

Acute Food Insecurity

Between April to May 2021, coinciding with the lean season, over 1 million people in Burundi experienced high levels of acute food insecurity, classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), due to flooding, economic decline and the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. These include about 107,000 people (1%) classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), 1,507,000 (13%) in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and 5,030,000 (43%) in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). With the upcoming harvest of the major cropping season (B), from June to September 2021, the population in high levels of acute food insecurity (Crisis and Emergency phases) is likely to fall from 1.61 million (14% of the total population) to 1.04 million (9%), a decrease of 35% between the two periods.

During the current analysis period, all livelihood zones are classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2), except for the Northern Depression (ND), which is classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), with 201,000 people in high levels of acute food insecurity, of whom 50,000 are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). From June to September 2021, the area will move to IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), with 101,000 people (10% of its population) in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Recurrent climatic hazards, displacement, intense repatriation flows and the COVID-19 pandemic in a context of low resilience are at the root of the food insecurity identified in this analysis. The combined effect of structural factors (including inadequate access to land and other factors of production) and cyclical factors (including natural shocks) also explain the current levels of food insecurity. Recent shocks include water scarcity that has compromised cereal and pulse harvests in the Northern Depression. Flooding has particularly affected activities on the Lake Tanganyika coastline in a context of disruption of cross-border activities (trade and economic migration) following the strengthening of preventive measures against the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of the analysis, people affected by the water scarcity in the north and the floods in the west having lost most of their crop production were already receiving assistance.

Acute Malnutrition

From September to December 2020, which coincides with the peak period for acute malnutrition, only one district in Burundi is in a Serious nutritional situation (IPC Phase 3). The other 31 districts are in Alert (IPC Phase 2). Between January and August 2021, the situation is expected to improve slightly, with 12 districts moving to Acceptable (IPC Phase 1). However, the situation will remain unchanged for the remaining districts: 20 districts will stay in Alert (IPC Phase 2). It is estimated that around 140,000 children aged 6-59 months and over 26,000 pregnant or lactating women will likely suffer from acute malnutrition during 2021, based on the results of the national SMART survey conducted in September 2020.

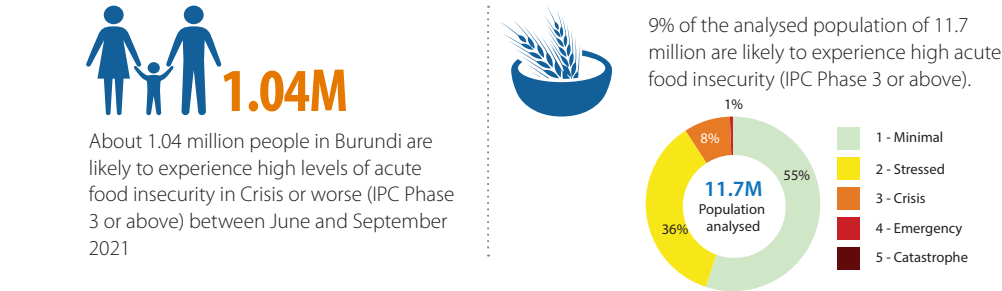
The major contributing factors to the deterioration of the nutritional situation include inadequate food intake of children aged 6-23 months, with proportions ranging from 5.3 to 14.5%, and low minimum diet, with rates ranging from 3.4 to 13.2%. As a result, high levels of diarrhoea, malaria and acute respiratory infections are key drivers of the nutrition situation in most IPC Phase 2 or 3 districts. In addition, poor access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities contribute to increased levels of acute malnutrition in the majority of the districts analysed.

IPC Partners in Burundi

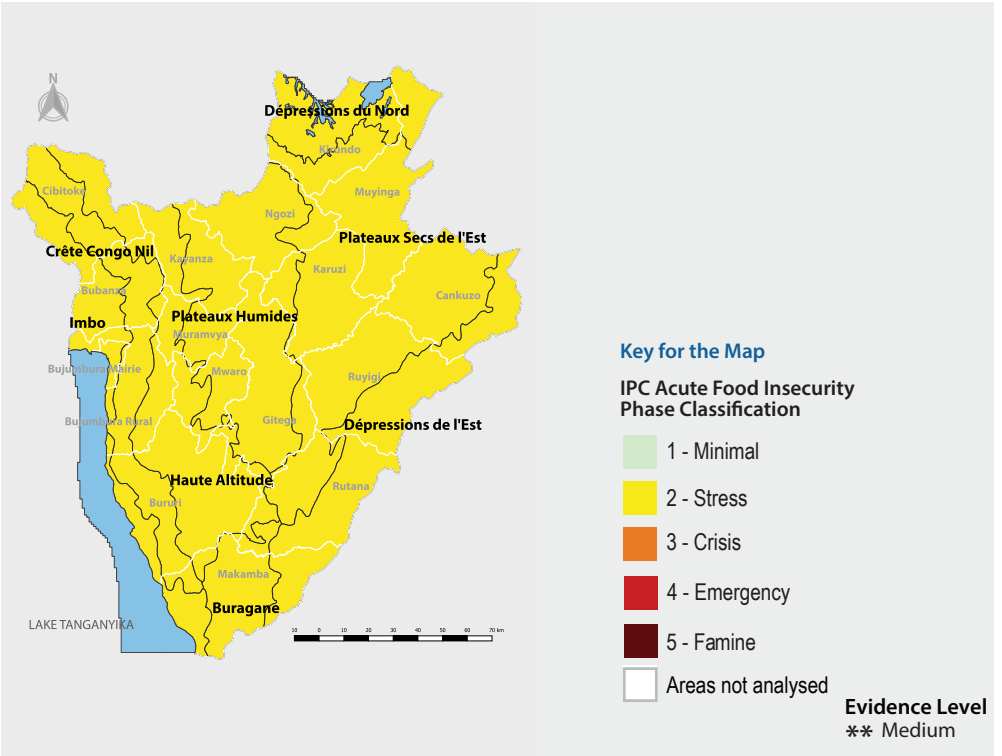


Publication date: 23 June 2021 | *IPC population data is based on population estimate by ISTEUBU: The Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Burundi. | Feedback: IPC@FAO.org | Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical and political boundaries.

Projected Acute Food Insecurity | June - September 2021



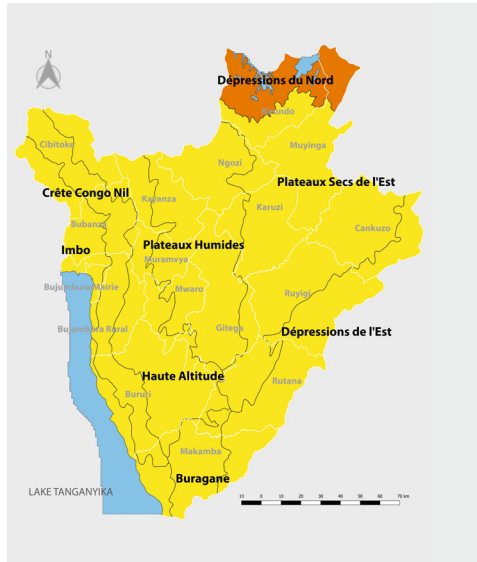
Projected Acute Food Insecurity Situation | June - September 2021



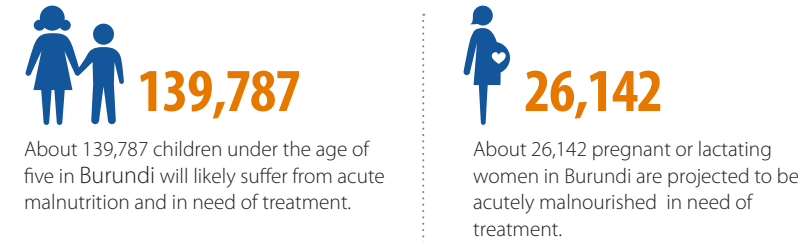
Key Drivers of Acute Food Insecurity

- COVID-19**
Restrictions related to the control of the COVID-19 pandemic drove up prices for food and agricultural inputs depriving many households of adequate access to food.
- Flooding**
Flooding adversely affected farming activities on the shores of Lake Tanganyika and disrupted cross-border trade between Tanzania and Burundi.
- Dry Spells**
Dry spells have led to water scarcity compromising cereal and pulse harvests in most of the northern regions.

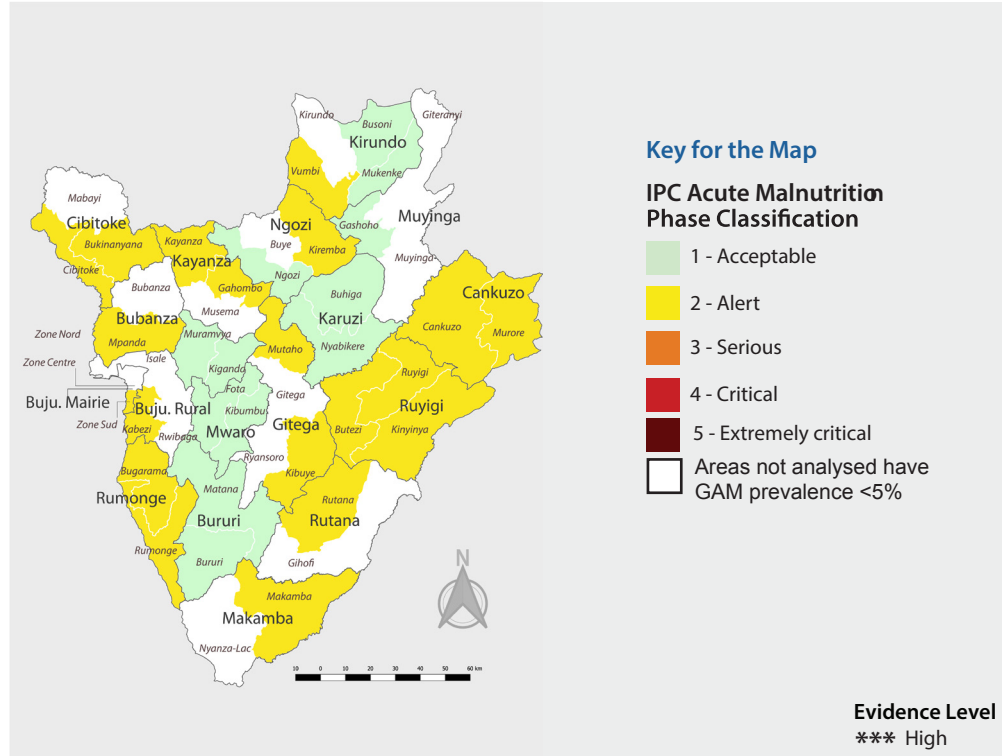
Burundi
Current Acute Food Insecurity
April - May 2021



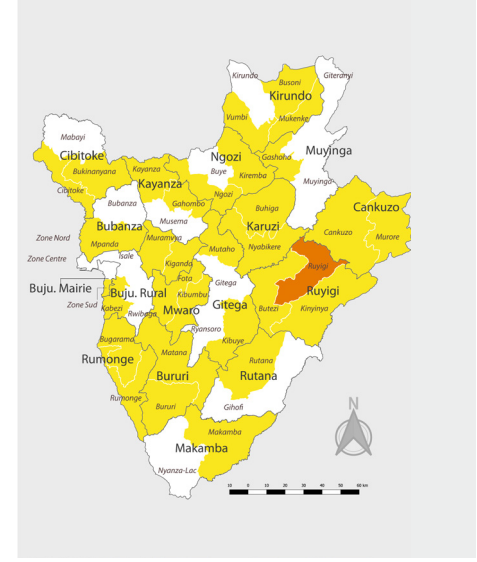
Acute Malnutrition | September 2020 - August 2021



Projected Acute Malnutrition Situation | January - August 2021



Burundi
Current Acute Malnutrition
September - December 2020



Contributing Factors

- Poor Dietary Diversity**
Inadequate food intake of children aged 6-23 months with proportions ranging from 5.3 to 14.5%, low minimum diet with rates ranging from 3.4 to 13.2%.
- Diseases**
Frequent disease outbreaks, including diarrhoea, malaria, and acute respiratory infections, are major contributing factors in most IPC Phase 2 or 3 districts.
- Poor access to safe drinking water**
Poor access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities contribute to increased levels of acute malnutrition in the majority of the districts analysed.