Strategic Outcome 4 addressed the root causes of food insecurity by improving the incomes of food-insecure farming households.

Working towards SDG 17, Strategic Outcome 5 supported humanitarian and development actors' activities by ensuring their access to effective supply chain management, logistics and information technologies.

In November, the WFP Executive Board approved the fourth Budget Revision to the ICSP 2018-2020. This revision extends the ICSP until December 2021 and adds Strategic Outcome 6 on capacity strengthening for the Government and partners.

COVID-19 Response

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Burundi in March, the Government has implemented critical interventions to contain the pandemic's spread. The country took early decisions to close the borders, including the international airport, and implemented a national contingency plan. By July, Burundi had implemented a "test, trace and treat" strategy through individual and mass testing campaigns for suspected patients.

WFP's response strategy must first help ensure continuity of operations and support the implementation of the

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