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Operational matters
For approval

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Revision of Burundi interim country strategic plan (2018–2020) and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 April 2018– 31 December 2020	Extension by one year	1 April 2018– 31 December 2021
Beneficiaries	2 527 840	1 193 000	3 720 840
<i>(USD)</i>			
Total cost	195 823 148	72 340 828	268 163 976
Transfers	142 970 792	55 480 794	198 451 586
Implementation	26 870 425	8 303 863	35 174 288
Adjusted direct support costs	14 030 284	5 357 387	19 387 671
Subtotal	183 871 501	69 142 044	253 013 545
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	11 951 648	3 198 784	15 150 431

Gender and age marker code*: 2A

*<http://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

Focal points:

Mr M. Dunford
Regional Director
East Africa
email: michael.dunford@wfp.org

Mr H. Taal
Country Director
email: housainou.taal@wfp.org

Draft decision*

The Board approves the revision of the Burundi interim country strategic plan (2018–2020) and the corresponding budget increase of USD 72,340,828 outlined in document WFP/EB.2/2020/7-C/1.

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the decisions and recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

Rationale

1. Burundi continues to face high levels of food insecurity driven by climate-related shocks, localized poor harvests, high food prices, insecurity, forced displacements, the low income of vulnerable households, scarcity and the degradation of arable land.¹ Around 1.8 million people are estimated to be food insecure. The provinces most affected include Ngozi (where 33 percent of the population is food insecure), Karuzi (31 percent), Ruyigi (42 percent), Bururi (30 percent) and Mwaro (22 percent). According to a national agricultural survey conducted in February 2020,² several provinces have recorded production deficits in cereals and beans³ mainly due to floods and landslides caused by excessive rainfall between October 2019 and January 2020.
2. The prevalence of chronic malnutrition is critical⁴ at 54 percent. Four provinces have chronic malnutrition rates over 40 percent, exceeding the World Health Organization emergency threshold.⁵ The national average prevalence of global acute malnutrition is 5 percent; levels vary from <1.0 to 7.2 percent at the district level, with pockets of prevalence as high as 11 percent⁶ within some districts. The nutrition sector group estimates that the national prevalence of global acute malnutrition will increase by 30 percent because of COVID-19.
3. While the number of COVID-19 cases in Burundi remains low, it is expected to increase in the absence of measures to prevent the spread of the disease. More than 65 percent of the Burundian population is under 24 and may therefore be less vulnerable to COVID-19; however, the pandemic's disruptive effects on livelihoods, markets and supply chains will exacerbate existing vulnerabilities.
4. Border closures and the restrictions on movement imposed by other countries in the region as COVID-19 containment measures have reduced food availability and access. Food prices continue to increase as a result of constraints on the movement of goods. Poverty is likely to rise as the purchasing power of vulnerable populations is eroded.
5. According to the 2020 humanitarian response plan, an estimated 1.7 million people require humanitarian assistance; the plan is currently being revised to reflect needs related to COVID-19. The presence of returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons, particularly in the northern and eastern regions, remains a concern, along with the expected impact of COVID-19 on the livelihoods of vulnerable populations.
6. A joint assessment mission⁷ conducted in the refugee camps resulted in a recommendation calling for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women, in line with national guidelines, and the provision of specialized nutritious foods to people living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment and people with tuberculosis (TB) undergoing directly observed treatment. The joint assessment mission team also recommended the reintroduction of cash-based transfers for fresh foods as a means of addressing gaps in food diversity.

¹ According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification 2019. <http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/population-tracking-tool/en/>.

² Enquête nationale agricole du Burundi. <https://www.isteebu.bi/rapport-denquetes/>.

³ Rumonge (-73 percent), Bururi (-59 percent), Kayanza (-48 percent), Mwaro (-44 percent) and Cankuzo (-34 percent).

⁴ Institut de statistiques et d'études économiques du Burundi, United Nations Children's Fund and WFP. 2018. Joint approach for nutrition and food security assessment. https://www.isteebu.bi/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ENSNMB_Rapport_Final_BDI_2018.pdf.

⁵ World Health Organization. 2018. *Levels and trends in child malnutrition*. <https://www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/2018-jme-brochure.pdf>.

⁶ As defined by mid-upper arm circumference measurements.

⁷ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and WFP. February 2019. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/68169>.

7. About 330,000 Burundian refugees are hosted in neighbouring countries, including; 165,000 in the United Republic of Tanzania.⁸ Around 6,000 Burundians received assistance to return voluntarily to Burundi between February and May 2020. The resettlement of returnees in provinces already affected by food insecurity places additional pressure on resources, increasing tension in communities.
8. This fourth revision of the Burundi interim country strategic plan (ICSP) aims to extend the ICSP until December 2021. Because of the presidential elections held in May–August 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic, the country office has been unable to conduct stakeholder consultations for the development of a new country strategic plan (CSP). In addition, sensitivities related to assessments have meant that some could not be conducted and the results of those conducted could not be validated, which has also hindered the formulation of a new CSP.
9. This revision also introduces the following adjustments:
 - Creation of a new strategic outcome that contributes to WFP Strategic Result 5 under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17.9.
 - Introduction of a new activity for mandated services under strategic outcome 5.
 - Rewording of activity 8 under strategic outcome 5 related to on-demand service provision.
 - Rewording of strategic outcome 2 to include social protection systems and consequent rewording of activity 5 and related outputs.

Changes

Strategic orientation

10. This revision changes the strategic orientation of the ICSP by introducing strategic outcome 6, which relates to strengthening government capacity in supply chain management.
11. Previous revisions were as follows:
 - Revision 1 was a technical revision that modified the indirect support cost rate from 7 to 6.5 percent.
 - Revision 2 adjusted beneficiary numbers, transfer modalities and other costs. It was approved by the Regional Director in September 2019.
 - Revision 3 scaled up activities in response to COVID-19. It was approved by the regional director in May 2020.

Strategic outcomes

Strategic outcome 6

12. **New strategic outcome 6:** Government and partner institutions and systems in Burundi have enhanced supply chain capacities by the end of 2021.
13. **New output:** Government and partners' supply chain capacities are strengthened in order to improve assistance to vulnerable populations.
14. **New activity 10:** Provide capacity strengthening through supply chain technical advice and services to the Government of Burundi and to humanitarian and development partners.

⁸ Statistics from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, May 2020. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/76369>.

15. Through activity 10, WFP will strengthen national and local capacities in the area of supply chain management in order to enhance the effective and efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations during crises. WFP will continue to build the capacity of the Ministry of Health in preparing for and responding to health-related emergencies. This will include optimizing the supply chain for medical supplies and equipment to ensure that health centres and hospitals are well equipped; constructing screening units at health facilities; strengthening storage capacity; and increasing the stock management knowledge and technical skills of staff in the central office for the purchase of essential medicines.⁹ WFP will also support the Ministry of Agriculture in implementing its strategy for the management of national emergency food reserves.

Strategic outcome 5

16. Changes under strategic outcome 5 include the revision of activity 8 and the creation of a new activity that brings supply chain-related activities closer in line with the revised corporate guidance on service provision.
17. **Revised output:** Vulnerable populations in Burundi will benefit from cost efficient humanitarian assistance through WFP's provision of on-demand supply chain services to the Government and the humanitarian and development community.
18. **Revised activity 8:** Provide on-demand services for the humanitarian community and development partners.
19. **New output:** Affected populations receive life-saving food, non-food items and medical supplies in a timely manner thanks to logistics sector services provided to national disaster management cells, humanitarian agencies and partners.
20. **New activity 9:** Provide technical assistance through the logistics sector to the national disaster platform and humanitarian partners to improve emergency logistics coordination and supply chain management.
21. Through activity 8, WFP will continue to leverage its supply chain expertise and capacity to provide on-demand services to partners on a cost-recovery basis. These services include transport, storage, warehousing and fuel provision.
22. With activity 9, WFP will provide technical assistance to the Government and humanitarian partners through the logistics sector with the aim of improving the effectiveness of the humanitarian response. This will include identifying common logistics gaps and potential bottlenecks; collecting and disseminating logistics information and knowledge from all partners regarding available logistics services. WFP will continue to support the revitalization of the Lake Tanganyika transport corridor to increase its capacity and utilization by Burundi and the other countries bordering Lake Tanganyika.

Strategic outcome 2

23. Strategic outcome 2 has been reworded to reflect WFP's support for government social protection systems.
24. **Revised strategic outcome 2:** Food insecure households in targeted areas have safe access to adequate and nutritious food all year round, including through social protection systems.
25. Activity 5 has been reworded to focus on home-grown school feeding (HGFS), one of the main social safety nets in Burundi, and WFP's support to the Government in the development of an HGFS policy and the gradual rollout of a national HGFS programme.

⁹ Centrale d'achat des médicaments essentiels du Burundi. <http://camebu.net/>.

26. **New output under strategic outcome 2:** The Government and partners are supported through technical assistance for the development, coordination and implementation of a single social protection registry.
27. **Revised activity 5:** Provide home-grown school meals to schoolchildren and support national institutions in the formulation of a national home-grown school meals policy and the development of social protection delivery systems.
28. WFP co-leads the social protection outcome group with the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender. WFP will continue to support the Government in the development of a single registry to ensure a more equitable, responsive and inclusive distribution of resources while also increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of assistance delivery.

Targeting approach and beneficiary analysis

29. With activity 1, WFP will introduce the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for children age 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women and provide nutrition support for people living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment and TB clients undergoing directly observed treatment as recommended by the joint assessment mission team.

Transfer modalities

30. Through activity 1, refugees will receive a top-up of USD 0.09/person/day¹⁰ for the purchase of fresh foods.
31. Specialized nutritious foods and nutrition counselling will be provided to children age 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women to treat moderate acute malnutrition, and to people living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment and TB clients undergoing directly observed treatment to support nutrition recovery. Social and behaviour change communication will promote the consumption of a more nutritious and diversified diet based on locally available fresh produce.
32. Through activity 4, food insecure households will receive a daily transfer value of USD 1.06 per household¹¹ to meet their basic food and nutrition needs.

Partnerships

33. WFP will continue to engage with donors including the Government of Burundi, which is already contributing USD 2.5 million per year to the school feeding programme. In parallel, WFP will strengthen collaboration with non-traditional donors (including the private sector).

Country office capacity

34. As the supply chain unit is understaffed, WFP has started to increase the workforce in order to strengthen capacity at the country office and sub-office levels.

Supply chain challenges

35. As the COVID-19 crisis unfolds globally, Burundi may face interruptions to critical supply chains that are likely to affect the movement of people and essential goods. Fuel supply is likely to be affected by border closures. To mitigate these access challenges, WFP will seek alternative supply chain routes, lobby governments to ensure that essential supply corridors remain open and prioritize local procurement to the extent possible. WFP will increase its emergency fuel stock capacity to 180,000 litres from the current 30,000 litres to mitigate the risk of fuel shortages.

¹⁰ In line with the results of the “Fill the Nutrient Gap” analysis conducted in 2019 regarding the cost of a nutritious diet that would complement the in-kind ration provided for refugees.

¹¹ In line with the recommendations of the 2019 “Fill the Nutrient Gap” analysis.

Monitoring and evaluation

36. Systems and tools are being updated and digitized, and innovations in remote monitoring will be implemented to overcome access challenges caused by COVID-19. The digitalization of the school feeding programme reporting through *School Connect* will enable schools to track attendance, monitor stock levels, compose menus and produce real-time reports. Best practices and lessons learned from the ongoing pilot will guide the rollout of this platform to all schools by the end of 2021.
37. In 2021, WFP will undertake a mid-term evaluation of the food and nutrition security programme financed by the Netherlands.

Accountability to affected populations, protection risks, restrictions related to gender and disabilities

38. WFP will continuously analyse protection risks and develop mitigating measures that guarantee the safety and dignity of affected populations. The country office has finalized complaint and feedback mechanism standard operating procedures and a related action plan for all activities. A privacy impact assessment will be conducted to inform programming and support the country office in mitigating privacy risks.
39. A study on the impact of food and non-food assistance on gender-based violence in refugee camps will be conducted in 2020 to attain a deeper understanding of the issue and propose specific measures for mitigating gender-based violence.
40. The country office gender action plan for 2017–2020 will be assessed in 2020 and any ensuing recommendations will feed into a new action plan integrating outcomes related to protection, gender and accountability to affected populations. This new action plan will be in line with WFP's new global protection and gender policies.

Risk management

41. In a context of unprecedented competing global demands for resources, WFP may face funding challenges when implementing the ICSP. WFP will continue to engage with donors at all levels to raise awareness of the need for assistance. In the event of funding shortfalls, WFP will prioritize life-saving activities.
42. The risks of activity 9 are related to a lack of coordination and the use of differing approaches in addressing shocks through various platforms at the local and national levels, which could prevent stakeholders from responding to shocks strategically. Measures to mitigate this risk include the provision of technical assistance to the Government and partners in contingency planning; the handover of tools for information sharing on logistics needs and available services; and enhanced coordination of the logistics sector.
43. With regard to activity 10 the major risk is a lack of government capacity to respond to shocks and ensure continued service delivery during emergencies. To address this, WFP is already undertaking capacity assessments that will inform the identification of priority areas for capacity development to be supported by WFP, including resource mobilization.
44. The security level in Burundi is moderate. WFP will continue to monitor the security situation and manage security risks in a proactive manner.

Beneficiary analysis

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY								
Strategic outcome	Activity	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total	
1	Unconditional resource transfer activity 1 – Food/Cash	Current	11 565	10 980	11 205	11 250	45 000	
		Increase/decrease	16 665	15 894	16 204	16 237	65 000	
		Revised	16 665	15 894	16 204	16 237	65 000	
	Unconditional resource transfer activity 2 – Food	Current	256 390	244 520	249 290	249 800	1 000 000	
		Increase/decrease	45 637	43 525	44 374	44 464	178 000	
		Revised	302 027	288 045	293 664	294 264	1 178 000	
	Unconditional resource transfer activity 2 – Cash	Current	7 692	7 336	7 478	7 494	30 000	
		Increase/decrease	18 461	17 606	17 947	17 986	72 000	
		Revised	26 153	24 942	25 426	25 480	102 000	
2	Asset creation and livelihood activity 4 – Food	Current	3 205	3 057	3 116	3 123	12 500	
		Increase/decrease		-	-	-	-	
		Revised	3 205	3 057	3 116	3 123	12 500	
	Asset creation and livelihood activity 4 – Cash	Current	25 639	24 452	24 929	24 980	100 000	
		Increase/decrease	27 690	26 408	26 923	26 978	108 000	
		Revised	53 329	50 860	51 852	51 958	208 000	
	School meals programme activity 5 – Food	Current	-	-	338 560	341 280	679 840	
		Increase/decrease	-	-	283 860	286 140	570 000	
		Revised total	-	-	338 560	341 280	679 840	
	School meals programme activity 4 – Cash	Current	-	-	9 960	10 040	20 000	
		Increase/decrease	-	-	9 960	10 040	20 000	
		Revised total	-	-	9 960	10 040	20 000	
	3	Nutrition prevention activities 6 – Food	Current	158 500	-	247 632	234 368	640 500
			Increase/decrease	48 600	-	64 800	66 600	180 000
			Revised	221 535	-	295 380	303 585	820 500
Total (without overlap)		Current	648 113	618 107	630 165	631 454	2 527 840	
		Increase/decrease	157 054	103 433	464 068	468 445	1 193 000*	
		Revised	757 333	722 271	736 362	737 868	2 953 834	

* This figure represents the total number of beneficiaries to be assisted in 2021.

	Strategic outcome 1				Strategic outcome 2	
	Activity 1	Activity 1	Activity 1	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 4
Beneficiary type	Refugees	Children age 6–59 months	Pregnant and lactating women	People living with HIV/TB	Returnees	Local population
Modality	Cash-based transfers	Food	Food	Food	Cash-based transfers	Cash-based transfers
Cash-based transfers	0.09				0.50	0.212
Super Cereal Plus			250	250		
Ready to use supplementary food (Plumpy'Sup)		92				
Number of feeding days per year	360	90	180	180 (people living with HIV) 90 (TB)	90	88

Transfers

Food type/ cash-based transfer	Current budget		Increase		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	69 058	28 433 893	22 749	9 647 114	91 807	38 081 007
Pulses	20 556	14 044 668	6 756	4 283 585	27 312	18 328 253
Oil and fats	4 712	4 062 300	1 552	1 206 216	6 264	5 268 516
Mixed and blended foods	12 672	16 267 624	4 075	5 898 563	16 747	22 166 187
Other	2 661	2 210 592	1 115	837 528	3 777	3 048 120
Total (food)	109 659	65 019 077	36 248	21 873 006	145 907	86 892 084
Cash-based transfers		16 737 000		9 958 848		26 695 848
Total (food and cash-based transfer value)	109 659	81 756 077	36 248	31 831 854	145 907	113 587 932

Cost breakdown

	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 2/ SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 3/ SDG Target 2.3	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 17.16	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	Strategic outcome 4	Strategic outcome 5	Strategic outcome 6	
Focus area	Crisis response	Resilience building	Resilience building	Root causes	Resilience building	Crisis response	
Transfer	22 628 669	21 743 966	7 817 501	631 111	1 481 123	1 178 424	55 480 794
Implementation	1 900 229	3 794 838	1 658 152	326 086	333 565	290 992	8 303 863
Adjusted direct support costs							5 357 387
Subtotal							69 142 044
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)							3 198 784
Total							72 340 828

	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 2/ SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 3/ SDG Target 2.3	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 17.16	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	Strategic outcome 4	Strategic outcome 5	Strategic outcome 6	
Focus area	Crisis response	Resilience building	Resilience building	Root causes	Resilience building	Crisis response	
Transfer	68 959 445	79 451 267	31 436 688	2 697 361	14 728 401	1 178 424	198 451 586
Implementation	7 790 950	13 818 887	8 084 183	1 333 528	3 855 748	290 992	35 174 288
Adjusted direct support costs	6 387 428	7 732 801	3 252 610	334 818	1 557 883	122 129	19 387 671
Subtotal	83 137 823	101 002 956	42 773 481	4 365 707	20 142 032	1 591 546	253 013 545
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	5 403 959	6 565 192	2 780 276	283 771	13 783	103 450	15 150 431
Total	88 541 782	107 568 148	45 553 757	4 649 478	20 155 815	1 694 996	268 163 976

Acronyms

CSP	country strategic plan
HGSF	home-grown school feeding
ICSP	interim country strategic plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TB	tuberculosis