



GIEWS Country Brief Burundi

Reference Date: 14-November-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Concerns for production of “2023A” season crops due to below-average rains and low application of fertilizers
- Preventive measures to curb spread of Rift Valley Fever outbreak among ruminants affecting incomes from livestock rearing activities
- Prices of maize and beans higher than year earlier mainly due to high fuel prices inflating transport costs
- Food security conditions seasonally deteriorating during lean period between October and December, with 1.4 million people estimated to face severe acute food insecurity

Concerns for production of “2023A” season crops due to below-average rains and low application of fertilizers

The 2022 (September-November) “short rainy season” was characterized by a substantially delayed onset of rains, which established in mid-October over most cropping areas. The late onset of seasonal rains delayed planting of “2023A” season crops, to be harvested from December and accounting for about 35 percent of the aggregate crop output, and affected establishment and development of early planted crops. As a result, vegetation condition is currently at below-average levels.

According to the latest weather forecast by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development’s (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), precipitation amounts during the remainder of the rainy season are expected to be below average, with a likely negative impact on yields. In addition, yields are likely to be constrained by a low application of fertilizers due to their high prices. The increasing price trend began in 2021 and was exacerbated since early 2022 by the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine on the global supply of fertilizers. In 2020, the country imported around 13 percent of fertilizers directly from the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and 60 percent from the United Republic of Tanzania.

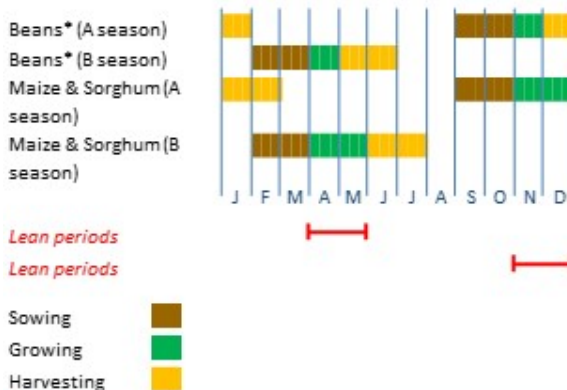
Measures to curb spread of Rift Valley Fever outbreak among ruminants affecting incomes from livestock rearing activities

An outbreak of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) among ruminants (cattle,

Burundi

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burundi

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 estimate	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	259	260	280	7.7
Rice (paddy)	115	150	120	-20.1
Sorghum	23	25	25	0.0
Others	11	11	11	0.0
Total	408	446	436	-2.3

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

goats and sheep), first detected in April 2022 in Kirundo and Ngozi provinces near the border with Rwanda, subsequently spread to Kayanza, Karusi, Cibitoke, Bujumbura, Rumonge and Makamba provinces in May.

In response to the outbreak, the Ministry of Agriculture banned the movement, the sale and the slaughter of ruminants in the affected areas. The measures put in place prevented a further spread of the outbreak, but the closure of livestock markets and the community fear of being infected resulted in lower demand for livestock products and in a decrease in income for farming households owning livestock. To compensate for these losses, households had to fall back on the sale of food crops from the “2022B” season, resulting in an early depletion of stocks.

The start of a vaccination campaign in July resulted in a substantial decline in RVF cases and in September 2022 the resumption of slaughtering activities was announced. However, the reopening of livestock markets is still not complete and livestock restocking activities have yet to resume. As a result, labour opportunities and incomes from livestock husbandry, sales and butchering increased, but remained below average.

Prices of maize and beans higher than year earlier mainly due to high fuel prices

Prices of maize increased by 20-50 percent between June and October 2022, despite increased market availabilities from the “2022B” season harvest, gathered in June and July and estimated at above-average levels. Maize prices in October were 40-55 percent higher than a year earlier, despite adequate domestic availabilities, mainly due to high transport costs owing to high prices of fuel, underpinned by the impact of the war in Ukraine on international prices. Similarly, prices of beans in October were 25-45 percent higher on a yearly basis.

Food security conditions seasonally deteriorating during lean period between October and December

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, 1.4 million people (12 percent of the analysed population) are estimated to face severe acute food insecurity in the lean period between October and December 2022. This figure, which includes 1.35 million people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 51 000 people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), is about 17 percent higher than the previous estimate for the post-harvest period between June and September 2022 and similar to the estimate for the same period in 2021.

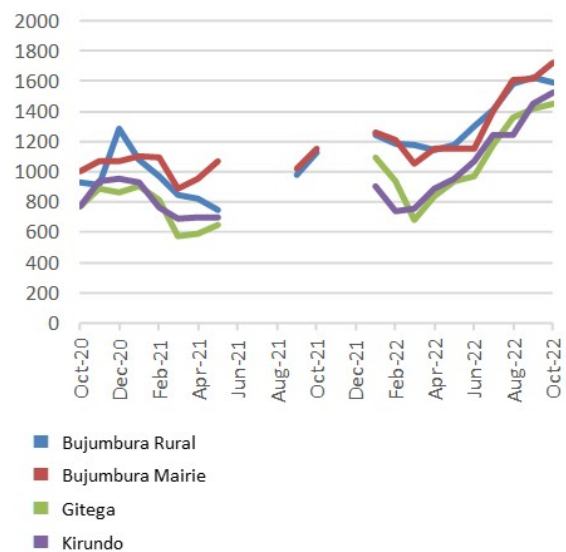
The seasonal deterioration of the food security situation between the June-September post-harvest period and the October-December lean season has been more substantial in the eastern Lowland and in the central Humid Plateaus livelihood zones. In these areas, the prevalence of severe acute food insecurity increased from 10 to 15 percent and from 15 to 20 percent, respectively, mainly due to the reduced “2022B” season production of beans, caused by erratic February-May “long-rains”.

Particular concerns exist for the food security situation of 85 000 Internally displaced persons (IDPs), mainly displaced by natural disasters, and for about 87 000 refugees and asylum seekers, predominantly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which

Burundi

Maize (white) prices in selected markets

Burundi franc per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

Burundi - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

Projection October – December 2022



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

have limited livelihood opportunities and need to rely on humanitarian assistance.

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GIEWS Country Brief Burundi

Reference Date: 18-August-2021

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average aggregate cereal production expected in 2021 due to abundant seasonal rains
- Erratic distribution of rains affects production of pulses in 2021
- Prices of pulses higher than year earlier
- Food security substantially improving across country

Above-average aggregate cereal production expected in 2021

Harvesting of the “2021B” main season crops, accounting for about 50 percent of the annual crop output, was concluded in late July. The February-May “long-rains” season was characterized by a timely onset and by abundant precipitation in February, with rainfall amounts estimated at 20-60 percent above average. Below-average rainfall amounts in March and April were followed by abundant rains in May, estimated at 30-60 percent above average. Overall, cumulative rainfall amounts between February and May was estimated at 10-25 percent above average. Planted area increased compared to the previous seasons, mainly in State-owned lands and farmers’ cooperatives.

The above-average seasonal precipitation was beneficial for crop establishment and development, with a positive impact on yields (ASI map). Overall, the “2021B” season crop production is estimated at 10-15 percent above average. However, in the lowlands of eastern Rutana, Ruyigi and Cankuzo provinces, localized production shortfalls of beans are recorded as pulses are particularly vulnerable to erratic distribution of rainfall.

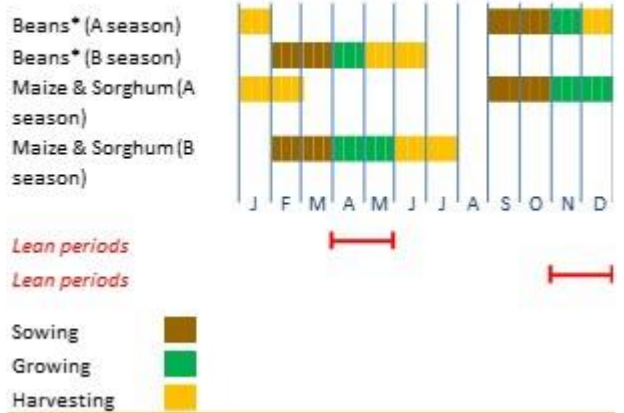
The above-average precipitation triggered flooding in several areas. In April and May, the rising level of Lake Tanganyika and the overflow of the Rusizi River displaced about 40 000 people in Bujumbura Rural, Bujumbura Mairie, Rumonge and Makamba provinces and resulted in localized crop losses.

Harvesting of the “2021A” season crops, representing about 35 percent of the yearly crop production, was concluded in March, with about a one-month delay due to the late onset of the September-December 2020 “short-rains”. The rainy season was characterized by above-average cumulative rainfall amounts, but precipitation had an irregular spatial and temporal distribution. Total crop production was estimated to be 5-10 percent above average, driven by ample harvests of maize, tubers and bananas, while the output of beans was estimated at 10 percent below

Burundi

Crop Calendar

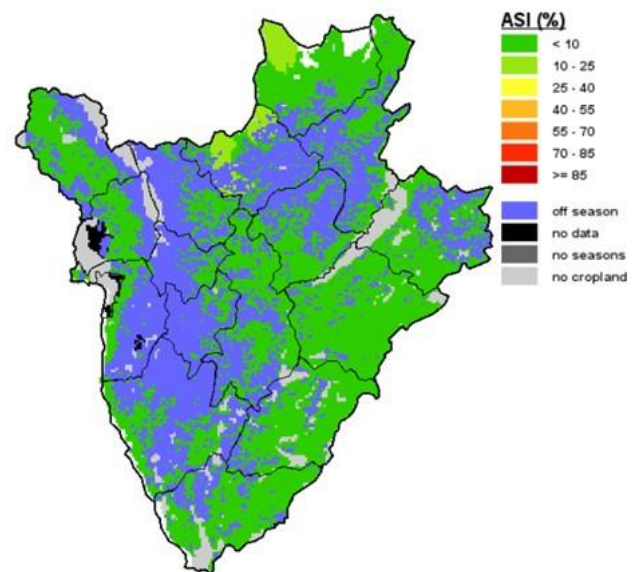
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burundi - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 1, June 2021



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

average. In northern Kirundo and Muyinga provinces, below-average rainfall in November affected beans, maize and sorghum at critical flowering stage, seriously affecting yields and resulting in significantly reduced local harvests.

The harvest of the minor “2021C” season crops, accounting for about 15 percent of the yearly crop production, will start in September in marshlands and irrigated areas. As the abundant rains in May adequately recharged water sources, vegetation conditions are generally favourable and an above-average crop production is expected.

The 2021 aggregate cereal production is tentatively forecast at almost 440 000 tonnes, about 2 percent down from 2020 and about 8 percent above the average of the previous five years.

Prices of pulses higher than year earlier

According to the Institut de statistiques et d'études économiques du Burundi (ISTEEBU), the year-on-year increase of the Consumer price index (CPI) was estimated in June at 9.1 percent, while the CPI of food commodities increased by 12.2 percent on a yearly basis. The yearly increase of the CPI of bread and cereals was estimated at a low 3.2 percent due to adequate market supplies following above-average harvests. By contrast, the year-on-year CPI of legumes, accounting for the largest share of the food basket and among the main staples, increased by 16 percent on a yearly basis as a result of production shortfalls.

Food security conditions improving following above-average “2021B” harvest

According to the latest IPC analysis, 1.04 million people (9 percent of the analyzed population) are estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3: [Crisis] and Phase 4: [Emergency]) in the period June-September 2021. This figure, which includes 988 000 people in IPC Phase 3: (Crisis) and 56 000 people in IPC Phase 4; (Emergency), is about 35 percent lower than the estimate for the period April-May 2020. The substantial improvement of the food security situation is due to the above-average “2020B” season harvest, which increased food availability and improved access. Major improvements are reported in the Northern Lowlands Livelihood Zone, where a reduced 2021A harvest was gathered in early 2021. The food security situation also improved in the Inbo Plains Livelihood Zone, although about 56 000 people still face IPC Phase 4: (Emergency) levels of food insecurity as a result of the livelihood losses caused by floods in April-May.

The current food insecure caseload is one of the lowest on record since 2017 mainly due to the introduction of social safety net programmes and agricultural production promotion programmes through subsidized sales of fertilizers and improved seeds. However, the persisting negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect food security, especially in border areas, where the income of poor households who depend on cross-border petty trade and labour opportunities has been severely affected by the closure of the borders and by mandatory COVID-19 tests with prohibitively high costs.

Concerns exist for the food security situation of 125 000 IDPs, mainly displaced by natural disasters, and of about 80 000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, due to their limited livelihood opportunities and need to rely on humanitarian assistance.

Burundi

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 forecast	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	259	260	280	7.7
Rice (paddy)	115	150	120	-20.0
Sorghum	23	25	28	12.0
Others	11	11	11	0.0
Total	408	446	439	-1.6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Burundi - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

Projection June-September 2021



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GIEWS Country Brief Burundi

Reference Date: 20-August-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average “2020B” season crop production reflecting abundant seasonal rains
- Localized production shortfalls of pulses expected due to excessive moisture
- Above-average aggregate cereal production expected in 2020 following above-average “2020A” and “2020B” season harvests
- Prices of cereals stable at low levels reflecting adequate domestic availabilities
- Food security substantially improving due to above-average “2020B” season harvest, despite livelihood losses caused by COVID-19-related restrictions and localized floods in April

Above-average “2020B” season crop production reflecting abundant rains

Harvesting of the “2020B” main season crops, accounting for about 50 percent of the yearly crop output, was completed in July. The February-May “long-rains” season was characterized by a timely onset and by abundant precipitation amounts, especially in April, when cumulative rains were between twice and three times the long-term average. The rainy season had an earlier-than-usual cessation around mid-May, but it did not affect vegetation conditions due to the substantial moisture surpluses accumulated during the season.

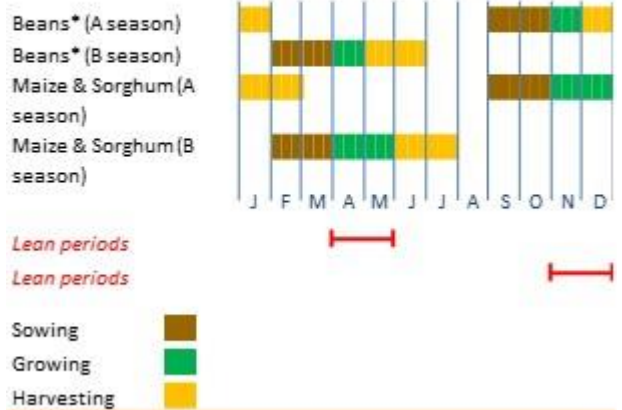
The abundant seasonal precipitation was beneficial for crop establishment, development and yields, with no significant drought stress registered as of the end of May, immediately before the start of the harvest in June (see ASI image). Thus, crop production is estimated at above-average levels, driven by ample harvests of cereals, tubers and bananas, despite some localized production shortfalls of pulses due to excessive moisture.

The torrential rains in April triggered flooding and landslides in several areas, mainly in western in Cibitoke, Bubanza, Rumonge, Bujumbura Mairie and Bujumbura Rural provinces, affecting about 45 000 people and resulting in displacements, loss of lives and damage to infrastructures. However, crop losses, estimated, at about 1 500 hectares, were minimal, amounting to less than 1 percent of the “B” season area planted in recent years.

Burundi

Crop Calendar

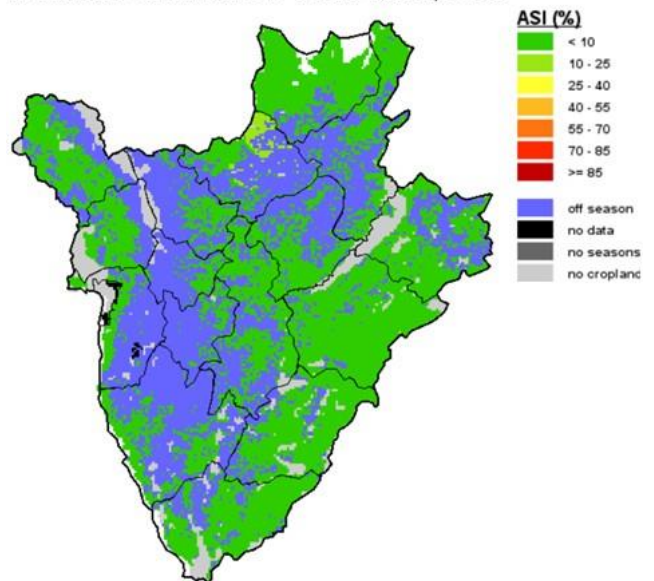
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burundi - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 3, May 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Above-average aggregate cereal production expected in 2020

Harvesting of the “2020A” season crops, representing about 35 percent of the yearly crop production, was concluded in February. The September-December 2019 “short-rains” season was characterized by well above-average rainfall amounts, with cumulative seasonal precipitation estimated at up to twice the long-term average. The heavy seasonal rains boosted yields, and crop production was estimated at above-average levels.

The harvest of the minor “2020C” season crops, accounting for about 15 percent of the yearly crop production, will start in September in marshlands and irrigated areas. Although the latest Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) weather forecast pointed to an above-average precipitation between June and September, the rains in June and July were below average. However, as the abundant February-May rains adequately recharged water sources, vegetation conditions in July were favourable over most cropping areas (see Vegetation Condition Index image) and an above-average crop production is expected.

As a result, the 2020 aggregate cereal production is tentatively forecast at almost 360 000 tonnes, about 5 percent up from 2019 and about 13 percent above the average of the previous five years.

Prices of maize stable at low levels

Prices of maize declined by 40-45 percent between December 2019 and April 2020 in all monitored markets including the capital, Bujumbura, as newly harvested crops from the “2020A” above-average harvest increased supplies. Subsequently, prices remained mostly stable between April and July around their year-earlier levels, due to adequate domestic availabilities.

Food security conditions improving following above-average “2020B” harvest

According to the latest IPC analysis, about 859 000 people (8 percent of the analysed population) are estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” and Phase 4: “Emergency”) in the period June-August 2020. This figure, which includes 817 000 people in IPC Phase 3 and 42 000 people in IPC Phase 4, is about 40 percent down from the estimate of 1 444 million people in May 2020. The substantial improvement of the food security situation is the result of the above-average “2020B” season harvest, which substantially increased food availability and improved access. These positive factors offset the livelihood losses caused by floods and landslides and the negative impact on wage rates, labour opportunities and remittances on cross-border trade of agricultural produce of restrictions imposed to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic (see Box below).

The current food insecure caseload is the lowest on record since 2017, mainly due to the introduction of social safety net programmes and agricultural production promotion programmes through subsidized sales of fertilizers and improved seeds. However, the food security situation of the country is structurally fragile due to high population density, land degradation, recurrent natural disasters and high poverty rates, with more than

Burundi

Cereal Production

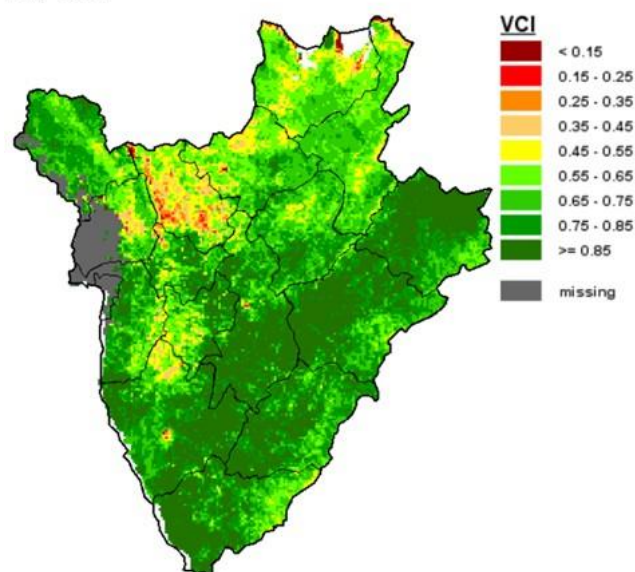
	2015-2019	2019	2020	change
	average		forecast	2020/2019
000 tonnes				percent
Maize	223	260	260	0.0
Rice (paddy)	62	54	66	22.1
Sorghum	22	18	22	22.2
Others	11	11	11	0.0
Total	318	343	359	4.7

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Burundi - Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

July 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

40 percent of households estimated to suffer from poverty in early 2019. Against this backdrop, the persisting negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic poses a serious risk to the country's food security. To mitigate these impacts, FAO has launched the [Revised humanitarian response Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\), May–December 2020](#), aiming to assist about 865 000 beneficiaries with agricultural input distributions, livestock support, cash transfers and income-generating activities.

Since civil unrest erupted in April/May 2015, thousands of Burundians fled their homes. As of late June 2020, about 334 000 refugees still sheltered in neighbouring countries, mainly in the United Republic of Tanzania as well as in Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Since late September 2017, an influx of returnees has started and, as of late June 2020, about 80 000 people returned to the country with the support of the humanitarian community. Similarly, the number of IDPs declined from 190 000 to 103 000 between November 2017 and November 2019. However, the number of IDPs increased again to 137 000 in June 2020 following floods and landslides during both the 2019 September-December and the 2020 February-March rainy seasons. Despite the recent improvements, the food security situation of most of the displaced is still precarious and they mainly depend on community support and food assistance.

Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, fleeing conflict in the Grand Kivu Region and estimated in late June at about 78 000 people, also face food insecurity, as they have limited livelihood opportunities and mainly rely on humanitarian assistance.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

The Government of Burundi introduced, since March 2020, some precautionary measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the adoption of social distancing measures; the recommendation of frequent handwashing; the installation of hand sanitizers and water for handwashing in public places; the suspension of all flights, except for cargo, humanitarian, emergency and diplomatic flights and the introduction of screening and quarantine measures at land border entries with Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Republic of Tanzania.

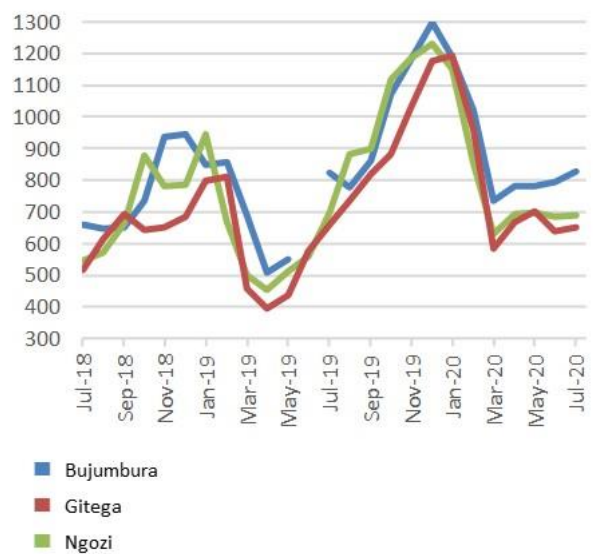
To mitigate the economic impact of these measures, the Government has implemented some fiscal measures, mainly to support the hard-hit sectors, including transport and tourism, through a tax amnesty for hotels and industries that will not be able to pay them; subsidies to help pay salaries avoiding massive layoffs and the payment by the Government of salaries for suspended services such as those provided at the Bujumbura International Airport.

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Burundi

Wholesale maize prices

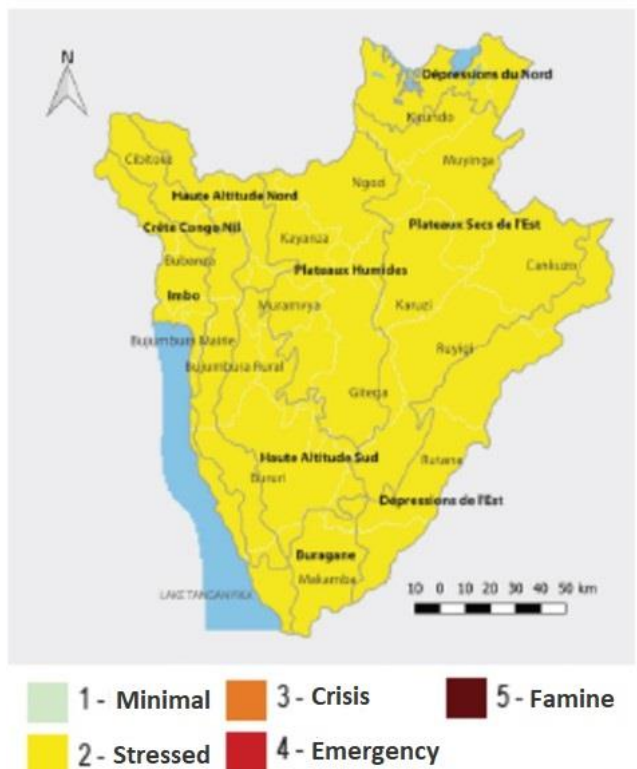
Burundi Franc per kg



Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.

Burundi - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

Projection June – August 2020





GIEWS Country Brief Burundi

Reference Date: 27-January-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Above-average “2020A” season crop production forecast due to abundant rains
- Localized production shortfalls of beans and maize expected due to excess moisture
- Torrential rains triggered floods and landslides in some northeastern, central and eastern areas between October and December, damaging local livelihoods
- Above-average aggregate cereal production obtained in 2019 due to favourable weather conditions
- Prices of cereals at high levels, prices of other staple foods generally low
- Food security conditions generally favourable, except for flood-affected vulnerable households, internally displaced persons and refugees

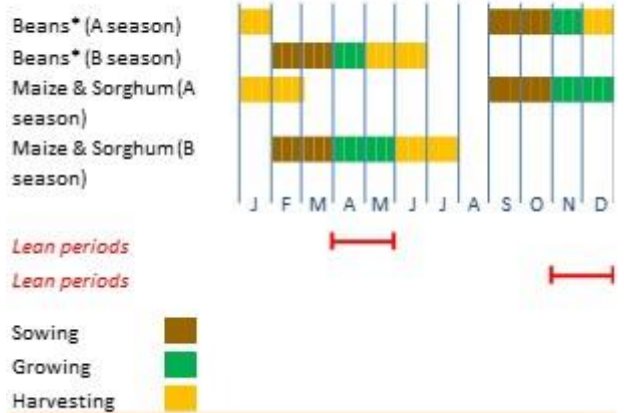
Above-average “2020A” season crop production expected due to abundant rains

Harvesting of the “2020A” season crops, representing about 35 percent of the yearly crop production, is underway and will be concluded in February. The September-December 2019 “short rainy season” was characterized by a timely onset, with a favourable impact on planting activities and by exceptionally abundant precipitation, with cumulative seasonal rains estimated at 40-100 percent above the long-term average over most cropping areas. The heavy precipitation had a positive impact on crop establishment and development, illustrated by good vegetation conditions (see ASI map). An above-average crop production is forecast, driven by ample harvests of tubers and bananas. However, the heavy precipitation is expected to result in localized production shortfalls of beans and maize due to excess moisture. In addition, the torrential rains triggered flooding in lowlands and landslides, mainly in northeastern Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces and in eastern Bujumbura Rural and Bujumbura Mairie provinces between October and December, causing crop losses, damage to infrastructure and the displacement of about 8 000 individuals.

Burundi

Crop Calendar

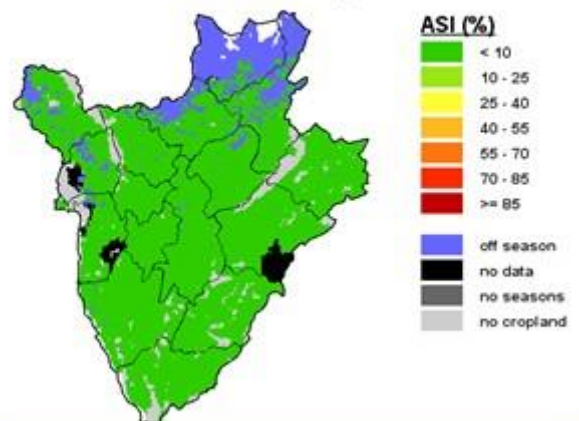
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burundi - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of Season 1 to dekad 3, December 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Above-average aggregate cereal production obtained in 2019 due to favourable weather conditions

The February-May 2019 “long rainy season” was characterized by below-average precipitation in February and March, with some negative impacts on vegetation conditions. Subsequently, abundant rains in April and May over most cropping areas brought cumulative seasonal amounts to above-average levels and boosted yields. As a result, the “2019B” harvest, representing about 50 percent of the yearly crop production and concluded in July, was estimated at above-average levels. Similarly, the minor “2019C” season harvest, accounting for about 15 percent of the yearly crop production and gathered in September in marshlands and irrigated areas, was above average, as adequate rains in June and July recharged water sources.

Earlier in the year, the “2019A” season harvest, representing about 35 percent of the yearly crop production, was estimated at above-average levels due to favourable weather conditions.

Accordingly, the 2019 aggregate cereal production is put at about 326 000 tonnes, similar to the 2018 output and about 10 percent above the average of the previous five years.

Prices of cereals at high levels, prices of other staple foods generally low

According to the Institut de Statistiques et d'Etudes Economiques du Burundi (ISTEEBU), the year on year food inflation rate for food products stood at 6.5 percent in November, mainly driven by prices of bread and cereals, which were 14.8 percent higher year on year. Despite adequate domestic availabilities, the relatively high levels of cereal prices is partly due to sustained maize demand from eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, where an upsurge in violence disrupted agricultural operations and resulted in significant production shortfalls. The annual rate of increase of prices of pulses was just 0.7 percent, while prices of fruits (including plantains and cooking bananas, important staples in the local diet) declined by 9.3 percent on a yearly basis.

Food security conditions generally favourable, except for flood-affected households, IDPs and refugees

Food availability has improved since last December, when the “2020A” season crops started to be available for local consumption, ending the lean season. However, in the flood-affected areas, local livelihood systems have been damaged and most vulnerable households are reported to face IPC Phase 3: “Crisis” levels of food insecurity, with households either suffering food consumption gaps or marginally able to meet minimum food requirements only by depleting essential livelihood assets.

Since civil unrest erupted in April/May 2015, thousands of Burundians fled their homes. As of late November 2019, about 390 000 refugees still sheltered in neighbouring countries, mainly

Burundi

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	197	264	260	-1.5
Rice (paddy)	64	35	37	5.7
Sorghum	23	18	18	-2.4
Others	12	11	11	0.0
Total	296	328	326	-0.7

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

in the United Republic of Tanzania as well as in Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Since late September 2017, an influx of returnees has started and, as of late November 2019, about 80 000 people returned to the country with the support of the humanitarian community. Similarly, the number of IDPs declined from 143 000 to 103 000 between November 2018 and November 2019. However, the number of IDPs increased again to 108 000 in December, following the floods and landslides. Most of the displaced are food insecure, depending on community support and food assistance.

Similarly, refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, fleeing conflict in the Grand Kivu Region and estimated in late November at about 84 000 people, face food insecurity, as they have limited livelihood opportunities and mainly rely on humanitarian assistance.

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GIEWS Country Brief Burundi

Reference Date: 16-September-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Weather forecasts pointing to above-average September-December 2019 rains, benefiting 2020A season crops
- Above-average 2019 cereal production due to favourable weather conditions
- Prices of staple foods declined in April and May and generally at low levels
- Food security conditions generally good due to consecutive above-average harvests
- Food security situation satisfactory also for about 75 000 refugees which have returned since 2017, mainly from the United Republic of Tanzania

Weather forecasts pointing to above-average September-December rains, benefiting 2020A season crops

Land preparation and planting of 2020A season crops, representing about 35 percent of the yearly crop production and for harvest from December 2019, have recently started. According to weather forecasts, the September-December rains are likely to be above average, with a positive impact on yields.

Above-average 2019 cereal production due to favourable weather conditions

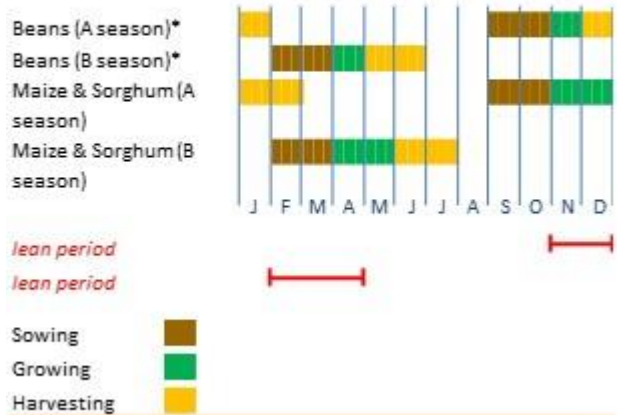
The minor 2019C season harvest, representing about 15 percent of the yearly crop production, has recently started in marshlands and irrigated areas. Adequate rains in June and July have recharged water sources, and an above-average output is expected.

Harvesting of the 2019B main season crops, accounting for about 50 percent of the yearly crop output, was completed in July. The February-to-May "long-rains" season was characterized by below-average precipitation in February and March, with some negative impacts on vegetation conditions. Subsequently, abundant rains in April and May over most cropping areas offset moisture deficits, substantially improved vegetation conditions (see vegetation Conditions Index Map) and lifted crop prospects. As a result, aggregate crop production is estimated at above-average levels, driven by ample harvests of maize, cassava, sweet potatoes and bananas. However, the output of beans was average on account of localized losses in the northern

Burundi

Crop Calendar

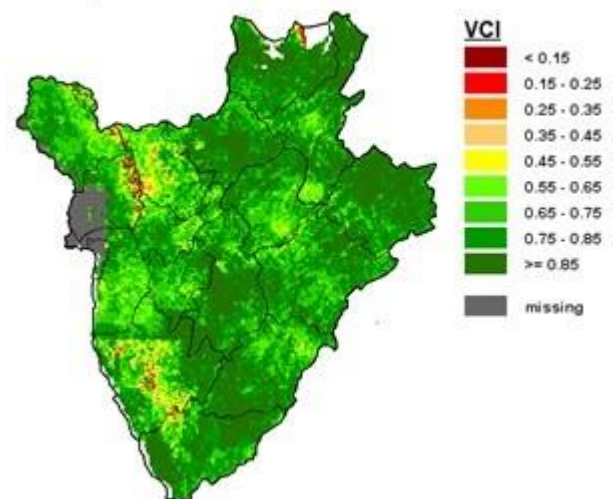
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Burundi - Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

Dekad3, June 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Kirundo Province, located in a surplus producing area, where rains were below average throughout the growing period.

Earlier in the year, the harvest of 2019A season crops, representing about 35 percent of the yearly crop production, was concluded in February over most cropping areas and production is estimated at above-average levels as rains were generally favourable in terms of amounts and distribution.

As a result, the 2019 aggregate cereal production is forecast at about 326 000 tonnes, similar to the output obtained in 2018 and 10 percent above the average of the previous five years.

Prices of staple foods declining and generally at low levels

In the capital, Bujumbura, prices of maize, beans and locally produced rice declined by 10-20 percent between April and June as traders released their stocks in anticipation of the 2019B harvest. Prices in June were around their year-earlier levels due to adequate domestic availabilities. Prices of cassava, another important staple in the country, were mostly stable in the first semester of 2019 and, in June 2019, they were 23 percent below their levels of June 2018.

Food security conditions generally good due to consecutive above-average harvests

Food availability and access have seasonally improved in June and July as crops from the above-average 2019B harvest became available for consumption. The country is generally food secure due to consecutive above-average harvests and low food prices.

Since civil unrest erupted in April/May 2015, thousands of Burundians fled their homes. About 344 000 refugees reside in neighbouring countries, mainly in the United Republic of Tanzania as well as in Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Since late September 2017, a returnee influx has been registered and, as of late July 2019, more than 75 000 people had returned to the country with the support of the humanitarian community. A total of about 116 000 voluntary returnees, mainly from the United Republic of Tanzania, is expected by the end of 2019. Similarly, the number of Internally Displaced Persons declined from 151 000 to 109 000 over the last 12 months, and most of them are food secure, as they are engaged in agricultural activities in their host communities or receive assistance from relatives.

By contrast, refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, fleeing conflict in the Grand Kivu Region and estimated in late July at about 79 000 people, have limited livelihood opportunities and mainly rely on humanitarian assistance.

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Burundi

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	197	264	260	-1.5
Rice (paddy)	64	35	37	5.7
Sorghum	23	18	18	-2.4
Others	12	11	11	0.0
Total	296	328	326	-0.1

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.



GIEWS Country Brief Burundi

Reference Date: 11-June-2018

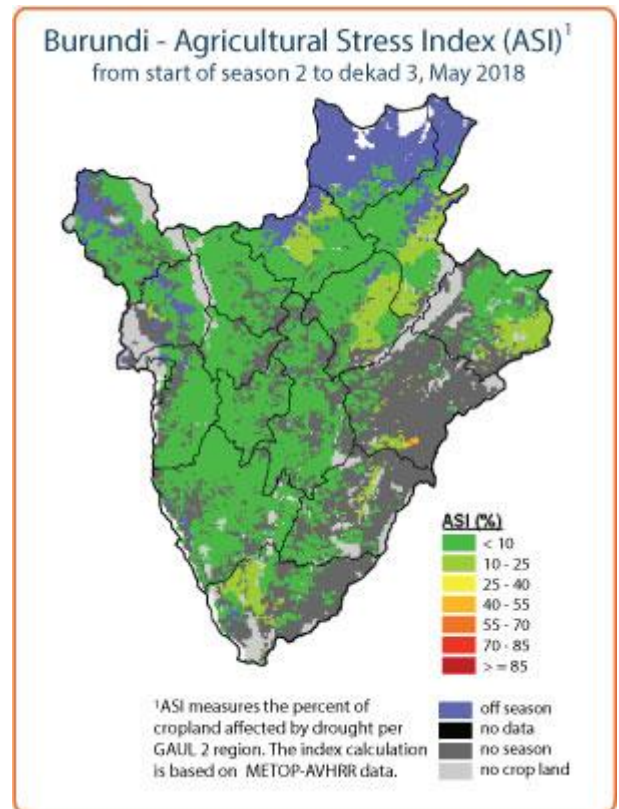
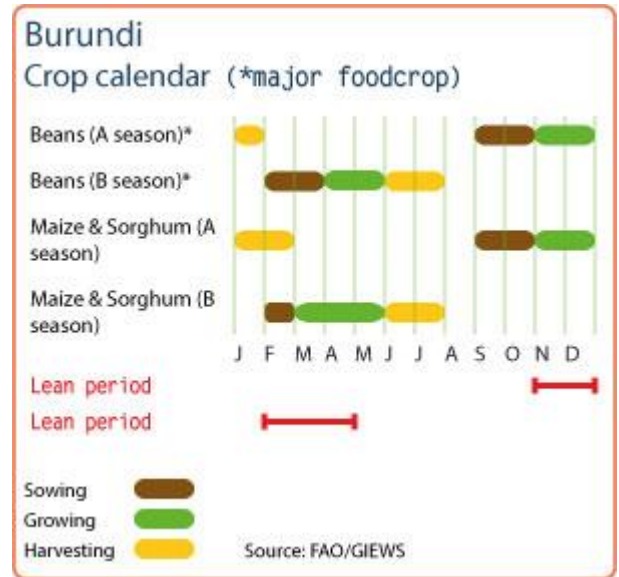
FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Average 2018B crop production despite significant pulse losses due to excess moisture
- Widespread floods in April resulting in displacement of about 9 600 individuals
- Above-average 2018A season output due to favourable weather conditions
- Prices of maize declining in recent months to low levels, prices of beans on increase
- About 1.67 million people estimated to be severely food insecure, 35 percent less than one year earlier, due to improved crop production
- Areas most affected by food insecurity are Kinyinya commune in eastern Ruyigi Province and flood affected areas

Average 2018B crop production despite significant pulse losses due to excess moisture

Harvesting of the 2018B main season crops, accounting for about 50 percent of the yearly crop production, is underway. The February-to-May “long-rains” season was characterized by below-average precipitation in February and March, followed by exceptionally high rainfall amounts in April (more than twice the long-term average). The heavy rains had a positive impact on vegetation conditions and lifted overall crop prospects but also caused landslides and triggered widespread flooding. The floods, mostly occurred in lowland and marshland areas, resulted in damage to houses, infrastructures and farmland, and in the displacement of about 10 000 people. The abundant seasonal rains were beneficial to cereals, sweet potatoes, bananas and cassava crops, while they are expected to result in a reduced output of beans, which are the main crop grown during this season and particularly vulnerable to excessive moisture. Overall, the aggregate 2018 B season production is expected at average levels.

Earlier in the year, the harvest of 2018A season crops, representing about 35 percent of the yearly crop production and more than 60 percent of the total maize output, was concluded in January. Production is estimated at above-average levels, as the September-to-December “small-rains” season was favourable over most cropping areas, except in some lowland areas in northwestern provinces of Bubanza and Cibitoke, where delayed



and below-average rains had a negative impact on yields. Maize losses due to Fall Armyworm were minimal due to the successful implementation of infestation control (mainly mechanic measures) and abundant rains affecting pest reproduction.

Accordingly, the overall cereal production in 2018 (including an average output of the minor 2018C season crops, to be harvested between August and September in marshlands and irrigated areas) is tentatively forecast at about 315 000 tonnes, 8 percent above the average output obtained in 2017.

An outbreak of sheep and goat plague, detected in December 2017 in Karuzi, Kirundo, Gitega and Muramvya provinces and subsequently in Bubanza and Cibitoke provinces, resulted so far in the death of about 8 500 goats. In response, the Government has closed all small ruminants markets in the affected areas and launched, in early April, a vaccination campaign, supported by FAO through the provision of 800 000 doses of vaccines, in addition to those provided by the World Bank and by the African Union. About 3 million animals have been vaccinated so far.

Prices of maize on decline and at low levels, prices of beans on increase

In the capital, Bujumbura, prices of maize declined by almost 30 percent between November 2017 and February 2018 as newly harvested crops from the 2018A above-average harvest increased supplies. Prices declined by another 6 percent between March and May, when they were more than 40 percent lower than the high levels of one year earlier. By contrast, in the northern Kirundo market, prices of beans surged by 40 percent between April and May, as seasonal trends were compounded by concerns over 2018B season production shortfalls due to excess moisture.

Improving food security situation except for flood-affected households

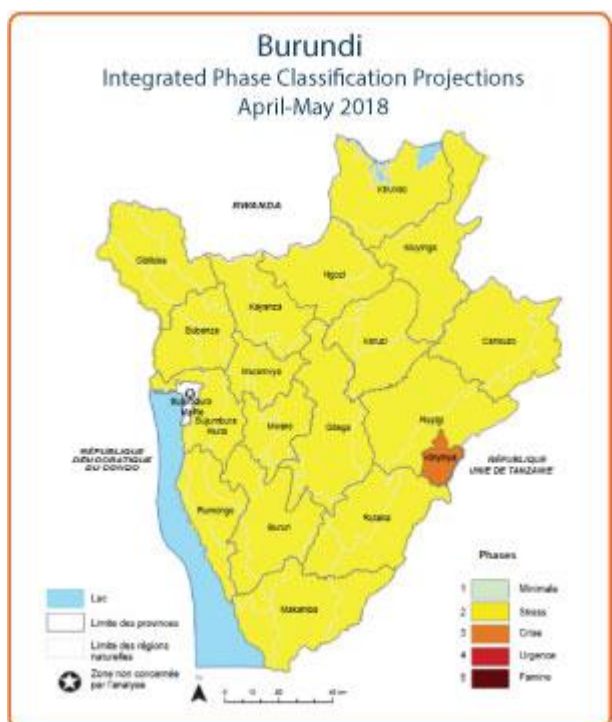
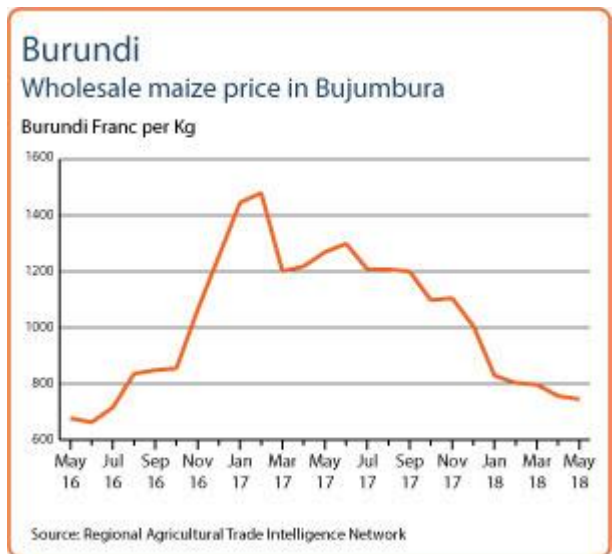
According to the results of the latest IPC analysis (projection), valid for the period April-May 2018, about 1.67 million people (15 percent of the population) are estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and Phase 4: "Emergency"). This is about 35 percent less than in the same period of last year, when the food insecure caseload was estimated at about 2.57 million. The improvement followed the above-average 2018A crop production, which allowed a large number of households to engage in agricultural activities, to replenish stocks and to ameliorate the quantity and quality of their food intake.

The area most affected by food insecurity is the Kinyinya commune in the eastern Ruyigi Province, classified in IPC Phase 3: "Crisis". Here, the food security situation is affected by the lingering effects of consecutive poor rainy seasons and by the impact of erratic rains during the 2018A season. In addition, in the areas most affected by the recent floods, the crop and asset losses have resulted in the deterioration of the food security situation of the displaced population.

Since civil unrest erupted in April/May 2015, thousands of people have fled their homes. About 420 000 refugees are still residing in neighbouring United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while about 169 000 people are internally displaced.

Burundi				
Cereal production				
	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 forecast	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	179	200	200	0
Rice (paddy)	70	57	80	40
Sorghum	26	18	18	0
Others	17	17	17	0
Total	293	292	315	8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



However, since late September 2017, a returnee influx has been registered, with more than 24 000 people having returned to the country with the support of the humanitarian community as of April 2018. About 73 000 voluntary returnees from the United Republic of Tanzania are expected by the end of 2018, assisted through an action plan adopted by the Tripartite Commission (Burundi/United Republic of Tanzania/UNHCR) for the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania.

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GIEWS Country Brief Burundi

Reference Date: 24-November-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Good overall conditions of 2018A crops to be harvested in early 2018**
- **Satisfactory 2017 cereal output despite poor performance of 2017A harvest due to insufficient rains**
- **Prices of maize declined in recent months but remain at high levels due to reduced imports**
- **About 2.6 million people estimated to be severely food insecure due to insecurity and economic crisis**
- **Areas most affected by food insecurity are Imbo Plain in east and northern and western lowlands, where up to 50 percent of population severely food insecure**

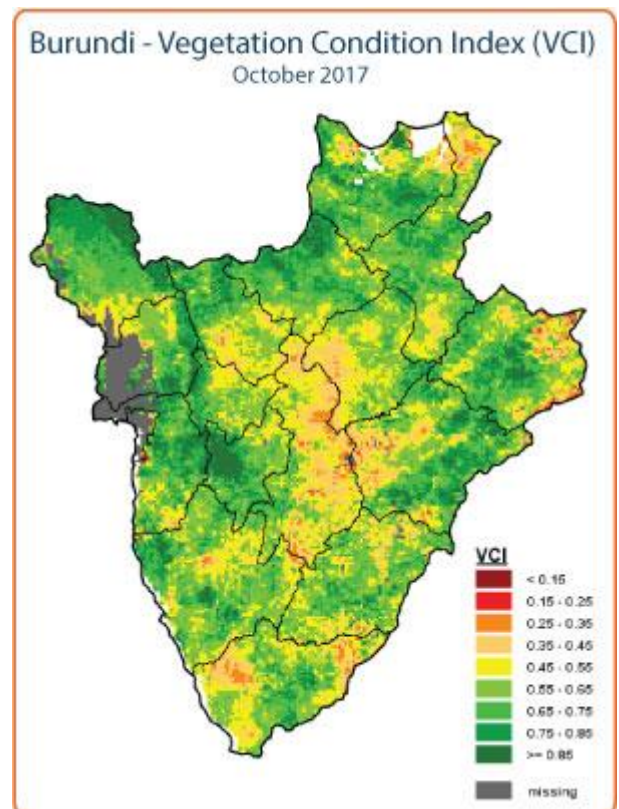
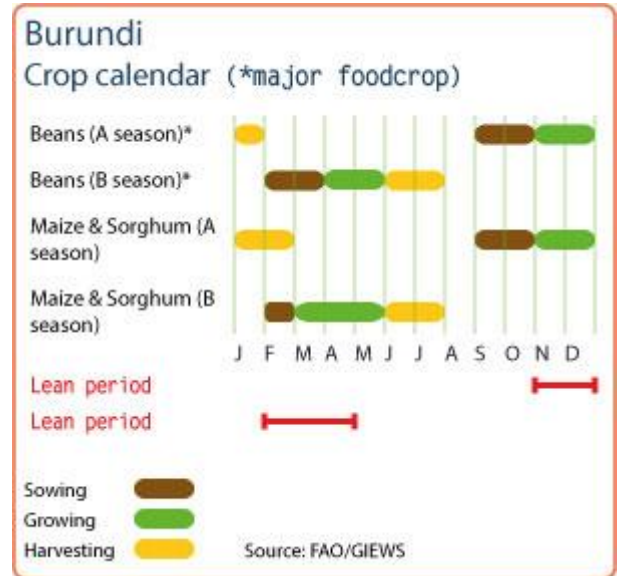
Good overall conditions of 2018A crops despite erratic seasonal rains

Planting of the 2018A season crops, which represent about 35 percent of the total crop production, was completed in October in most cropping areas and the harvest is expected to start in early 2018. The September-to-December “small-rains” season had an erratic temporal distribution but adequate cumulative amounts in most cropping areas, except in central Karuzi and Gitega, as well as in some lowland areas in Ruyigi and Bubanza provinces, where cumulative rainfall so far has been up to 57 percent below average, and planting was delayed. According to remote sensing analysis and information (see Vegetation Condition Index Map), crop conditions are generally good, except in some central areas, where rainfall deficits were more severe and affected crop development.

Fall Armyworm outbreaks, attacking germinating maize crops (the main crop planted during season A), are reported in lower altitude areas, including Bubanza, Ruyigi, southwestern Makamba and Rumonge provinces and northeastern Muyinga and Kirundo provinces. Infestation control measures have been successfully implemented (mainly mechanic measures), while a draft nationwide action plan for an integrated and coordinated pest management has been presented to partners and will be finalized shortly.

Satisfactory 2017 cereal output

The minor 2017C season harvest, accounting for about 15 percent of the total crop production, has recently been completed in marshlands and irrigated areas and production has



been estimated at average levels. The major 2017B season harvest, representing about 50 percent of the yearly crop output, concluded in July, had a favourable outcome due to adequate and well-distributed rains over most cropping areas and was estimated at 670 059 tonnes (cereal equivalent) for all four main groups of crops (cereals, pulses, tubers and bananas) . By contrast, earlier in the year, the 2017A harvest was below average due to poor seasonal rainfall and was estimated at a low 483 686 tonnes (cereal equivalent). As a result, the 2017 cereal production is estimated at 244 000 tonnes, 2 percent down from last year's output and similar to the average of the previous five years.

Prices of maize declining in recent months but still at high levels

In the capital, Bujumbura, prices of maize declined by 10 percent between June and October as newly harvested crops from the 2017B and C harvests increased supplies. However, October prices remained about 35 percent higher than their year-earlier levels. The limited extent of the seasonal price declines, in spite of the good performance of the B and C season harvests and the high year-on-year levels, are mainly due to the reduced imports from neighbouring United Republic of Tanzania and Rwanda, local currency devaluation, low foreign currency reserves hampering trade and fuel shortages leading to higher transport costs.

Severe food insecurity for large segments of population

According to the results of the latest IPC analysis (projection), valid for the period October-December 2017, about 2.6 million people (27 percent of the rural population) are estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3: "Crisis" and Phase 4: "Emergency"). The areas most affected by food insecurity are the Imbo Plain in the West (westernmost areas of Cibitoke, Bubanza, Rural Bujumbura, Rumonge and Makamba provinces), the eastern and the northern lowlands (Muyinga, Cankuzo, Karuzi, Ruyigi, Rutana, Makamba and Kirundo provinces), where between 25 to 50 percent of the population, are severely food insecure.

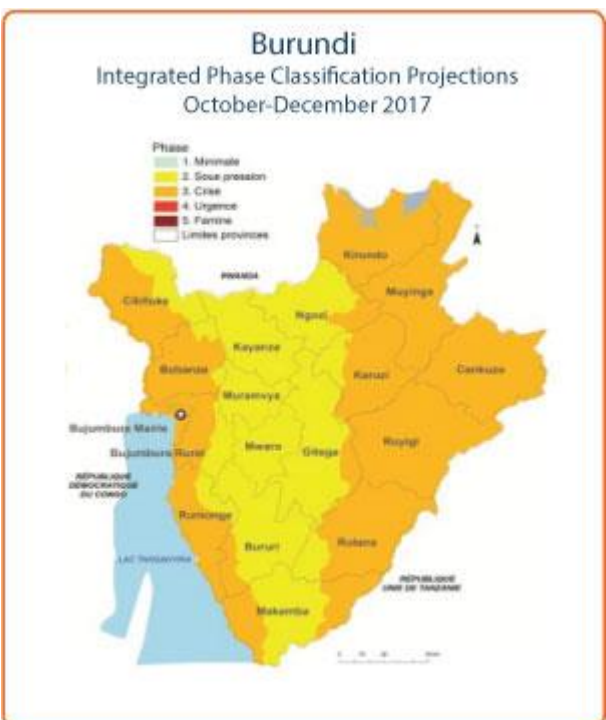
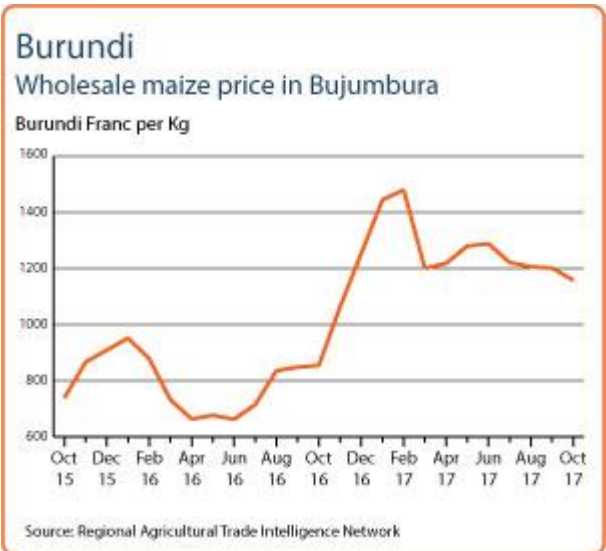
Against an already fragile backdrop of high poverty and decreasing households' purchasing power, the socio-political crisis embroiling Burundi since 2015 has caused a sharp decrease in economic activity and worsened living conditions for the population, causing a deterioration of the food security situation for large segments of the population. The main constraints to food availability and access are limited access to agricultural inputs, declining food import capacity, loss of job opportunities, population displacements and high food and fuel prices.

Since civil unrest erupted in April/May 2015, thousands of people have fled their homes. About 403 000 refugees are still residing in neighbouring United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while about 189 000 people are internally displaced. However, since late September 2017, a returnee influx has been registered, with more than 8 800 people returning in the country as of mid-November 2017 and about 73 000 voluntary returnees from the United Republic of Tanzania expected by the end of 2018.

Burundi
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	142	150	150	0
Rice (paddy)	52	48	43	-10
Sorghum	30	35	35	0
Others	17	17	16	-6
Total	241	250	244	-2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



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GIEWS Country Brief Burundi

Reference Date: 15-November-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Erratic rains in October affect 2017A season crops
- Cereal production in 2016 estimated at below average levels due to disruption of agricultural activities in areas affected by civil insecurity and displacements
- About 1.5 million people estimated to be severely food insecure due to insecurity and economic crisis
- Households in eastern lowlands expected to face longer-than-usual lean season following well below-average 2016B season output

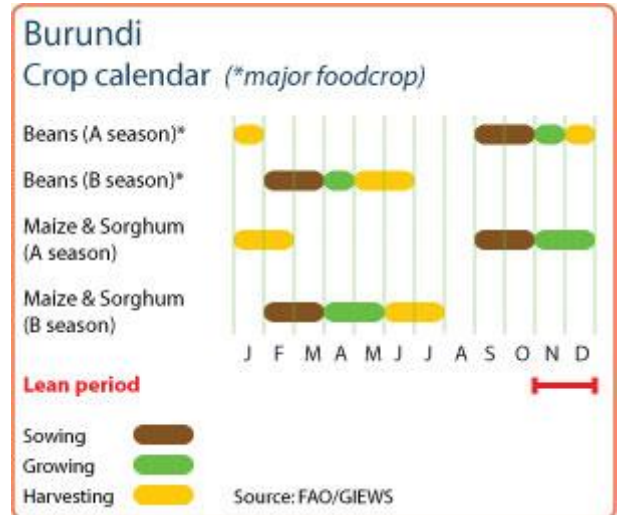
Erratic rains in October affect germinating 2017A season crops

Planting of the 2017A season crops, which represent about 35 percent of total crop production, was completed in October and the harvest is expected to start in December. The September to December “small-rains” season had a timely onset during the second dekad of September and rainfall amounts have been abundant until the first dekad of October. Since then, below-average rainfall amounts had negative effects on germinating crops, especially in eastern and northern cropping areas (see NDVI anomaly map). Meteorological forecasts point to average to below-average amounts until the end of the season and crop development warrants a close monitoring.

The 2016 cereal production is estimated at 245 000 tonnes, slightly below the last five-year average. Although crops benefited from generally favourable weather conditions in most cropping areas, the output of both 2016A and 2016B seasons has been well below average in conflict-affected areas of Rumonge, Bujumbura, Muyinga, Kirundo and Makamba provinces due to large-scale displacements and input shortages that have significantly disrupted agricultural activities. In addition, the early cessation of the rains in May has severely affected the output of the 2016B season sorghum and bean crops in eastern cropping areas along the border with the United Republic of Tanzania.

Pasture conditions improving across the country

The recent onset of the “small-rains” season has increased pasture and water availability across the country. In particular, beneficial rains have improved pasture conditions in most



Burundi Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	138	130	130	0
Rice (paddy)	66	68	68	0
Sorghum	41	30	30	0
Others	17	16	17	6
Total	262	244	245	0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

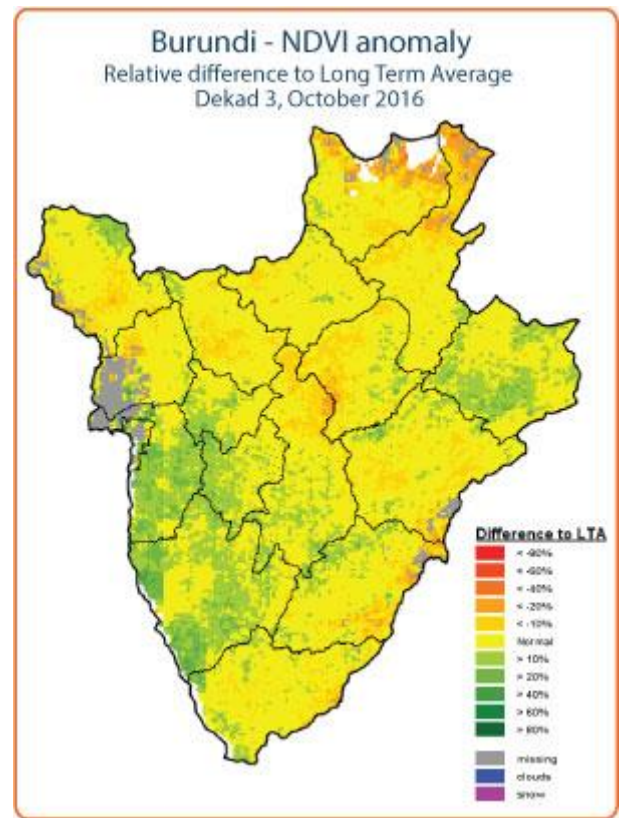
northern provinces that experienced a prolonged dry season following the early cessation of the “long-rains” season (February to May) at the beginning of May.

Severe food insecurity persists in areas affected by unrest and civil insecurity

Despite the recently-completed 2016B season harvest, the food insecure population in need of urgent humanitarian assistance is estimated at about 1.5 million. The persistent difficult situation is due to widespread insecurity and worsening socio-economic conditions, with shrinking Government resources allocated to basic services and declining food import capacity. Insecurity is also severely constraining access to humanitarian assistance, especially near the capital, Bujumbura. In addition, the poorest households in eastern lowlands along the border with the United Republic of Tanzania are likely to quickly run out of stocks as they gathered a well below average 2016B season production in July/August.

Restrictions on food trade in the United Republic of Tanzania are lowering the availability of several commodities in most markets across the country with consequent upward pressure on local prices.

Since civil unrest erupted in April/May 2015, about 350 000 people have fled their homes. About 90 percent of them have arrived in neighbouring Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo as refugees and asylum seekers, while the remaining 10 percent, mostly women and children, are internally displaced in the country.



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GIEWS Country Brief Burundi

Reference Date: 18-October-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of 2017A season crops is almost complete
- Cereal production in 2016 estimated at below average levels due to disruption of agricultural activities in areas affected by civil insecurity and displacements
- About 1.5 million people estimated to be severely food insecure due to insecurity and economic crisis
- Households in eastern lowlands are expected to face a longer-than-usual lean season following a well below-average 2016B season output

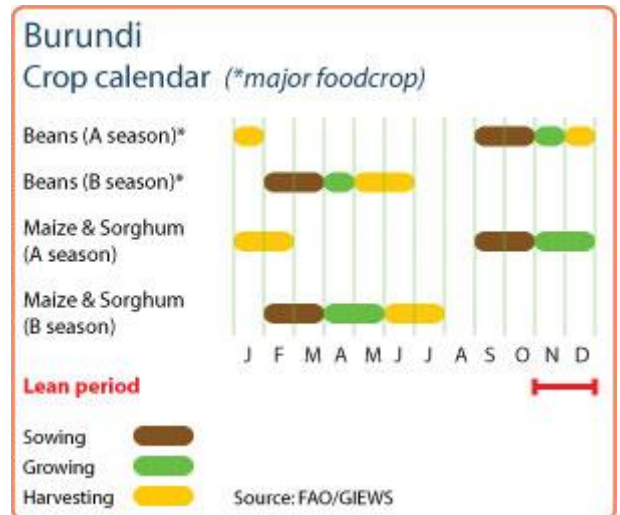
Planting of 2017A season crops is almost complete

Planting of the 2017A season crops (which represent about 35 percent of total crop production), is almost complete and the harvest is expected to start in December. The (September to December) “small-rains” season had a timely onset during the second decade of September and rainfall amounts have been abundant so far. However, according to the latest meteorological forecasts, the whole country is expected to receive average to below average rainfall amounts along the season and crops development warrants a close monitoring.

The 2016 cereal production is estimated at 245 000 tonnes, slightly below last five-year average. Although crops benefited from generally favourable weather conditions in most cropping areas, the output of both 2016A and 2016B seasons has been well below average in conflict-affected areas of Rumonge, Bujumbura, Muyinga, Kirundo and Makamba provinces due to large-scale displacements and input shortages that have significantly disrupted agricultural activities. In addition, the early cessation of rains in May has severely affected the output of the 2016B season sorghum and bean crops in eastern cropping areas along the border with the United Republic of Tanzania.

Pasture conditions improving across the country

The recent onset of the “small-rains” season has increased pasture and water availability across the country. In particular, beneficial rains have improved pasture conditions in most northern provinces that experienced a prolonged dry season following the early cessation of the “long-rains” season (February to May) at the beginning of May.



Burundi Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	138	130	130	0
Rice (paddy)	66	68	68	0
Sorghum	41	30	30	0
Others	17	16	17	6
Total	262	244	245	0

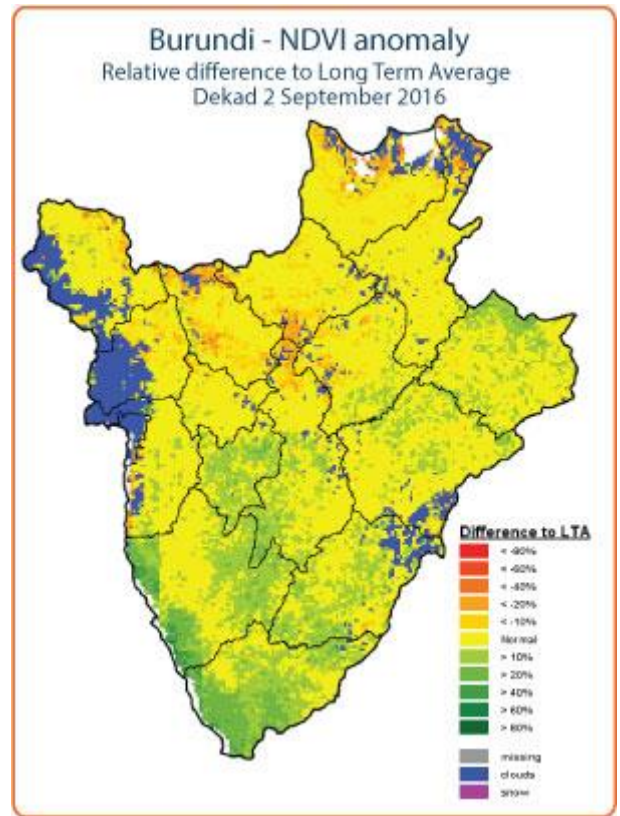
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Severe food insecurity persists in areas affected by unrest and civil insecurity

Despite the recently-completed 2016B season harvest, the food insecure population in need of urgent humanitarian assistance is estimated at about 1.5 million. The persistent difficult situation is due to widespread insecurity and worsening socio-economic conditions, with shrinking Government resources allocated to basic services and declining food import capacity. Insecurity is also severely constraining access to humanitarian assistance, especially near the capital, Bujumbura. In addition, the poorest households in eastern lowlands along the border with the United Republic of Tanzania are likely to quickly run out of stocks as they gathered a well below average 2016B season production in July/August.

Restrictions on food trade in the United Republic of Tanzania are lowering the availability of several commodities in most markets across the country with consequent upward pressure on local prices.

Since civil unrest erupted in April/May 2015, some 347 000 people have fled their homes. About 85 percent of them have arrived in neighbouring Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo as refugees and asylum seekers, while the remaining 15 percent, mostly women and children, is internally displaced in the country.



Reference Date: 25-April-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Civil insecurity affected planting activities of 2016B season crops
- Below-average production of recently-harvested 2016A season crops due to disruption of agricultural activities in areas affected by civil insecurity and displacements
- About 690 000 people estimated to be severely food-insecure due to insecurity and economic crisis
- Limited access to humanitarian assistance reported in several areas

Reduced planted area for 2016B season crops in areas affected by civil insecurity

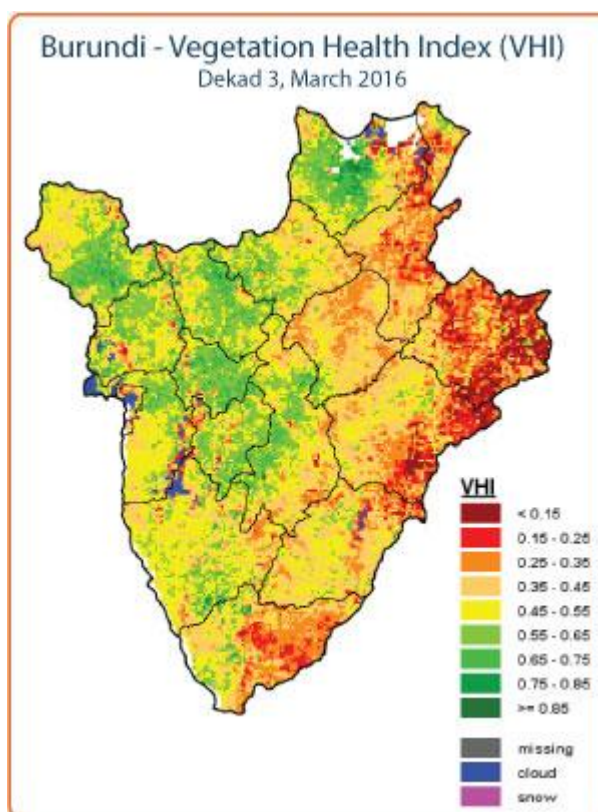
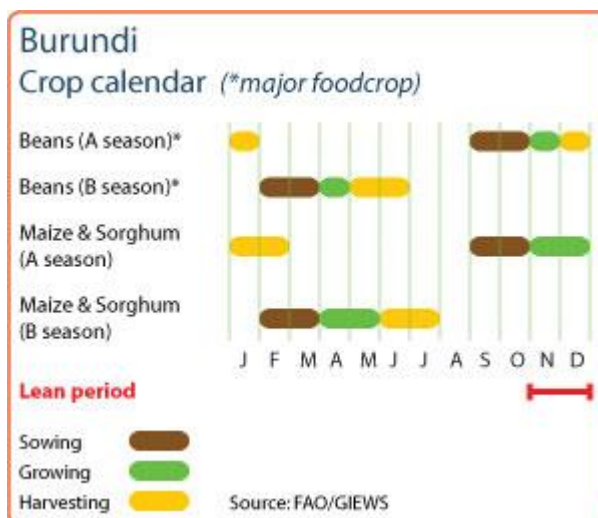
Planting of 2016B season crops has been completed in March and planted area is reported to be below average in most areas affected by civil insecurity. The 2016 main rainy season (February-May) has started on time across the country and precipitations have been mostly favourable, benefitting crop development and pasture conditions. However, satellite-based images show stressed vegetation health conditions in western provinces due to short dry spells which occurred in mid-March. According to official weather forecasts, rains are expected to be between average and above-average levels until the end of the season, with positive effects on yields and pasture availability.

Below-average output from 2016A season crops

Aggregate production of the 2016A season cereal crops, harvested at the beginning of the year, is estimated to be about 10 percent below the last five-year average. Despite the favourable “small-rains” season (September to January) that induced farmers to increase plantings in areas not affected by the conflict and benefitted yields, production has been well below average in the most conflict-affected areas of Rumonge, Bujumbura, Musinga, Kirundo and Makamba provinces where large displacement of farmers and lack of inputs have significantly disrupted seasonal agricultural activities.

Food security conditions continue to deteriorate in areas affected by unrest and civil insecurity

Food security conditions remain stressed in the provinces most affected by the ongoing civil unrest, including parts of Kirundo, Musinga, Rutada and Makamba provinces as well as rural areas near Bujumbura. In February 2016, a Multi-Agency Emergency Food Security Assessment (ESFA) estimated that about 690 000 people are severely food insecure due to insecurity and worsening socio-economic conditions, with shrinking governmental budget allocated to basic services and declining food import capacity (due to low foreign reserves and strong depreciation of the local currency). Insecurity is also severely limiting access to humanitarian assistance, especially outside the capital city. Since civil unrest erupted in April/May 2015, over 250 000 people have fled their homes and 90 percent of them have arrived in the neighbouring countries of Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo as refugees and asylum seekers, while the remaining 10 percent is internally displaced in the country.



Burundi Cereal production

	2010-2014	2014	2015	change
	average			
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	137	128	130	2
Rice (paddy)	81	90	90	0
Sorghum	51	22	30	36
Others	19	18	17	-6
Total	288	258	267	3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data. Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 12-February-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Harvesting of 2016A season crops almost complete and production estimated at below-average levels
- Despite favourable rains benefitting plantings and yields in areas not affected by conflict, below-average output estimated in conflict-affected areas due to disruption of agricultural activities
- About 645 000 people in conflict-affected provinces are food insecure. About 35 000 of them are severely food insecure and require emergency food assistance

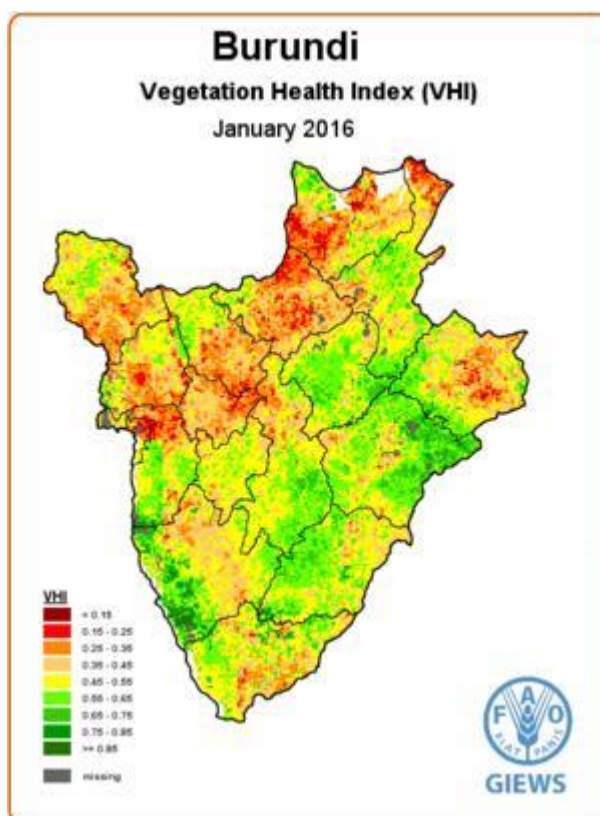
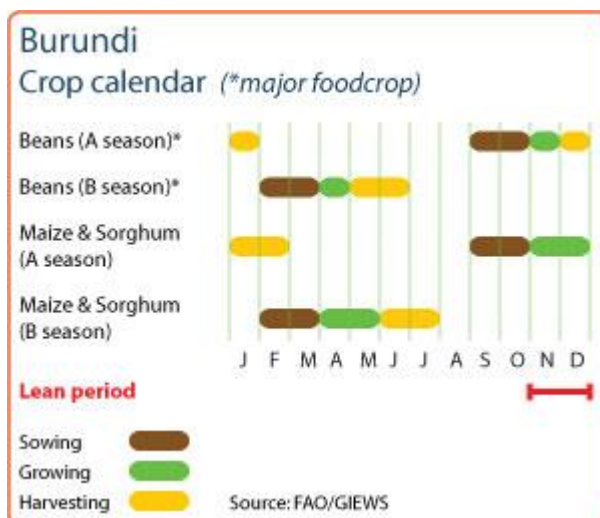
Below-average production for 2016A season crops

Harvesting of the 2016A season cereal crops is almost complete and production prospects are mixed across the country. The “small rains” season (September to January) has generally started on time and rainfall amounts have been average to above-average and well distributed throughout the season, inducing farmers to increase plantings in areas not affected by the conflict and benefiting yields. However, agricultural production is expected to be well-below average in the most conflict-affected areas of Rumonge, Bujumbura, Muyinga, Kirundo and Makamba provinces where large displacement of farmers and lack of inputs have significantly disrupted seasonal agricultural activities. Overall, despite the favourable rainy season, the 2016A season output is expected to be about 10 percent below the last five-year average.

The minor 2015C season crops were harvested by the end of 2015 and the season’s output was estimated at an average level. Total production for 2015 is put at 267 000 tonnes, about 3 percent more than the previous year, but about 6 percent less than last five-year average.

Food security conditions deteriorate in areas affected by unrest and civil insecurity

Food security conditions remained stressed in the provinces most affected by the ongoing civil unrest, including in parts of Kirundo, Muyinga and Makamba, as well as rural areas near Bujumbura. In October 2015, a multi-agency Emergency Food Security Assessment estimated that about 645 000 people in conflict-affected provinces of Kirundo, Makamba, Rumonge, Cibitoke and Bujumbura are food insecure and about 5 percent of them (some 35 000 people) are severely food insecure, requiring urgent emergency food assistance. Since civil unrest erupted in April/May 2015, food insecurity has particularly increased in the eastern part of Cibitoke as well as in farming areas around Bujumbura due to reduced exchanges of agricultural products and labour in urban areas. As a consequence of tension and violence, over 260 000 people have fled their homes and 90 percent of them have arrived in the neighbouring countries of Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo as refugees and asylum seekers, while the remaining 10 percent is internally displaced in the country.



Burundi Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	137	128	130	2
Rice (paddy)	81	90	90	0
Sorghum	51	22	30	36
Others	19	18	17	-6
Total	288	258	267	3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 03-November-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of 2016A crops underway, with above-average rains forecast
- Aggregate production in 2015 is estimated to have decreased by 5 percent compared to 2014
- Food security stressed due to reduced 2015B season harvest, higher food prices, unrest and civil insecurity

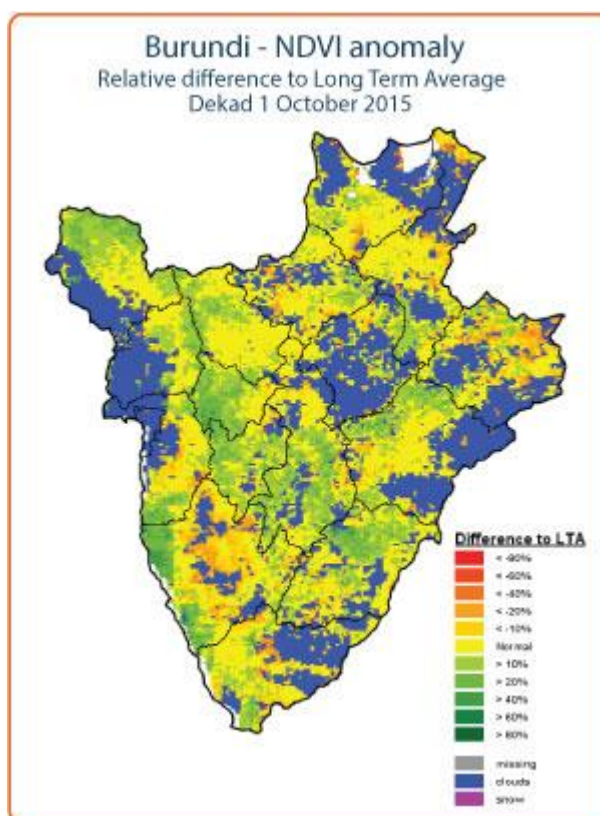
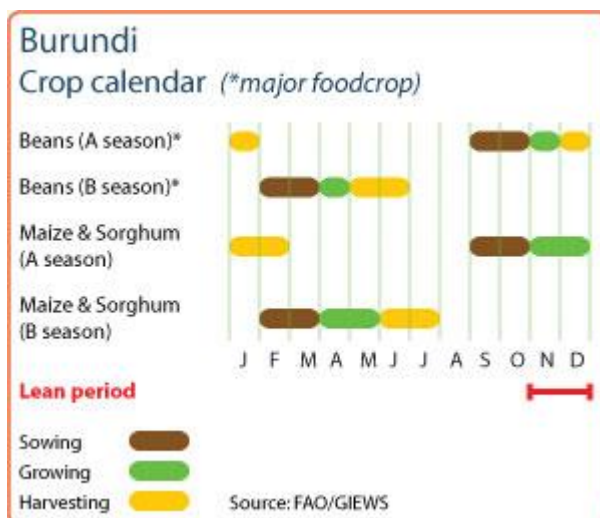
Good conditions for 2016A season crops

Planting of the 2016A secondary cereal crops was completed in October, with the bulk of the crop to be harvested at the start of next year. Rains have generally been above-average since late September, benefiting early crop establishment. Corresponding to the influence of the prevailing El Niño episode, weather forecasts indicate a higher probability of average to above-average rains until January and this is anticipated to result in an average output of the 2016A season. However, in areas affected by civil insecurity and displacements following the elections, crop production is expected to be adversely affected.

The main 2015B season crops were harvested by July, and the season's output was estimated at a reduced level due to the impact of civil insecurity. Total production for 2015 is put at 251 000 tonnes, 5 percent lower than the previous year.

Stressed food security conditions due to unrest and civil insecurity

Food security conditions remained stressed in the provinces most affected by the ongoing civil unrest, including in parts of Kirundo, Muyinga and Makamba, as well as rural areas near Bujumbura. The reduced crop production from the 2015B season; lower labour opportunities and disruptions in trade flows together with higher food prices have exacerbated the situation. In response, the WFP is providing humanitarian assistance to 100 000 people affected by the post-electoral violence, in addition to the food insecure population already targeted by the protracted relief and recovery operation.



Burundi Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	140	145	130	-10
Rice (paddy)	77	70	74	6
Sorghum	53	32	30	-6
Others	19	18	17	-6
Total	289	265	251	-5

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 15-April-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Despite dry spell in March, 2015B season early planted crops generally in good vegetative conditions
- Food security conditions have seasonally improved since start of 2015A season harvest in January

Good conditions for early planted 2015B season crops

Planting of 2015B main season crops, to be harvested by early June, has just been completed and early planted crops are at vegetative stage. The long rainy season (February to June) started on time, but rainfall amounts have been below average during the first and second dekads of March, requiring some replanting of cereal and bean crops. Abundant rains during the first two weeks of April restored soil moisture conditions across the country and crops are generally in good conditions.

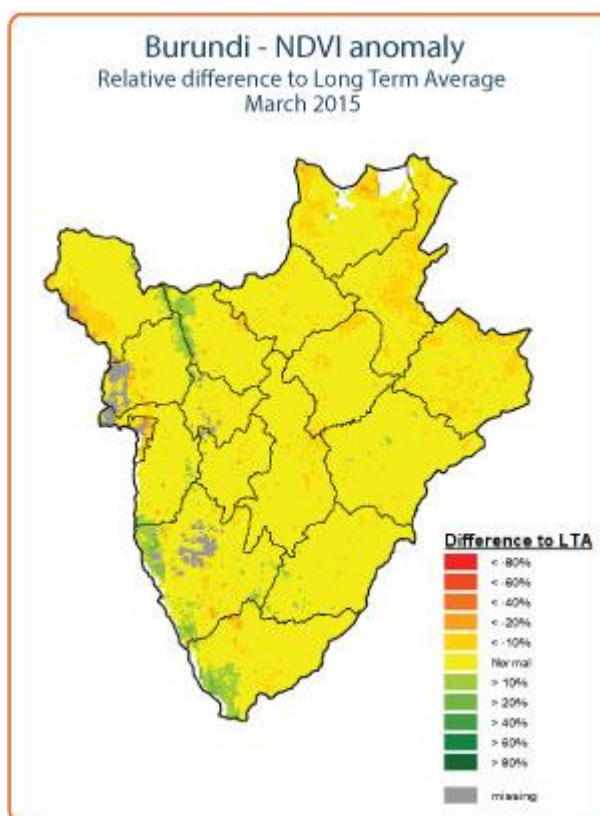
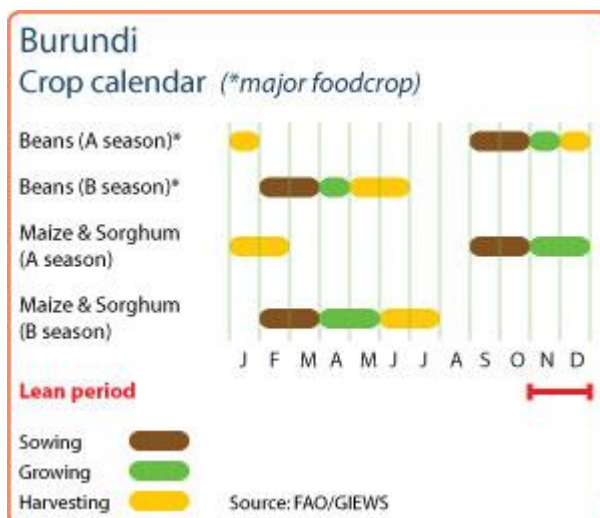
The production of the 2015A secondary season crops, which represents about 35 percent of the total annual crop production and was completely harvested by end-February, is estimated at near-average levels and about 15-20 percent above last year's A season output when crops in some areas have been affected by plant diseases and water excess.

Better food security conditions following average 2015A season harvest

The food security conditions of poorer households improved substantially since the beginning of the year when the bulk of the 2015A season crops has been commercialized. Better labour opportunities and income linked to harvesting operations also improved household access to food in most areas.

Prices of main staple food crops have declined slightly, although still at above-average levels as newly harvested crops have supplied local markets together with abundant imports from Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

As of July 2014, Burundi was hosting 47 800 refugees, mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 9 000 asylum seekers and 79 000 IDPs, most of them relying on humanitarian assistance to cover their food needs.



Burundi Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	135	162	145	-10
Rice (paddy)	83	78	72	-8
Sorghum	63	32	32	0
Others	19	17	18	6
Total	300	289	267	-8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 07-November-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting the 2015A season crops has been completed and production prospects are favourable
- Food security conditions seasonally deteriorate as the lean season deepens, especially in northeastern areas where 2014B season crop production shortfalls occurred

Favourable prospects for 2015A season crops

The short rainy season (September-January) started at the end of August, about 1-2 weeks earlier than usual, and planting of the 2015A season crops, for harvest from December, has just been completed. The A season crops represent about 35 percent of the total annual crop production.

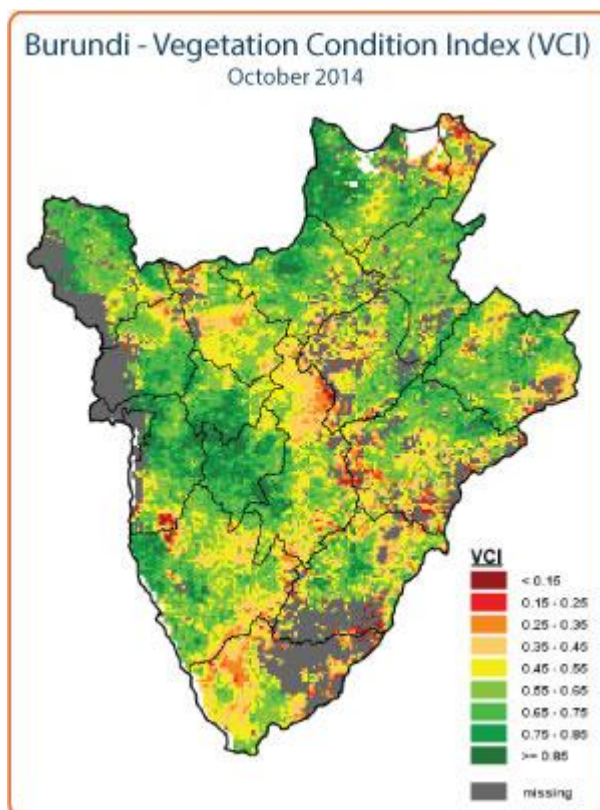
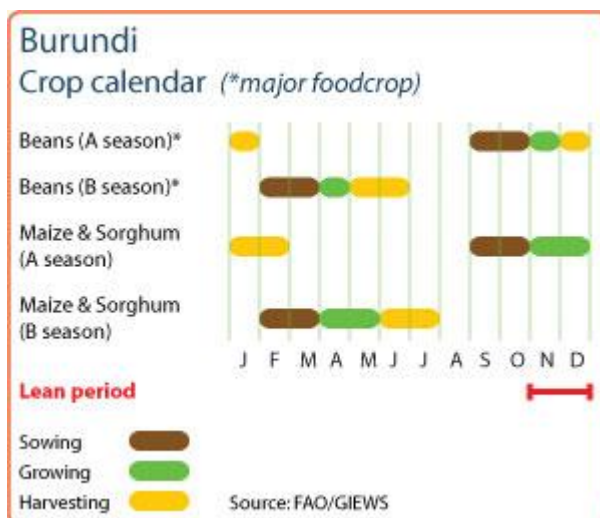
Rainfall amounts have been slightly below average between mid-September and early October, but recent abundant rainfall has improved soil moisture and crop conditions. Localized floods have been reported in Muramvya and Makamba provinces, with some damages to crops. The whole country is forecast to receive average to above-average rainfall amounts along the season, with favourable effects on crop yields and pasture availability.

The overall cereal production in 2014 is tentatively estimated at 272 000 tonnes, about 10 percent below the last five-year average as both 2014A and 2014B season harvests have been affected by unfavourable weather conditions.

Food security conditions deteriorate as the lean season deepens

The food security conditions of poorer households are seasonally deteriorating as the lean season (October-December) deepens, but some improvements are expected by early December, when green consumption of 2015A crops starts. In particular, food stocks are quickly running out in northeastern districts of Kirundo, Muyinga and Cankuzo, following the below-average cereal crop production of 2014 B season, harvested last June/July. Prices of main staple food have been stable in the recent months, but are expected to start increasing soon as households' dependence on markets increases during the lean season. Conversely, following the forecast for enhanced rains, pasture availability, animal body conditions and milk production are expected to improve leading to better food security conditions for pastoralists.

As of January 2014, Burundi was hosting 45 500 refugees, mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 6 000 asylum seekers and 79 000 IDPs, most of them relying on humanitarian assistance to cover their food needs.



Burundi Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	135	162	150	-7
Rice (paddy)	83	78	72	-8
Sorghum	63	32	32	0
Others	19	17	18	6
Total	300	289	272	-6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 26-August-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early cessation of the 2014 main rainy season affected yields of main food crops, especially in northern districts
- Worsening food security conditions in northern areas where 2014B season crop production shortfalls occurred

Moisture deficits affected yields of 2014B season crops, especially in northern districts

Harvesting of the 2014B main season crops, which represents about half of annual production, is complete and overall output is estimated at below average levels. After a timely onset of the long-rainy season (February-June), rainfall ended earlier than usual by mid-April in most cropping areas. In particular, in northern districts of Kirundo, Muyinga and Cankuzo, significant moisture deficit at the crucial flowering/grain filling stages have negatively affected yields of beans, maize and sorghum crops.

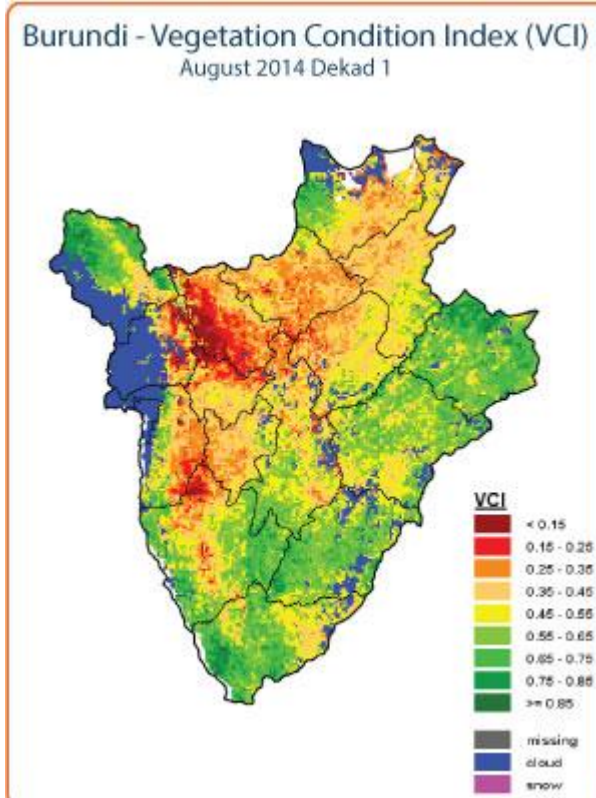
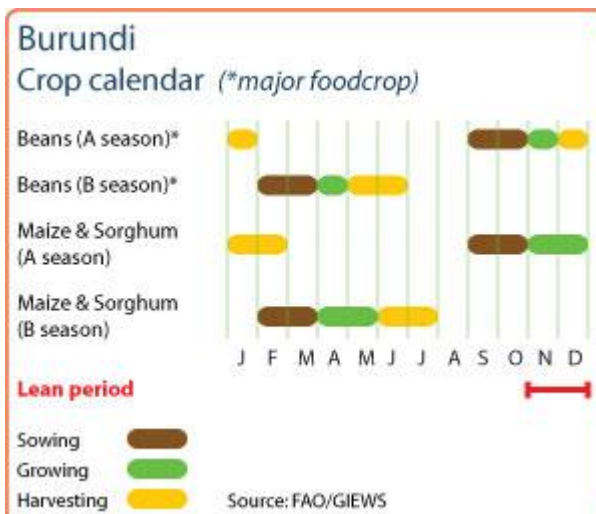
Planting of the 2014C season crops, mainly short-cycle vegetables, which represent about 15 percent of annual production, is almost complete and harvest of early planted crops is expected to start by mid-September. The imminent onset of the small rainy season (September-January) is expected to bring some relief to grazing resources, especially to northwestern highlands which are showing negative values of the Vegetation Condition Index.

The overall cereal production in 2014 (including an average output of the 2014C season crops) is tentatively forecast at 272 000 tonnes, about 10 percent below the last five-year average.

Food security conditions expected to deteriorate in northern districts

According to the latest IPC analysis (August 2014), about 1.3 million people, mainly located in the northern districts that harvested below-average 2014B season crops, are estimated to face crisis level (IPC phase 3) of acute malnutrition as meagre food stocks are expected to be quickly depleted. Their food security situation is expected to improve by December, when green consumption of 2015A crops starts.

At the end of 2013, Burundi was hosting 45 000 refugees, mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 6 000 asylum seekers and 79 000 IDPs, most of them relying on humanitarian assistance to cover their food needs.



Burundi Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	135	162	140	-14
Rice (paddy)	85	90	85	-6
Sorghum	63	32	30	-6
Others	19	17	17	0
Total	303	301	272	-10

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
 Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 26-May-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- In most cropping areas, adequate rains benefitted 2014B season crops with positive effects on yields
- By mid-May, significant moisture deficits detected in parts of northern districts
- Food security conditions improve also in areas where 2014A season crop production shortfalls occurred as ongoing 2014B harvest is replenishing stocks

Favourable prospects for current crops, but localized moisture deficits affect sorghum and beans crops in northern districts

Harvesting of the 2014B main season beans and potatoes crops is underway, while the cereal harvest is scheduled to begin in June. The long-rainy season (February to June) started on time and rainfall amounts have been at average levels from February to April in most cropping areas. By early May, negative rainfall anomalies have been registered across the country. By the second dekad of May, the FAO Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) indicated generally favourable vegetation conditions, but also highlighted significant moisture stress in the northern districts of Kirundo and Muyinga, which may negatively impact on sorghum and beans crops at the crucial flowering/grain filling stages. The situation warrants careful monitoring for the remainder of the season as about 40 percent of annual sorghum production is normally harvested in northern cropping areas during the B season.

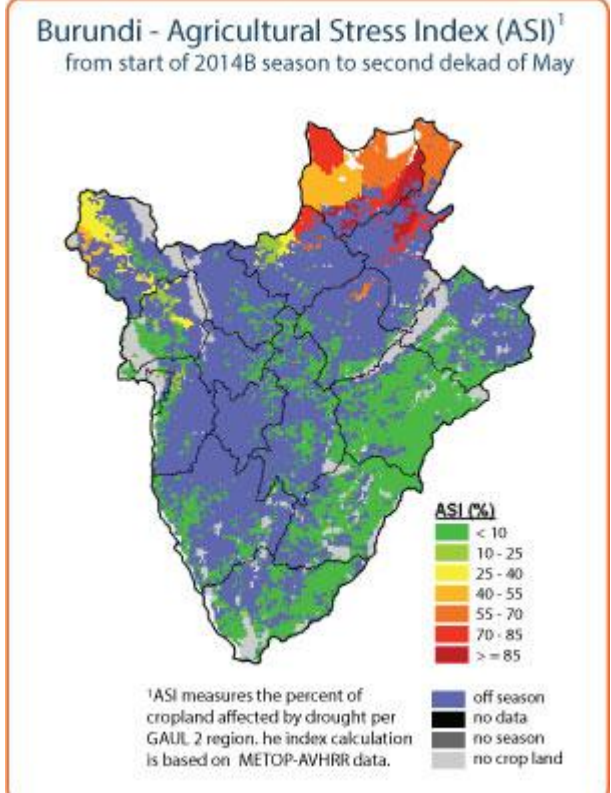
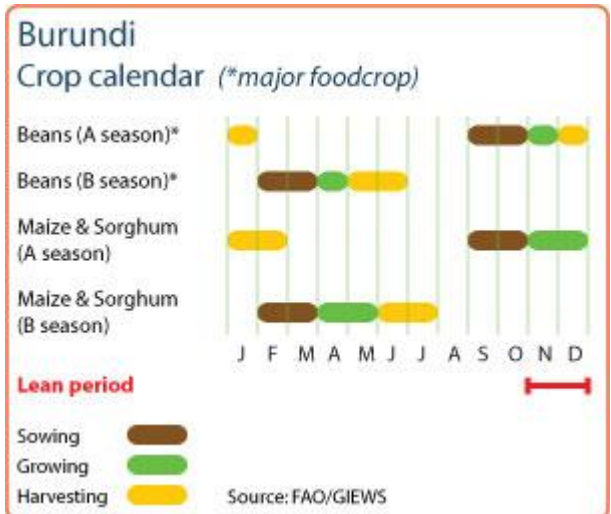
The production of the 2014A secondary season crops, harvested in February, is estimated at slightly below-average levels, following the negative impact of plant diseases (banana xanthomonas wilt, cassava mosaic and cassava brown streak) and heavy rainfall which damaged crops in parts of the Plateaux Humides zone (Ngozi, Kayanza, Muramvya, Mwaro and Gitega provinces) as well as in parts of the Ruyigi province.

Accordingly, the overall cereal production in 2014 (including an average output of the 2014C season crops to be harvested between August and September) is tentatively forecast at about 289 000 tonnes, slightly below the last five-year average.

Food security conditions improving with the start of 2014B season harvest

Most households face minimal levels (IPC phase 1) of acute malnutrition. Green consumption of 2014B crops is improving food security conditions also for poor households in the Plateaux Humides zone which harvested below-average 2014A season crops and whose stocks were quickly depleted.

As of late October, Burundi was hosting 47 200 refugees, mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 8 300 asylum seekers and 43 300 returnees, forcibly repatriated from the United Republic of Tanzania. Most of them rely on humanitarian assistance to cover food needs.



Burundi Cereal production

	2009-2013	2013	2014	change
	average		forecast	2014/2013
000 tonnes				
Maize	135	162	150	-7
Rice (paddy)	85	90	85	-6
Sorghum	63	31	35	13
Others	19	16	19	19
Total	302	299	289	-3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
 Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 16-May-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- In most cropping areas, adequate rains benefitted 2014B season crops with positive effects on yields
- By early May, moisture deficits detected in parts of northern districts
- Food security conditions improve also in areas where 2014A season crop production shortfalls occurred as ongoing 2014B harvest is replenishing stocks

Favourable prospects for current crops, but localized moisture deficits affect sorghum and beans crops in northern districts

Harvesting of the 2014B main season beans and potatoes crops is underway, while the cereal harvest is scheduled to begin in June. The long rainy season (February to June) started on time and rainfall amounts have been at average levels from February to April in most cropping areas. By early May, the FAO Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) indicated generally favourable vegetation conditions but also highlighted potential moisture stress in parts of the northern districts of Kirundo and Muyinga, which may negatively impact on sorghum and beans crops at the crucial flowering/grain filling stages. The situation warrants careful monitoring for the remainder of the season as about 40 percent of annual sorghum production is normally harvested in northern cropping areas during the B season.

The production of the 2014A secondary season crops, harvested in February, is estimated at slightly below average levels, following the negative impact of plant diseases (banana xanthomonas wilt, cassava mosaic and cassava brown streak) and heavy rainfall which damaged crops in parts of the Plateaux Humides zone (Ngozi, Kayanza, Muramvya, Mwaro and Gitega provinces) as well as in parts of the Ruyigi province.

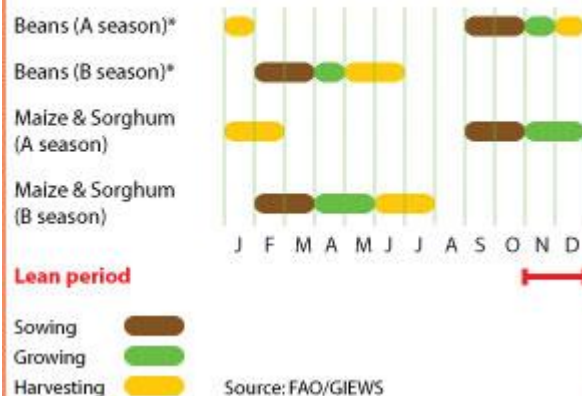
Accordingly, the overall cereal production in 2014 (including an average output of the 2014C season crops to be harvested between August and September) is tentatively forecast at about 289 000 tonnes, slightly below the last five-year average.

Food security conditions improving with the start of 2014B season harvest

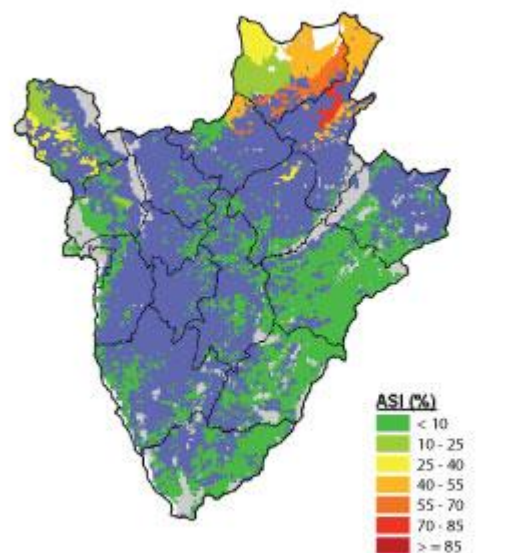
Most households face minimal levels (IPC phase 1) of acute malnutrition. Green consumption of 2014B crops is improving food security conditions also for poor households in the Plateaux Humides zone which harvested below average 2014A season crops and whose stocks were quickly depleted.

As of late October, Burundi was hosting 47 200 refugees, mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 8 300 asylum seekers and 43 300 returnees, forcibly repatriated from the United Republic of Tanzania; they mostly rely on humanitarian assistance to cover food needs.

Burundi Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Burundi - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)¹ from start of 2014B season to first dekad of May



¹ASI measures the percent of cropland affected by drought per GAUL 2 region. The index calculation is based on METOP-AVHRR data.

Burundi

Cereal production

	2009-2013	2013	2014	change
	average		forecast	2014/2013
000 tonnes				
percent				
Maize	135	162	150	-7
Rice (paddy)	85	90	85	-6
Sorghum	63	31	35	13
Others	19	16	19	19
Total	302	299	289	-3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 11-February-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal output from the 2014 “A season” crops is set at a slightly below average level
- Maize and cassava prices eased in December
- Food security conditions expected to deteriorate in the areas where crop production shortfalls occurred

2014 “A season” cereal output set at slightly below average levels

Harvesting of the 2014 “A season” (September-February) crops, which account for 35 percent of annual production, is underway. Output is expected at slightly below average levels, due to the negative impact of plant diseases (banana xanthomonas wilt, cassava mosaic, and cassava brown streak), and heavy rainfall which damaged crops in parts of the Plateaux Humides zone (Ngozi, Kayanza, Muramvya, Mwaro, and Gitega provinces), as well as in parts of the Ruyigi province.

Maize and cassava prices easing in December

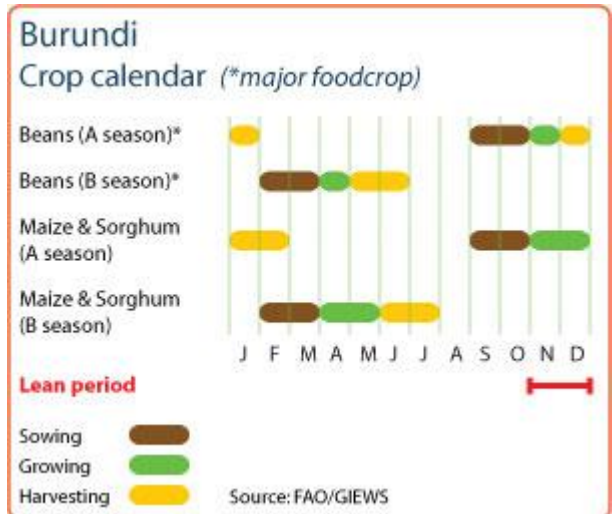
Prices of locally produced maize and cassava flour eased by 2 percent in December as newly harvested crops began entering markets. By contrast, prices of beans increased slightly - by about 2 percent. In December 2013, prices of maize and beans were respectively 6 and 11 percent higher compared to the same period of the previous year, while prices of cassava were 6 percent lower.

Food security conditions expected to worsen in the areas where crop production shortfalls occurred

Most households will face minimal levels (IPC phase 1) of acute malnutrition until June 2014, when “B season” crops will be harvested; however, poor households in the Plateaux Humides zone are likely to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels as a result of the poor crop and poor performance in A Season.

As of late October, Burundi was hosting 47 200 refugees, mostly from DRC, 8 300 asylum seekers and 33 300 returnees, forcibly repatriated, from the United Republic of Tanzania; they mostly rely on humanitarian assistance to cover food needs.

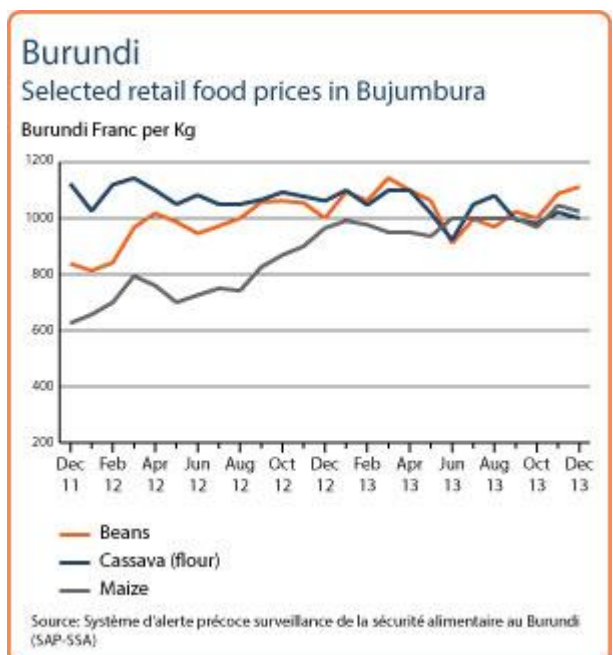
On 10 February, torrential rains caused flooding in Bujumbura and three provinces close to the capital (Cibitoke, Bubanza and Bujumbura Rural). People have been severely affected and heavy damage to infrastructures and markets has been reported. In addition, the main roads linking Bujumbura to neighbouring Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo have been heavily damaged.



Burundi Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	121	115	115	0
Rice (paddy)	82	85	90	6
Sorghum	79	65	65	0
Others	20	19	19	0
Total	302	284	289	2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Reference Date: 04-October-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Average crop harvest expected from the minor 2013 C season
- Favourable early prospects for 2014 A season crops
- Rising prices of main staple food
- Food security gradually worsen as the lean season deepen

Minor 2013 C season crops about to be harvested

Harvesting of the 2013 C season crops has just started and will continue until November. The 2013 C season production, which accounts for about 15 percent of annual production of beans, potatoes, rice and vegetables, is expected to be average.

Overall, the 2013 cereal production is provisionally forecast at about 260 000 tonnes, about 7 percent less than last five year average due to unfavourable weather conditions that affected both A and B seasons, earlier in the year.

Favourable prospects for 2014 A season crops

The onset of the short rainy season (September-January) was on-time in most cropping areas and planting of the 2014 A season crops (which represent about 35 percent of total crop production) is well advanced. The whole country is forecast to receive average to above average rainfall amounts along the season, with favourable effects on crop yields and pasture conditions.

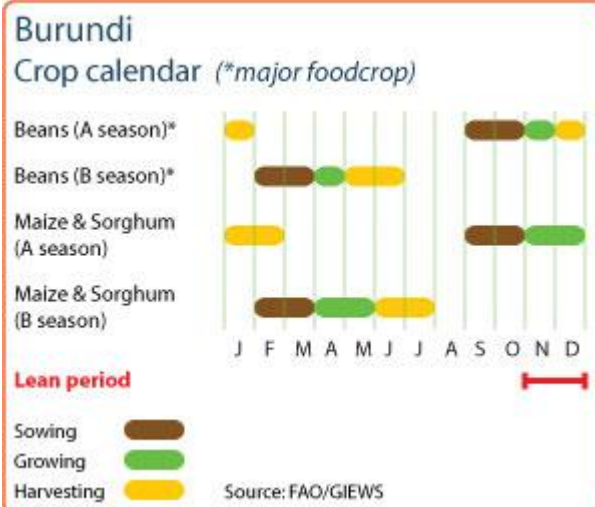
Maize prices at record high levels

Prices of locally produced beans and cassava flour, the main staples, increased from June to August by 6 and 17 percent, respectively, due to a below average B season harvest. Retail prices of maize increased by 7 percent in June and remained at record level of about BIF 1 000 per kg in the following months. The re-introduction of a 19 percent import tax on staple food items in late June contributed to drive maize prices up, given that about half of the country's consumption requirement is satisfied with imports.

Food security conditions expected to decline until the end of the year as the lean season deepens

Although household food stocks are gradually declining, the country's food security situation is generally favourable. Some problems of food access are reported for poor households in the Plateaux Humides livelihood zone that experienced well below average production of banana and cassava following widespread attacks of plant diseases. The overall situation is expected to worsen until the end of the year, when the lean season ends and the newly harvested 2014 A season crops become available.

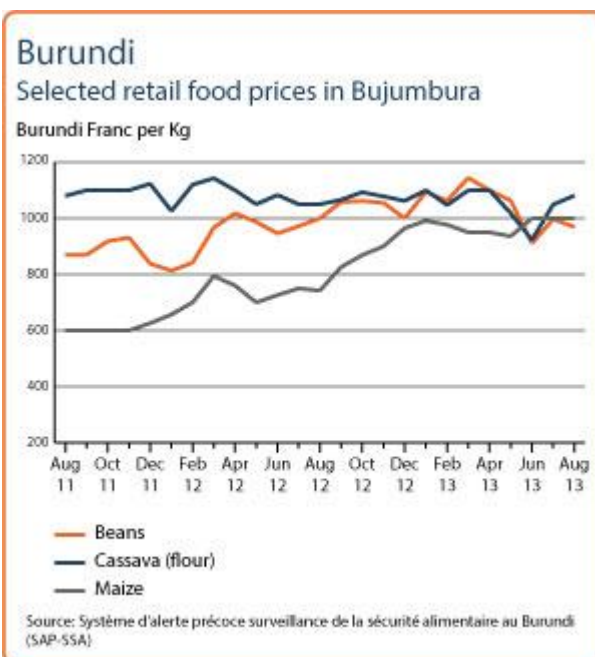
As of June 2013, about 167 000 people were registered as IDPs, asylum seekers, refugees and returnees and they mostly rely on humanitarian assistance to cover food needs.



Burundi Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	121	115	115	0
Rice (paddy)	82	85	90	6
Sorghum	79	65	65	0
Others	20	19	19	0
Total	302	284	289	2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Reference Date: 27-March-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Timely onset to the 2013 B season rainfall
- Food prices decline slightly, but remain near record levels
- Food security situation improves following the new harvest

The 2013 B cropping season is well underway

Planting for the 2013 B season (February-June) is almost complete. Rainfall started on time in mid-February and amounts are forecast at average to above average levels so far and along the season. The B season crops (mainly maize, beans, sorghum, rice and potatoes) account for 35 percent of total production.

2013 A season output set at slightly below average levels

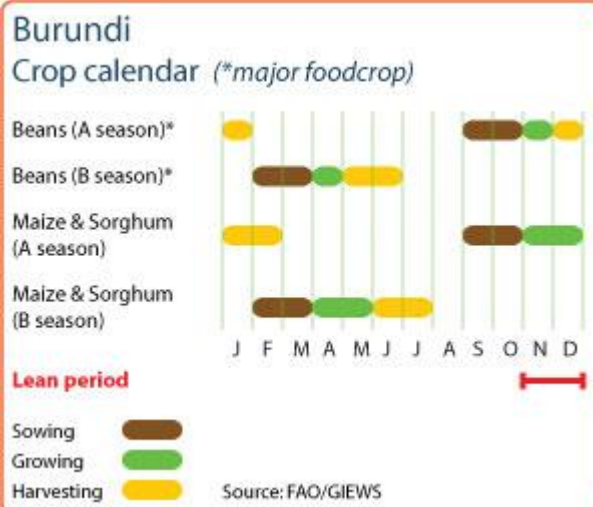
Harvesting of the 2013 A season (September-February) crops is complete. Above average levels of rainfall between October and December 2012 have negatively affected the beans crop development in some south-eastern and north-western areas of the country. In addition, an unusual above average prevalence of crop diseases in these areas have reduced yields of other important staple crops, such as banana and cassava. Accordingly, crop production is provisionally estimated at slightly below average levels.

Despite slight declines in food prices, levels are still at near record highs

Retail prices of major staple foods have generally slightly decreased in February as newly harvested 2013 A season crops began to reach main markets. In the capital city Bujumbura, retail prices of beans and maize have declined by 2-3 percent from the record levels registered in January 2013 following a large fire that devastated the central market, affecting about 5 000 traders and destroying their (mostly uninsured) stocks. Currently, prices of beans and maize are still near record levels and are respectively 26 and 40 percent above the level of one year earlier. Retail prices of imported rice, an important commodity for urban households, were generally stable during the last nine months at about BIF 1 850 per kg, mainly due to the tax waiver granted to several imported commodities.

Overall good food security conditions following seasonal harvest

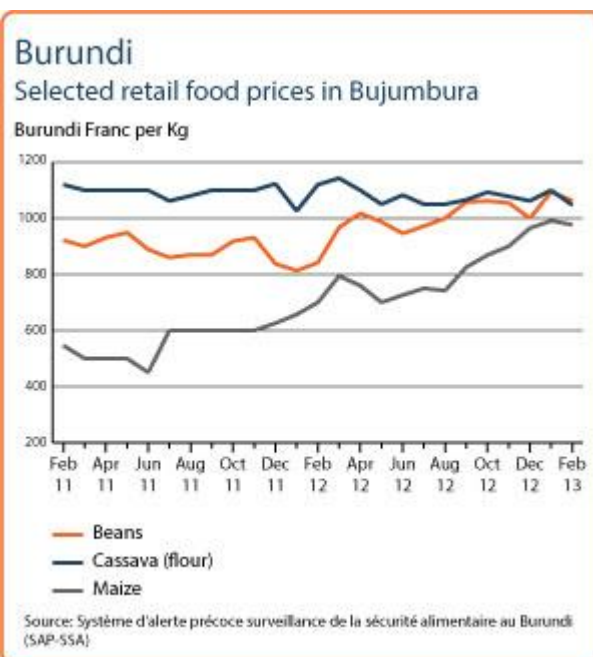
The overall food security situation is favourable as most household began to replenish their food stocks following the 2013 A season harvest. However, poor households in some south-eastern and north-western areas that experienced a below average 2013 A season harvest are expected to face a longer lean season as their food stocks have already begun to be exhausted. In addition, about 34 000 returnees from Tanzania living in rural integrated villages and about 47 000 refugees, mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, hosted in camps are also at risk of increased food insecurity.



Burundi
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	122	128	120	-6
Sorghum	83	87	82	-6
Rice (paddy)	79	91	85	-7
Others	20	21	20	-5
Total	305	327	307	-6

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Reference Date: 18-October-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of the 2013 A season crops is underway
- Food prices decline, but remain high
- Worsening food insecurity as the main lean season progresses

Planting of 2013 A season crops is underway

The onset of the short rainy season (September-January) was 1-2 weeks earlier than usual and planting of the 2013 A season crops (which represent about 35 percent of total crop production) is almost complete. The whole country is forecast to receive average to above average rainfall amounts along the season, with favourable effects on crop yields and pasture conditions.

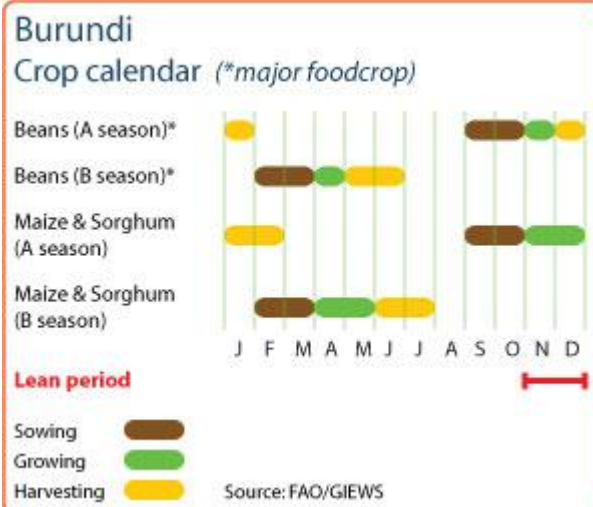
The 2012 cereal production is estimated at 300 000 tonnes, similar to last five years average and about 8 percent less than the good output obtained in 2011. Banana wilt, cassava mosaic and cassava brown streak are often affecting crops, especially in south-eastern regions, although there have been significant efforts by local authorities to control the problem.

Prices of main staple food decline, but are still well above one year ago

In August 2012, retail prices of major staple foods, such as beans, cassava flour and maize, have decreased by 6-8 percent from seasonal peaks registered in March/April as newly harvested 2012B season crops have reached main markets. The current price of cassava flour is slightly below the level of 12 months before, while prices of beans and maize are still 15 and 24 percent up, respectively. The average retail price of rice, an important commodity for urban households, has dropped from a record level of BIF 2 166 per kg in April 2012 to BIF 1 660 per kg in July/August 2012 (a decline of 23.4 percent) mainly due to the Government decision on 15 May 2012 to grant duty free access to imported food commodities until the end of the year. In August 2012, wheat was traded in Bujumbura market at record high BIF 1 440 per kg, an increase of about 45 percent on one year earlier.

Food security conditions expected to worsen until the end of the year

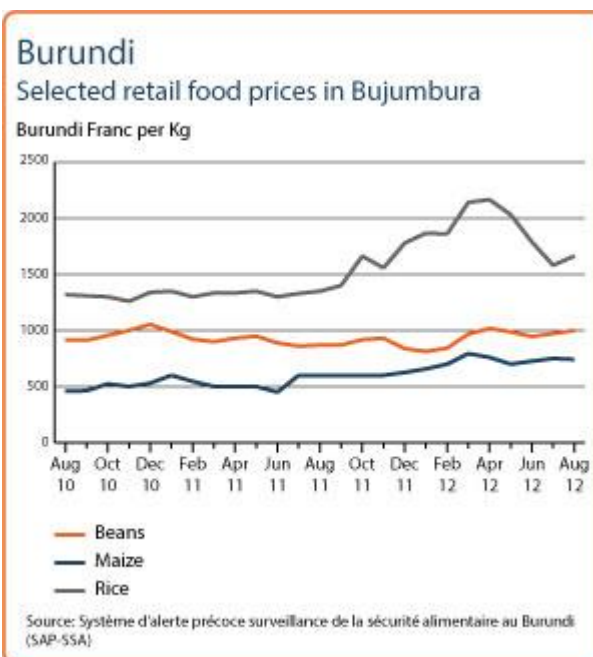
The ongoing lean season (October to December) has increased food insecurity among poorer households and is expected to continue until the start of the 2013 A season harvest from late December. Food stocks are quickly running out following the below average cereal crop production of 2012 B season harvested last June/July. The supply of banana and cassava crops has started to decrease due to the negative effects on production of pests and diseases. Prices of cereals and pulses are likely to remain at their high levels in the coming months, further eroding households' purchasing power. Conversely, pasture availability, animal body conditions and milk production are expected to improve following the forecast for enhanced rains.



Burundi Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	121	127	115	-9
Sorghum	83	87	80	-8
Rice (paddy)	79	91	85	-7
Others	20	21	20	-5
Total	304	326	300	-8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Reference Date: 25-July-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Below average production estimated for the 2012 B season
- Food prices decline as newly harvested crops reach markets
- Food insecure population still set at 1.7 million people

Below average output harvested during 2012 B season

Harvesting of the 2012 B season crops, which contributes to about half of annual food production, is well advanced and output is estimated at below average levels. The long rainy season (February-July) started late and was largely characterised by below average amounts across the country. In valley areas, however, heavy rains in April and May damaged some standing crops, especially beans. This is the second consecutive poor harvest in the country, following the reduced output of the 2012 A season harvested at the beginning of the year.

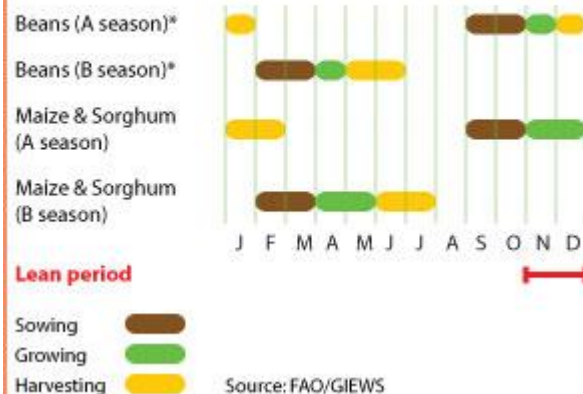
Reduction in prices of main staple food

Between April and June 2012, retail prices of beans and maize decreased by about 11 and 9 percent, respectively, in Bujumbura following the start of the 2012 B season harvest. While current prices of beans are about 7 percent below their level of one year earlier, prices of maize are about 40 percent higher. The average retail price of rice, an important commodity for urban households, has dropped from a record level of BIF 2 166 per kg in April 2012 to BIF 1 790 per kg in June 2012 mainly due to the Government decision on May 15 to grant duty free access to imported food commodities until the end of the year.

Food insecurity conditions expected to ease as newly harvested crops become available

The low production of the 2012 A season resulted in reduced supplies in local markets and household maize stocks were almost completely depleted in March/April, only about two-three months after the harvest. In March 2012, an estimated 1.7 million people, 18 percent of the total population, was considered to be food insecure and was mainly located in the central plateau and in eastern areas bordering the United Republic of Tanzania. Despite the projected below average 2012 B season output, overall food security conditions are expected to improve in the coming months as the bulk of newly harvested crops begin to reach the main markets.

Burundi Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

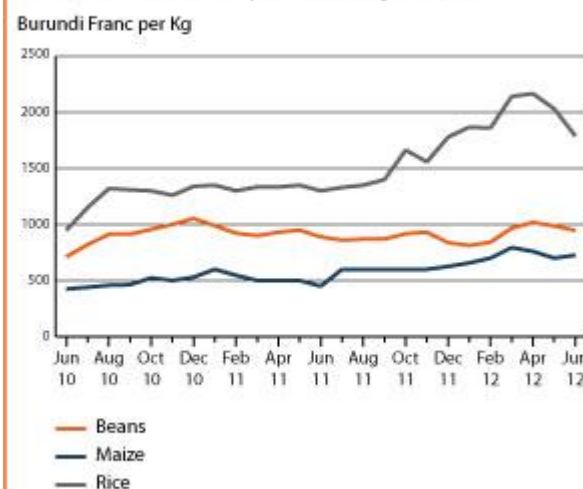


Burundi Cereal production

	2006-2010	2010	2011	change
	average		estimate	2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	118	127	127	0
Sorghum	83	83	87	5
Rice (paddy)	72	76	76	0
Others	19	20	21	5
Total	293	306	311	2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Burundi Selected retail food prices in Bujumbura



Source: Système d'alerte précoce surveillance de la sécurité alimentaire au Burundi (SAP-SSA)

Reference Date: 14-March-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Below average rains recorded at the start of the 2012 B season
- Food production declines for the 2012 A season
- High food prices persist following low supplies
- An estimated 1.7 million people, about 18 percent of the population, are categorised as food insecure

Poor rains received at the start of the 2012 B season

The start of the main 2012 B season (February-July) was largely characterised by below average rains across much of the country. In western parts however, rains performed slightly better, assisting land preparation and planting activities. Weather forecasts for the March-May period indicate an increased likelihood of normal to below normal rainfall, which could result in a second consecutive poor harvest, following the reduced output from the 2012 A season.

Poor 2012 A harvest gathered

Sporadic periods of intense rains during the 2012 A season (September-December), particularly in northern areas, inundated crops with excess water, negatively impacting crop yields. As a result food production, in cereal equivalent, for the 2012 A season and harvested from December 2011, is estimated at 228 000 tonnes, about 11 percent lower than the corresponding harvest in 2011. Maize production, which is the main cereal grown during this season, registered a 15 percent decline on 2011 to about 70 000 tonnes.

Despite the poor performance of food crops, cash crop production (coffee and tea) increased relative to the previous year. Higher levels of investment and improved maintenance of plantations supported the production gains.

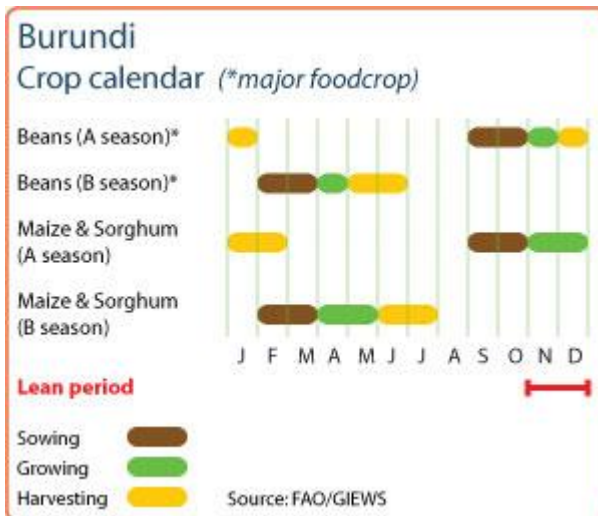
Food prices remain high

In Bujumbura, rice and maize prices for December 2011 were 33 and 18 percent higher, respectively, than the same month in 2010. Bean prices, on the other hand, were lower than last year. Tighter national supplies, as a result of limited import availabilities from within the subregion and the smaller harvest, contributed to maintaining high domestic prices.

Low food stocks aggravate food insecurity

The drop in production for the 2012 A season has resulted in reduced household supplies. For example, maize stocks from own production are estimated to last two months in the Dépression de l'Est. Nationally, a cereal deficit of about 133 000 tonnes, is projected and needs to be met through commercial and/or food assistance.

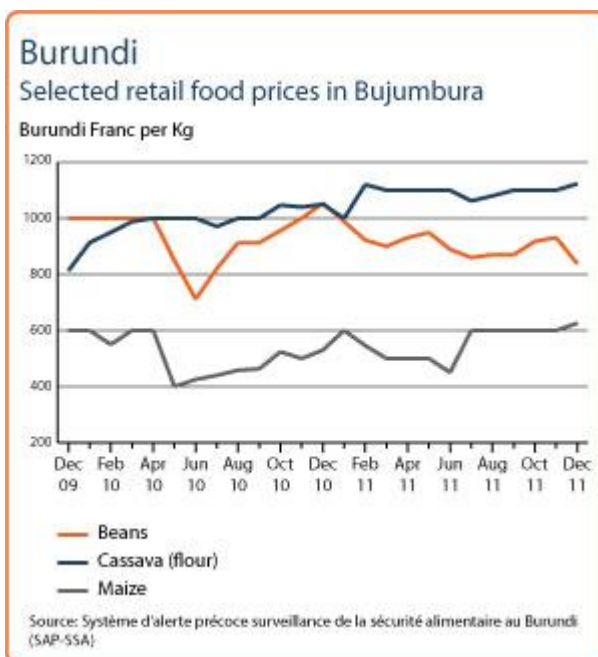
The low household food stocks, in combination with the prevailing high prices has aggravated food security conditions, with an estimated 1.7 million people, 18 percent of the population, considered to be food insecure. Assistance through WFP and partners is underway, while inputs are being provided by FAO to support the 2012 B agricultural



Burundi Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	118	127	127	0
Sorghum	83	83	87	5
Rice (paddy)	72	76	76	0
Others	19	20	21	5
Total	293	306	311	2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



season.

Reference Date: 09-January-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Crop prospects for the 2012 A season are mixed following abundant rains in late 2011
- Food prices persist at high levels
- An estimated 10 percent of the population are categorised as food insecure

Mixed prospects for 2012 A season

In contrast to the previous year, rainfall levels have been normal to above normal during the 2012 A season (September-December). However, sporadic periods of intense rains during the growing season, particularly in northern areas, could have negatively impacted crop productivity. Reports indicate some localised flooding in lowland areas. Harvesting is currently underway and will be finalised in February, when production estimates are expected to be available and will provide a clearer picture on this season's output. Furthermore, the persistence of banana bacterial wilt in the provinces of Cankuzo, Bubanza, Muyinga, Makamba, Kirundo, Rutana, Mwaro and Gitega, as well as cassava mosaic and brown streak disease continue to impact production in the affected areas, with negative consequences for households' food stocks and income opportunities.

Moderate production growth recorded in 2011

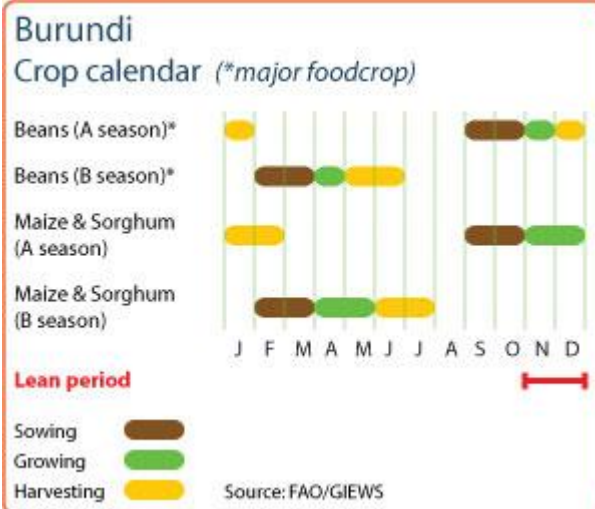
Aggregate cereal production in 2011 is estimated at about 311 000 tonnes, 2 percent higher than the previous year. Rainfall was generally satisfactory for the main 2011 B season, while an expansion in acreage further supported the good harvest. However, irregular and insufficient rains impacted productivity in eastern regions. In addition, northern areas, particularly Ngozi province, suffered from a period of sporadic heavy rains and hail between June and September, which caused damage to both the 2011 B and C crops.

Food prices persist at high levels

In Bujumbura, monthly rice and maize prices for October 2011 were 28 and 15 percent higher, respectively, than their levels in 2010 for the same month. Bean prices, on the other hand, were lower than last year. Tighter national supplies, as a result of limited import availabilities following imposition of an export ban in Tanzania (that was removed in late 2011), contributed to maintaining high domestic prices.

Low food stocks aggravate food insecurity in eastern areas

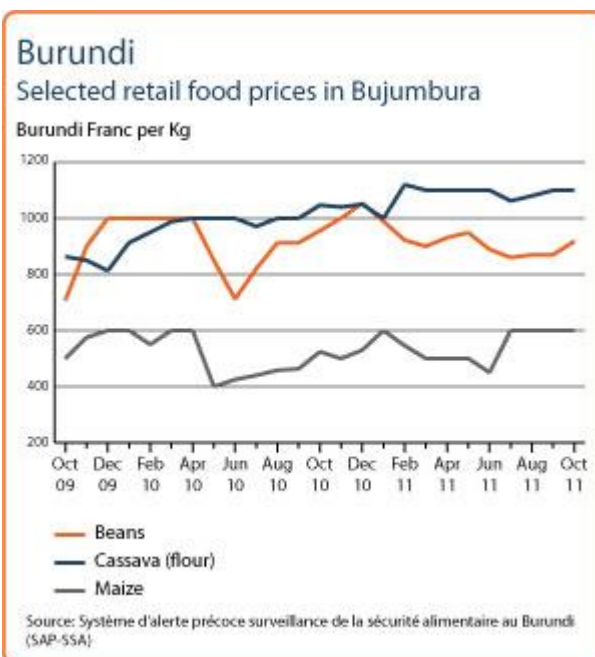
As a result of the poor production in some eastern regions, food stocks were depleted earlier than normal initiating a premature start of the lean season. Food availability and access were further eroded due to limited regional trade and higher prices. Nationally, an estimated 10 percent of the population is categorized as food insecure, with the provinces of Kayanza, Muyinga and Ngozi recording the highest rates of food insecurity. WFP assisted just under 300 000 persons during September and October 2011, while FAO provided households with seeds and agricultural equipment prior to the start of the 2012 A season.



Burundi Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	118	127	127	0
Sorghum	83	83	87	5
Rice (paddy)	72	76	76	0
Others	19	20	21	5
Total	293	306	311	2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Reference Date: 25-August-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Increased cereal production estimated in the 2011 B cropping season, following a poor 2011 A season harvest earlier in the year.
- Food prices remain high despite a moderate decline in June and July.
- An estimated 10 percent of the population are categorised as food insecure.

Generally satisfactory rains support improved production for 2011 B season

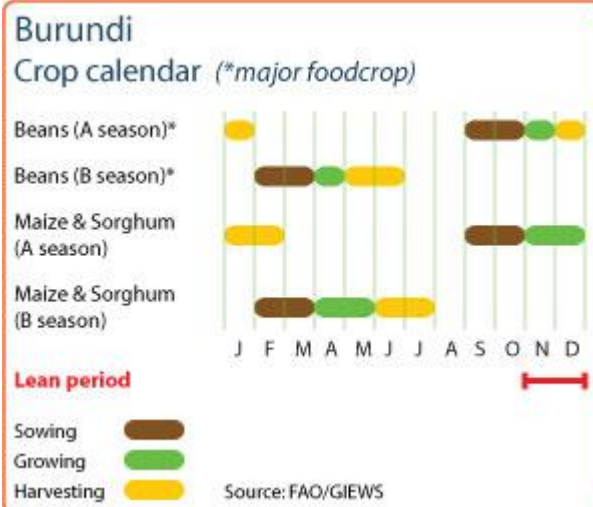
The aggregate cereal production in 2011, including the forecast for the minor 2011 C season, which normally contributes less than 10 percent to national production, is put at about 326 000 tonnes, 4 percent higher than in 2010.

This follows the latest estimates that indicate an improved crop production in the 2011 B season, compared to the corresponding season in 2010. Harvesting of the 2011 B season was completed in July and cereal production estimates indicate an increase of about 6 percent coupled with smaller increases in roots and tubers, and pulses production. Rainfall was generally satisfactory, benefitting crop development, while an expansion in acreage further supported the production. However, irregular and insufficient rains impacted productivity in eastern regions. In addition, in northern areas, in particular Ngozi province, substantial rains and hail during June caused damage to the bean crop and delayed some harvesting activities. The persistence of banana bacterial wilt in the provinces of Cankuzo, Bubanza, Muyinga, Makamba, Kirundo, Rutana, Mwaro and Gitega and the continuation of cassava mosaic disease has further impacted production in the affected areas, with negative consequences for households' food stocks and income opportunities.

Recent cereal harvest boosts domestic supplies, but prices remain high

Food price movements during the harvesting period in June and July were generally characterised by seasonable declines. However, higher transportation costs and high demand from regional markets, particularly for cereals following the impact of drought in several east African countries, have combined to sustain higher domestic prices in 2011. In Bujumbura rice, maize and bean prices were 16, 36 and 6 percent higher, respectively, relative to their levels in July 2010. Furthermore, the implementation of the new value added tax (VAT), following integration into the East African Community (EAC), has also contributed to higher prices.

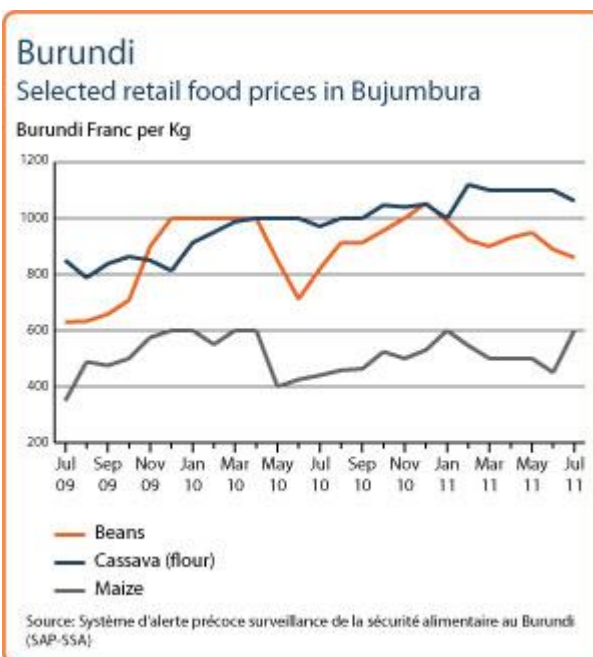
The cereal import requirement for the current 2011 marketing year (January/December) is estimated to remain similar to last year, at approximately 135 000 tonnes. However, persistent drought conditions in the Horn of Africa and subsequent export bans imposed by Tanzania may have an impact on food imports from Burundi's traditional trading partners.



Burundi Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	118	127	127	0
Sorghum	83	83	87	5
Rice (paddy)	74	83	91	10
Others	94	94	98	4
Total	295	313	326	4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Low food stocks aggravate food insecurity

Despite the overall improved B season harvest, food stocks in localized areas are reportedly at relatively low levels, owing to the poor 2011 A harvest last January, limited regional trade, and localized production shortfalls caused by climatic shocks and diseases. Households' cereal stocks are estimated to be sufficient for one to three months following the end of the harvest period in July. In combination with higher prices that are currently prevalent in the country, food security conditions of the affected population are likely to deteriorate from August onwards. Furthermore, an expected decrease in coffee production, by almost 45 percent compared to last year, on account of inadequate investment to maintain coffee plantations, will impact the earnings of the affected households and consequently their purchasing power. Nationally, an estimated 10 percent of the population, 881 000 people, are categorized as food insecure, with the provinces of Kayanza, Muyinga and Ngozi recording the highest rates of food insecurity. In total, WFP is targeting 611 726 beneficiaries to provide food assistance between July and December 2011.

Reference Date: 20-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good rains improve prospects for the 2011 B season crops
- Drop in food production in 2011 A season, harvested early this year, due to rainfall deficits, particularly in the east and north-east
- Food security conditions aggravated by the poor outturn of A season crops and the persistent high food prices

Improved rains for the 2011 B season

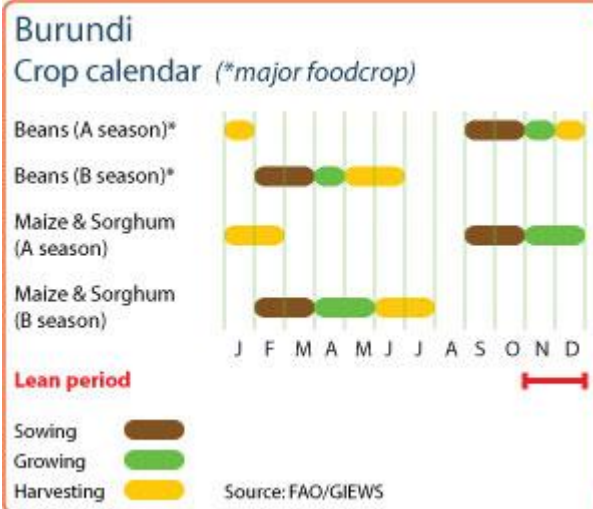
Harvesting of the bean crop for the 2011 B season is underway, while the cereal harvest is scheduled to begin next month. Crop prospects are generally satisfactory in spite of delayed rains at the start of the B season, particularly affecting eastern regions. Precipitation levels between March and the beginning of May were markedly improved benefiting crop growth. However, the continuation of insufficient rains in eastern areas bordering Tanzania at the start of the season and localised heavy rains could affect production levels. In addition, the occurrence of banana bacterial wilt in the provinces of Cankuzo, Makamba, Ruyigi, Rutana and Bubanza and the continuation of cassava mosaic disease will further affect production, impacting both households' food stocks and income opportunities. In response to the poor A season, input assistance was provided to households' that suffered production shortfalls. In addition, livestock repopulation programmes have been implemented together with a government vaccination scheme against Newcastle disease to improve livelihoods.

Drop in food production for the 2011 A season

The joint government and UN crop assessment at the beginning of 2011 estimated that total food production for the 2011 A season declined by 3 percent (cereal equivalent), compared with the corresponding season last year. Production of pulses and, tubers and roots declined by 7 and 3 percent respectively, while the cereal harvest (mainly maize) registered a slight increase and was estimated at 82 000 tonnes. The effect of La Niña is the primary reason cited for the lower harvest, causing a delayed start of the rains and deficient precipitation throughout the season, particularly in the north-east.

Food prices remain high, but decreased in recent months

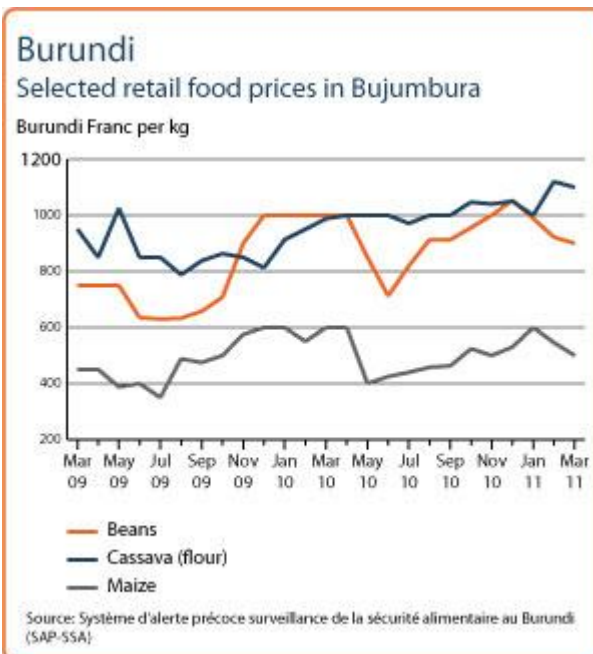
Despite the lower production levels, improved market supplies from the A season crops has contributed to a decline in maize and bean prices in the past few months; however, prices still remain higher than the five year average, attributed to higher fuel prices and the comparatively low production in 2010 and the 2011 A season. Furthermore, the implementation of the new value added tax (VAT), following integration into the East African Community (EAC) has also contributed to higher prices. In Bujumbura, during March market prices of beans, maize, wheat and cassava flour fell by 2, 8, 5 and 2 percent respectively compared to February. Beans and maize prices are lower than those observed in March 2010, while cassava (flour) prices are over 10 percent higher.



Burundi Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	117	120	110	-8
Sorghum	85	89	90	1
Rice (paddy)	72	76	76	0
Others	96	102	100	-2
Total	294	310	296	-5

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Low food stocks aggravate food insecurity

Owing to the poor 2011 A harvest, households' food stocks have generally been at low levels, with the exception of some southern regions that experienced good maize production. As a consequence, many households depended on market supplies as early as March. High food prices together with generally low income levels have therefore resulted in the worsening of household food security. WFP has provided food aid to approximately 245 000 beneficiaries to mitigate transitory food insecurity during March 2011. However, the arrival of the 2011 B crops on local markets is expected to provide relief to the situation, but areas that have experienced a continuation of poor rains remain a concern.

Reference Date: 28-March-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Drop in food production in 2011 A season due to rainfall deficits, particularly in the east and north-east
- Torrential rains recorded at high altitudes in January and February, caused some crop damage
- Food security conditions aggravated due to current poor harvest

Poor rains caused a drop in food production for the 2011 A season

Harvesting of the 2011 A season maize crop was completed during March, while the bean harvest was completed in February. According to a joint government and UN assessment, total food production for the 2011 A season is estimated to have fallen by 3 percent (cereal equivalent), compared with the corresponding season last year. Production of pulses and tubers and roots, declined by 7 and 3 percent respectively, while the cereal harvest (mainly maize) registered a slight increase and is estimated at 82 000 tonnes. The effect of La Niña is the primary reason cited for the lower harvest, causing a delayed start of the rains and deficient precipitation throughout the season, particularly in the north-east. Kirundo province experienced the largest fall in production. Furthermore, at the beginning of 2011, heavy rains combined with hail storms, caused damage to crops, with high altitude areas in the regions of Mumirwa and Mugamba particularly affected. The effects on the late start of 2011 A season, which consequently led to a delayed harvest, will impact the availability of seeds for the start of the main 2011 B season, with planting activities normally commencing in February. In efforts to support the main 2011 B season, inputs and seeds will be provided to farmers, with approximately 73 000 farmers targeted to receive assistance through FAO and partner organisations. The poor rains continued into March in most areas of the country, but higher rainfall levels were observed in western regions.

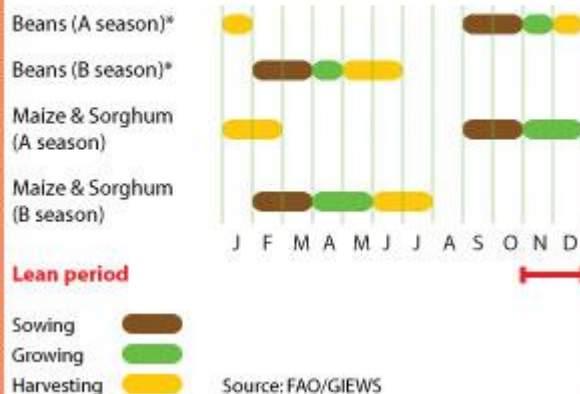
Food prices remain high, but decreased in recent months

Despite the lower production, the supply from the recently harvested crops has contributed to a decline in food prices in the past few months; however, prices still remain higher than the five year average, attributed to higher fuel prices and low production in 2010 and the 2011 A season. In Bujumbura market, with the exception of cassava, prices of beans, rice, wheat and maize are lower than levels observed in February 2010. By contrast, in Gitega and Ruyigi markets bean prices have continued to rise in January and February, and are 12 and 21 percent higher than one year earlier.

Fall in production expected to prolong the lean period

The shorter lean period that normally occurs between February and April/May is expected to be extended until the next harvest in June for large number of households whose crops were affected by the adverse weather conditions. The joint assessment conducted in January, estimates that just under 64 000 people currently require food

Burundi Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

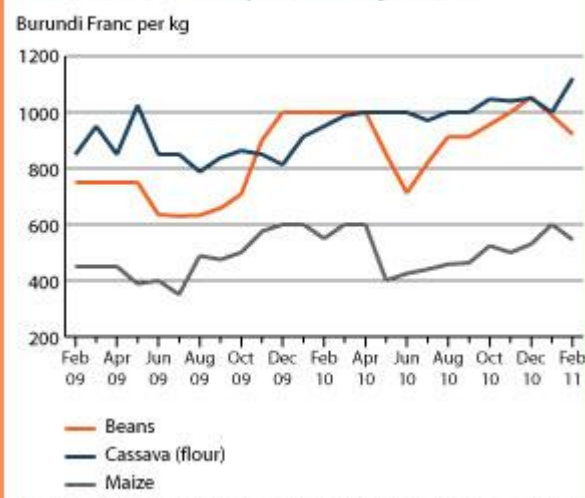


Burundi Cereal production

	2005-2009	2009	2010	change
	average		forecast	2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	120	121	120	-1
Sorghum	80	85	89	5
Rice (paddy)	71	74	76	3
Others	19	20	25	25
Total	290	300	310	3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Burundi Selected retail food prices in Bujumbura



Source: Système d'Alerte Précoce Surveillance de la Sécurité Alimentaire au Burundi (SAP-SSA)

assistance. Through WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation food assistance is being provided to returnees and refugees, as well as to vulnerable households to mitigate transitory food insecurity.

Reference Date: 15-January-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Poor prospects for the 2011A season in north-east regions, due to rainfall deficits in September and October 2010
- Cereal production increased in 2010, but bean production declined
- Food security conditions may worsen due to the expected poor harvest of the 2011A season

Extended dry period affects 2011A season crops

Harvesting of the 2011A short-rainy season's crops is currently underway. As a result of an extended dry period in the last quarter of 2010, attributed to the effects of La Niña, the start of the season was delayed and reports indicate a reduction in the planted area for food crops. Rains increased towards the end of the year, improving crop conditions in some areas. On the whole, however, the earlier poor rains, particularly in the north-east, are estimated to have had a negative impact on the 2011A season's bean crop.

Favourable rains support improved 2010 harvest

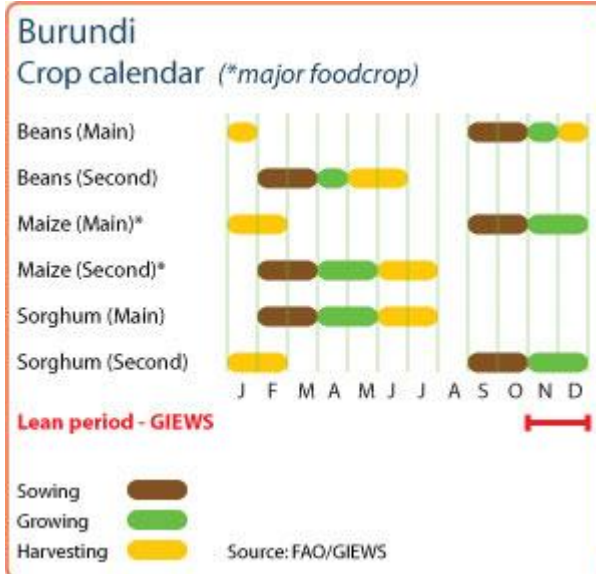
Rainfall levels for the main 2010B season (February-May) were favourable, following dry weather conditions earlier in the year that adversely affected the 2010A crops. Production estimates indicate a slight improvement over the corresponding season in 2009, with increases recorded for cereals, tubers and bananas, helping to off-set a reduced bean harvest. Furthermore, coffee production for 2010 increased significantly, estimated at 30 000 tonnes, compared to the 6 500 tonnes produced in the previous year. Overall, cereal production for 2010 is estimated to be about 4 percent larger than in 2009, while the production of pulses fell marginally.

Food security conditions likely to worsen

In recent months the overall food security situation had improved, owing to increased food availability from the 2010B harvest, but it is likely to deteriorate if current prospects for a poor 2011A season crop materialize. This is particularly true for the chronic food insecurity areas of the north eastern part of the country where crops have been negatively affected by the poor rains in recent months.

Food prices remain high

The reduction in bean production in 2010 has led to higher prices across the country. In particular, bean prices in Gitega market during November were traded at BIF 344 per kg, nearly one third higher than the same month in the previous year. Similarly, prices of sweet potato are also at high levels.



Burundi
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	120	121	120	-1
Sorghum	80	85	89	5
Rice (paddy)	71	74	78	5
Others	19	20	25	25
Total	290	300	312	4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 15-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Improved 2010B harvest, on account of favourable rainfall.
- New market supplies led to lower prices of most foods since March, but prices have started to rise again in July.
- Overall, food insecurity conditions improve following the main harvest, but assistance is still required for returnees and refugees.

Abundant early rains support an improved 2010B crop harvest

Harvesting of the main 2010B season's (which accounts for about 50 percent of total production) crops was completed in July, while land preparation and planting for the secondary 2011A season (accounting for about 35 percent of total production) is currently underway. At the start of the main season, assistance in basic agricultural inputs (mainly seeds) was provided to 142 300 vulnerable households. Rainfall levels improved for the main season (February-May), following dry weather conditions in late 2009 and early 2010, which adversely affected the 2010A crops. However, water deficits were observed in southern and eastern parts of the country during the end of April and May, negatively impacting bean crops. Production estimates indicate a slight improvement over the corresponding season in 2009, with increases recorded for cereals, tubers and bananas off-setting a reduced bean harvest. Furthermore, coffee production for 2010 increased significantly, estimated at 30 000 tonnes, compared to the 6 500 tonnes produced last year.

Seeds were provided to 82 248 vulnerable households for the minor 2010C season (normally contributing about 15 percent to total annual production) to plant in the marshes and lowlands, with harvesting scheduled to finish in September.

Seasonal decline in food prices

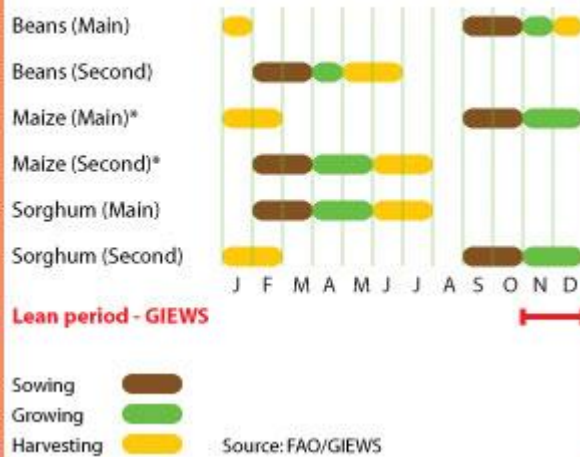
Bean and maize prices remained at a high level during the start of 2010, reflecting the poor 2010 A crop. However, prices of maize, rice, wheat and beans all declined from April to May, as the new supplies from the 2010B harvest arrived in the markets; but prices have increased between June and July.

The ratification of the East African Community's (EAC) common market protocol, which came into effect at the beginning of July and which allows the free movement of goods between Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi, could facilitate increased trade in agricultural commodities.

General improvement in food security conditions

Overall, the food security situation has improved, owing to increased food availability from the 2010B harvest. However, chronic food insecurity still persists in the north, due to a combination of factors, including poor cassava production and households' utilizing the recently harvested crops as a means to repay debts incurred during the lean period. Food distributions continue to support the vulnerable population

Burundi Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

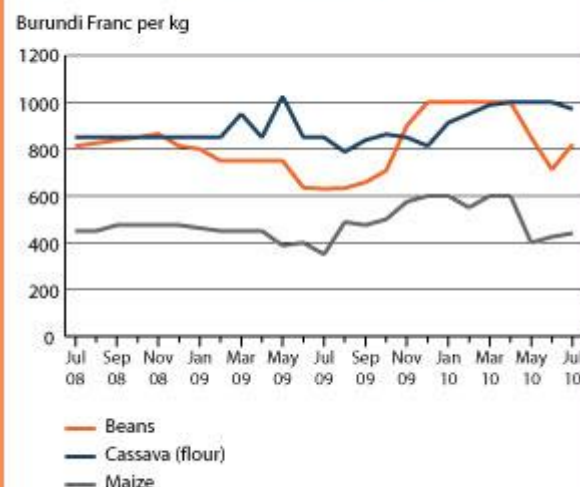


Burundi Cereal production

	2005-2009	2009	2010	change
	average		forecast	2010/2009
000 tonnes				
Maize	120	121	120	-1
Sorghum	80	85	89	5
Rice (paddy)	71	74	78	5
Others	19	20	25	25
Total	290	300	312	4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Burundi Selected retail food prices in Bujumbura



including returnees and refugees.

Reference Date: 20-March-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2010A crops output below normal for second consecutive year reflecting early season rain deficit and floods later.
- Reduced supplies and higher prices for major foods are restricting the access to food of vulnerable populations.
- International assistance continues to be required for returnees and for agricultural inputs.

Rain deficits in September/October followed by floods hamper 2010A season crops

Early season rains were much below normal in most areas and plantings of the 2010A secondary beans and maize crops were severely delayed. From late November through December heavy rains and floods associated with El-Nino phenomenon have resulted in considerable crop damage. There are three cropping seasons in Burundi with the A accounting for 35 percent of the total production, the B Season for 50 percent and the C Season for 15 percent.

Official estimates indicate a 2010A crop of 261 000 tonnes in cereal equivalent, only 1 percent above the below average 2009A crop. Out of the total, cereals are estimated to have increased by 5 percent while pulses are down by 12 percent as this crop has suffered most from the late season floods. Output of root crops and bananas/plantains have remained almost unchanged from the previous year with cassava output still suffering from the impact of the mosaic disease.

Planting of the main season 2010B crop for harvest from June (50 percent of total crop) has benefited from heavy rains in February, but shortages of seeds may result in lower plantings in some areas.

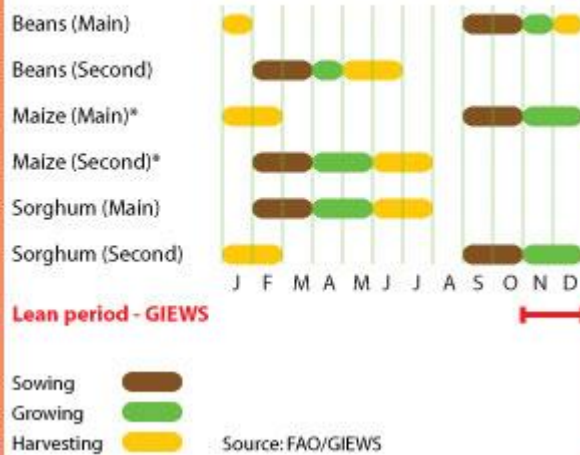
Below average 2010A crop results in severe food situation in parts

Supplies from the below average 2010A season's crops are expected to last, on average, three months from January. With the main season 2010B crop only starting to be available in June many households will have to rely on the market to meet their food needs. According to the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted in February, the natural region of Bugesera is already in Phase IV (Humanitarian emergency) as most of the 2010A crop was lost in this region. The Moso natural region and several areas in the Bubanza and Bujumbura Rural provinces are classified as Phase III (Acute food crisis). Food situation is also below normal in other natural regions.

High food prices reduce access to food

Market prices of major foods, which had declined in the first half of 2009 have steadily increased in recent months. In February 2010 the retail prices of maize and beans in Bujumbura, were 38 and 57 percent higher than in June 2009 respectively, and wheat and especially rice prices had also risen sharply. All the prices of major foods were in February higher than at the same time a year earlier. The high food prices have resulted in a serious deterioration of the access to food for the poorer households in most parts of the country.

Burundi Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)

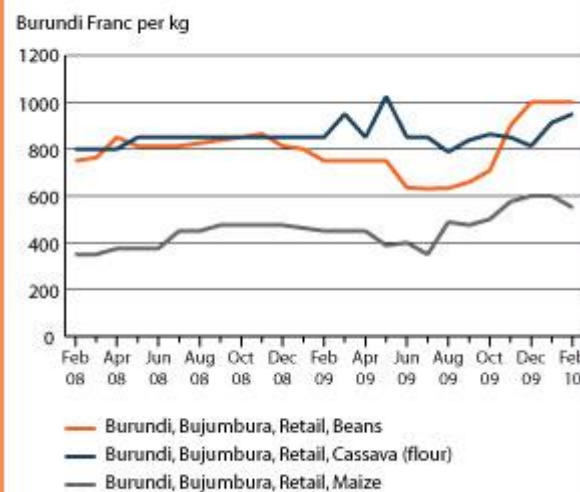


Burundi Cereal production

	2004-2008	2008	2009	change
	average		estimate	2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	120	116	121	4
Sorghum	78	81	85	5
Rice (paddy)	68	71	74	4
Others	18	19	20	5
Total	286	288	300	4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Burundi Selected food prices



Source: Système d'Alerte Précoce Surveillance de la Sécurité Alimentaire au Burundi (SAP-SSA)

Overall security improved but international assistance continue to be required for returnees and household affected by climatic hazards

Overall, the security situation has improved since the signing of the peace accord between the Government and the FNL Movement in December 2008. Food distributions continue to support the vulnerable population including returnees, and those affected by drought last year. During February 2010 WFP distributed a total of 2 100 tonnes to some 459 000 people.

To minimize the shortage of seed for the main season 2010B crops, assistance in basic agricultural inputs (mainly seeds) has been provided in February to 142 300 vulnerable households affected by the unfavourable climatic conditions in late 2009. The assistance provided corresponds to 47 percent of the estimated requirements.

Reference Date: 20-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Outlook for 2010A crops unfavourable reflecting early season rain deficit which delayed plantings and floods in late November
- Because of poor 2009C crop and a delayed harvest of the 2010A crop, the lean period is two months longer this year.
- Increased demand for food in the market have led a sharp rise of consumer prices which restrict food access of vulnerable populations
- International assistance required for and returnees and for seeds for the 2010B season plantings.

Rain deficits in September/October followed by floods hamper 2010A season crops

Early season rains were much below normal in most areas and plantings of the 2010A secondary beans and maize crops have been severely delayed. Mostly affected have been the Centre/Sud and Centre/East regions where plantings had a two months delay. Moisture deficit has continued for most of November in Bugesera in the North where more than 75 percent of the crop has been lost. From late November through December heavy rains and floods associated with El-Nino phenomenon have resulted in considerable crop damage especially in the Imbo plain and in the central plateau where important rivers flow.

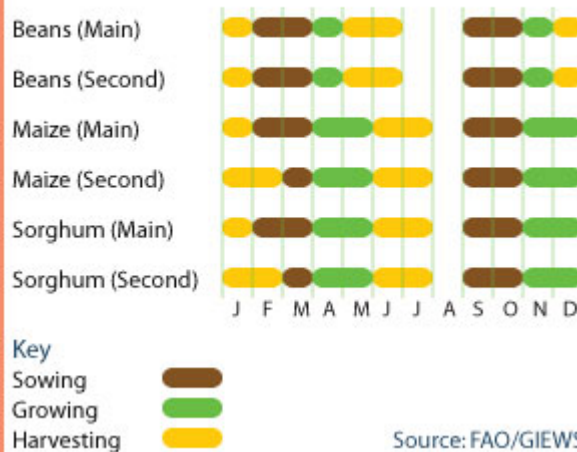
Although the heavy rains have benefited crops in some areas, it is clear that total production from the 2010A crop will be severely reduced this year. In addition plantings of the main season 2010B crop are likely to be affected because the late harvest of the 2010A crop will result in seed shortages and overlapping of the two seasons.

Longer lean period this year because of late plantings of 2010 crops leads to increased demand and high prices and reduced access to food

Supplies from the good 2009B season's crops were exhausted in August, marking the start of the lean season. The secondary 2009C crops which normally cover the food needs of 30 percent of households who have access to the "marais" was affected by the prolongation of the dry season and by floods since late November. While the lean period normally ends in December with the first harvest of the 2010A crops, because of the late plantings the lean period has been extended by two months. This has resulted in a larger than normal need for households to obtain food supplies from the market. Data from the SAP/SSA (early warning food security monitoring system) indicate that in December more than 60 percent of the households were relying from the market for their food needs, a much higher proportion than normal.

As a result of the increased demand, market prices of major foods, which had declined in the first half of 2009 have risen again in recent months. In December 2009 the retail prices of maize and beans in Bujumbura, were 50 and 57 percent higher than in June respectively, and wheat and rice prices had also risen sharply. All the prices of major foods, except cassava flour, were in December higher than at the same

Crop calendar Burundi

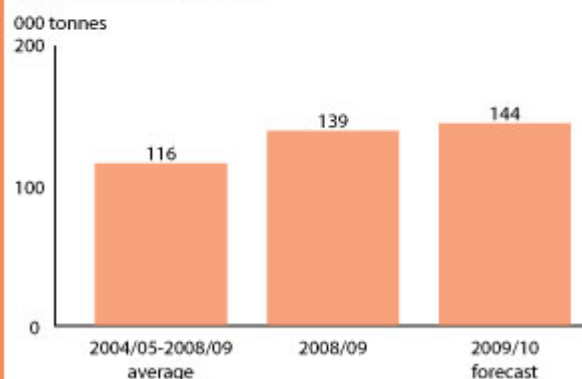


Burundi Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	120	116	121	4
Sorghum	78	81	85	5
Rice (in milled terms)	46	47	49	4
Others	18	19	20	5
Total	263	264	275	4

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total Cereals imports



Notes: Total cereals includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

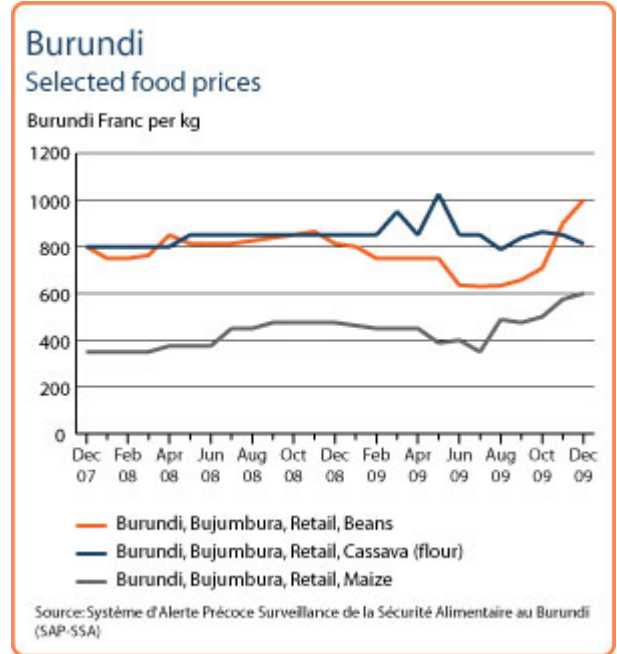
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

time a year earlier. The renewed high food prices have resulted in a serious deterioration of the food access for the poorer households in most parts of the country, with reduction of meals and distress sales of assets reported.

Overall security improved but international assistance continue to be required for and returnees and household affected by climatic hazards

Overall, the security situation has improved since the signing of the peace accord between the Government and the FNL Movement in December 2008. Food distributions continue to support the vulnerable population including returnees, and those affected by drought last year. During November 2009 WFP distributed a total of 6 949 tonnes to some 781 000- people and in December 3 500 tonnes of food to about 594 000 beneficiaries.

To minimize the expected reduction in main season 2010B crops, assistance in basic agricultural inputs (mainly bean seeds) is urgently required by some 15 percent of populations affected by the unfavourable climatic conditions in late 2009 for their sowings in February.



Reference Date: 4-January-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early season rain deficit hampers 2010A season plantings
- Good rains result in an improved harvest for the 2009B season
- High food prices restrict food access of vulnerable populations
- International assistance required for IDPs and returnees

Rain deficits in September/October hamper 2010A season plantings

Early season rains were much below normal in most areas and plantings of the secondary beans and maize have been affected. Satellite-based information indicates that rains were received in November and December which probably improved the situation.

Favourable rains supported increased crop production for 2009B season

The 2009B season's crops harvest was completed in June. A joint crop assessment exercise by the Government, FAO and other partners, conducted in June estimated total cereal production for the 2009B season at 204 000 tonnes, representing a 5 percent increase relative to the 2008B season. However, the high costs of fertilisers, averaging between FBU 1 500 and FBU 3 000/kg, contributed to constraining a potentially greater increase in cereal production. Aggregate cereal production for 2009, including preliminary forecasts for the minor 2009C season, is put at 275 000 tonnes, which is 4 percent greater than last year's level.

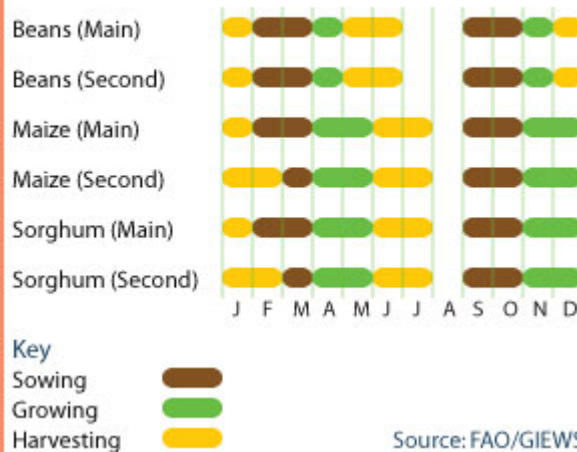
High food prices limiting food access

Food prices fell in the first half of 2009. However in spite of the better 2009B harvest, staple food prices have started to rise again since June. In November 2009 the retail prices of maize and beans in Bujumbura, were over 40 percent higher than in June and 4 and 21 percent respectively above prices observed a year earlier. The price of cassava flour has also increased marginally in recent months. The renewed high food prices have resulted in a serious deterioration of the food access for the poorer households in most parts of the country, with reduction of meals and distress sales of assets reported.

Overall security improved but international assistance continue to be required for IDPs and returnees

Overall, the security situation has improved since the signing of the peace accord between the Government and the FNL Movement in December 2008. Food distributions continue to support the vulnerable population including IDPs, returnees, and those affected by drought last year. During October 2009 WFP had distributed 7 560 tonnes of food to 65 870 beneficiaries.

Crop calendar Burundi



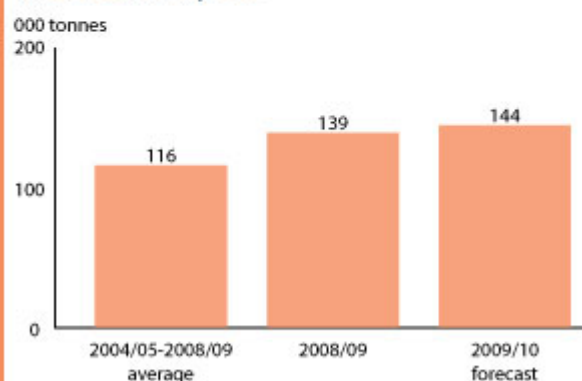
Burundi

Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	120	116	121	4
Sorghum	78	81	85	5
Rice (in milled terms)	46	47	49	4
Others	18	19	20	5
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Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total Cereals imports



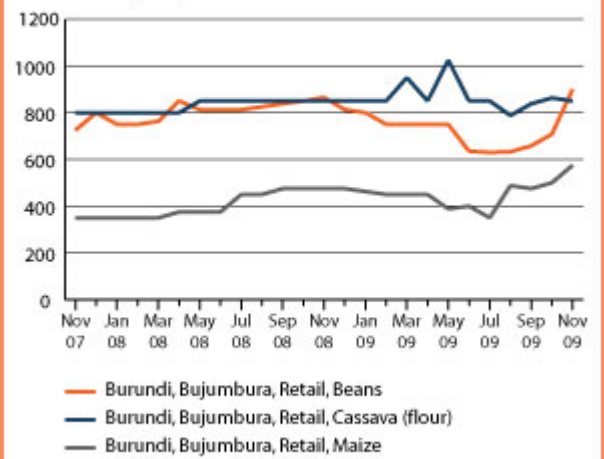
Notes: Total cereals includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Burundi

Selected retail food prices

Burundi Franc per kg



Source: Système d'Alerte Précoce Surveillance de la Sécurité Alimentaire au Burundi (SAP-SSA)

Reference Date: 09-September-2009

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good rains result in an improved harvest for the 2009B season
- High food prices restrict food access of vulnerable populations
- International assistance required for IDPs and returnees

Favourable rains support crop production for 2009B season

Harvesting of the 2009B seasons crops was completed in June, while planting for the 2010A season is currently underway. During the 2009B season cumulative rainfall levels were normal to above normal. However, excessive downpours at the end of February and early March caused flooding in most areas of the country. The heavy rainfall reportedly caused crop damage in some localities. A joint crop assessment exercise by the Government, FAO and other partners, estimated total cereal production for the 2009B season at 204 000 tonnes, representing a 5 percent increase relative to the 2008B season. However, the high costs of fertilisers, averaging between 1 500 and 3 000 FBU per kilogram, contributed to constraining a potentially greater increase in cereal production. Aggregate cereal production for 2009, including preliminary forecasts for the minor 2009C season, is estimated at 275 000 tonnes, which is 4 percent greater than last year's level.

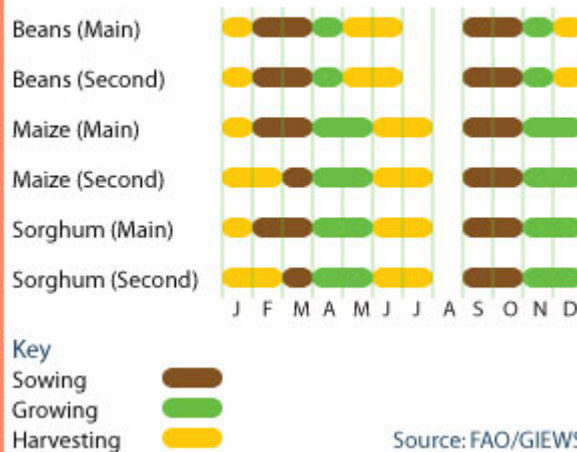
High food prices limiting food access

Food prices still remain higher than the pre-crisis period of 2007. The market price of maize, beans and cassava (flour), in May 2009 in Bujumbura, was 11, 25 and 29 percent above prices observed two years earlier. The persistent high food prices, coupled with limited increases in households' income levels, have contributed to restricting food access for the poorer households in Bujumbura, Cibitoke, Kirundo and Rutana, in particular. The implementation of Value Added Tax (VAT) on imported food products has also contributed to food inflation.

Overall food security improving but international assistance required for IDPs and returnees

Overall, the security situation has improved since the signing of the peace accord between the Government and the FNL Movement in December 2008. Food distributions continue to support the vulnerable population including IDPs, returnees, and those affected by drought last year. During June 2009 WFP distributed 3310 tonnes of food to 275 813 beneficiaries. Since the beginning of 2009, 12 686 refugees have returned to Burundi.

Crop calendar Burundi



Cereal production and imports Burundi

Cereal production	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes	percent		
Maize	120	116	121	4.3%
Sorghum	78	81	85	4.9%
Rice (milled)	46	49	49	0%
Other	18	19	20	5.3%
Total Cereals	263	265	275	3.8%

