**Acute Food Insecurity**

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

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

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

**Acute Malnutrition**

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

In addition, poor access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities contribute to increased levels of acute malnutrition in the majority of the districts analyzed.

**Key Drivers of Acute Food Insecurity**

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

**Key Drivers of Acute Malnutrition**

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

**Projected Acute Food Insecurity**

- **June - September 2021**: About 1.04 million people in Burundi are likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between June and September 2021.

**Projected Acute Malnutrition**

- **September 2020 - August 2021**: About 139,787 children under the age of five in Burundi will likely suffer from acute malnutrition and in need of treatment.
- **January - August 2021**: About 26,142 pregnant or lactating women in Burundi are projected to be acutely malnourished in need of treatment.