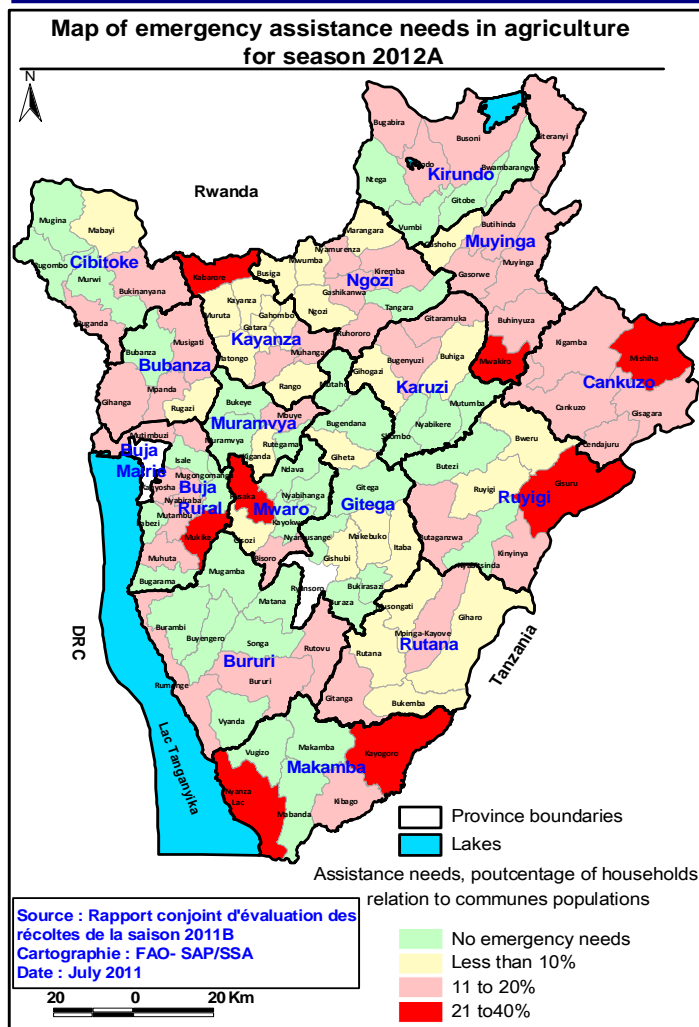




Burundi Food Security Monitoring Early Warning System SAP/SSA

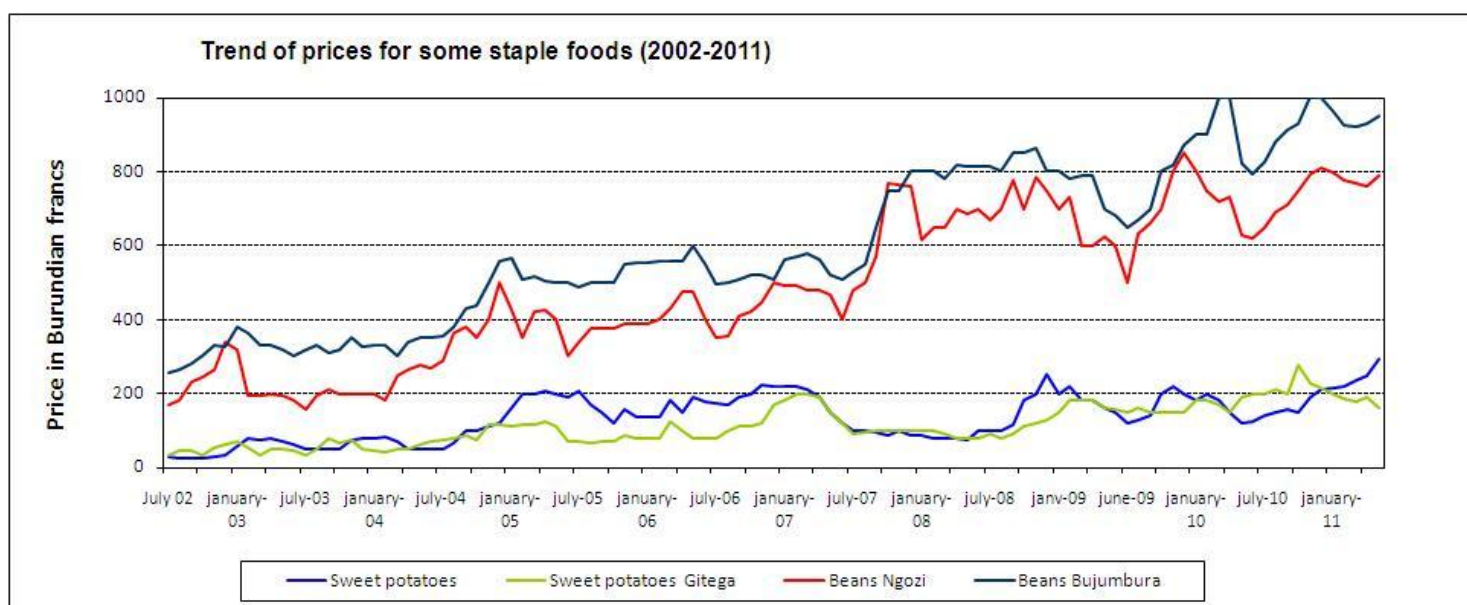
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- Increase of theft of crops and in households is concerning as it is likely to bear a negative impact on food stocks and reserves from Season 2011B crops;
- Whereas normally it is dry season, torrential rains with hail recorded in some locations during the first half of June have caused agricultural losses and disturbed maturing bean crops....;
- Despite improvement of production in Season 2011A (3% increase comparing to 2010B), the food deficits remain high for the second semester of the year, notably because the imports that could supplement those production deficits are reduced by the sub-regional food crisis. ... ;
- Households victims of various climate disturbances recorded in season 2011B and those with low resilience capacity have not taken advantage of conducive conditions for a good production of Season 2011B and so remain vulnerable to food insecurity. The IPC analysis scheduled for August will provide more details...;
- The needs in emergency assistance assessed after season 2011B came down of 5% compared to those of last year (after season 2011 B)... ;
- The WFP office in Burundi distributed 1, 401 tons of food to 254.100 beneficiaries in June 2011...

🔍 To read in the bulletin...



This monthly bulletin aims to prevent serious nutritional crises and is used to distribute information regarding food security in Burundi. It emanates from the collaboration of FAO, OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, MINAGRIE and NGOs operating in the field, with support from donors and notably the EU delegation



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1. Security situation and population movements

A tripartite Commission Burundian Government-Tanzanian Government-UNHCR that met on May 31, 2011 fixed closure of the last Burundian refugee camp of Mtabila in Tanzania on December 31st, 2011. This camp is still hosting 38 000 refugees (67 393 Burundians still in Tanzania). This deadline will allow tackling files and facilitating repatriation of those Burundians still in exile. Meanwhile, the UNHCR has facilitated return of more than 510 000 people since 2002 while 1 062 000 former refugees have got Tanzanian citizenship.

In the meantime, a mood of physical insecurity punctuated with murder cases, armed robbery and thefts of crops and in households is likely to reduce food reserves and stocks obtained from the production of 2011B. Lessons from previous security crises show that such a situations triggers serious food shortages.

2. Rainfall situation

Whereas May was characterized by a cut in rains, making people think of the beginning of the dry season, this June 2011 recorded abundant rains during its second decade, more destructive. The rain was particularly recorded in the northern, central and western and southern parts of the country; some households in the north witness not to have seen such rains since thirty years.

The rain was followed by late sawing of tubers (sweet potato and cassava) and wheat, and favored constitution of grass and banana plantations, but also provoked serious damages to crops. The rains notably halted harvest of beans and sorghum. Subsequent flooding destroyed maturing rice crops (especially in the centre-northern part of the country) as well as some infrastructures.

The hail that followed particularly those rains has been fatal for thousands of households. Mostly affected households are in the provinces of Ngozi (3 600) in the commune of Marangara, Nyamurenza and Kiremba and in Bururi (17 100 households) in Bururi commune. For the latter case, a joint assessment mission UNDP/WFP, carried out on Kiremba, Nyavyamo and Gisanze, mostly affected hills, in supplement to the results established by the assessment of season 2011B coordinated by the FAO, showed that, in addition to these damages on crops, maturing bean crops lost grains. Households victims of the damages organized themselves to collect the grains scattered in the crops.

Estimates established by the mission reveal that most of the seriously hit households stress that 90% of estimated bean harvests are lost and that the remaining 10% are even not conservable. So, households associate in groups to get back the least they can by collecting one by one, the grains scattered by large-scale hail in the crops. Other crops in place were also swept away, it is the case of sweet potato, banana plantations on hills, and marshland potato. The dry season resumed since the third decade of June.

3. The agricultural situation



July 28, 2011 – Mugozi hill (Bururi commune), a victim of hail collects bean grains scattered in the crop.

June is a month of harvest for season B, the main agricultural season in Burundi. In fact, season B contributes to about 50 percent of available food stuffs from agricultural production, against 35% and 15% respectively for seasons A and C. The agricultural production for season 2011 B has been favored by a globally satisfactory rainfall. The sufficient rains positively contributed to the undertaken emergency agricultural rehabilitation and agricultural development.

In addition diffusion of cassava cuttings resisting to severe mosaic has boosted production of tubers. However some problems have been at the origin of the low production for some crops in 2011 B, notably:

- Irregular rains in the Eastern depressions and in the Imbo lowlands, and cases of destructive hail that occurred in various locations of several provinces;
- banana wilt caused by a bacteria called « *Xanthomonas campestris* *pv.* *musacearum* », that threatens banana production and the populations' income ; particularly in the provinces of Cankuzo, Bubanza, Muyinga, Makamba, Kirundo, Rutana, Mwaro and Gitega where the disease spreads rapidly ;
- attack of beans(essentially) by the white moisture, caused by « *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* » spreading in the natural regions of Bututsi and Mugamba ;
- Persisting cassava mosaic in the eastern (Moso) and northern(Bugesera)depressions.

Finally, the provisional report of the joint harvests assessment mission MINAGRIE/FAO/WFP/UNICEF shows a 3% increase of harvests for this season 2011B, comparing with season 2010B. The increase of farmed land is most significant for rice, wheat and cassava, whereas the one for potato lowered by 3,3%.

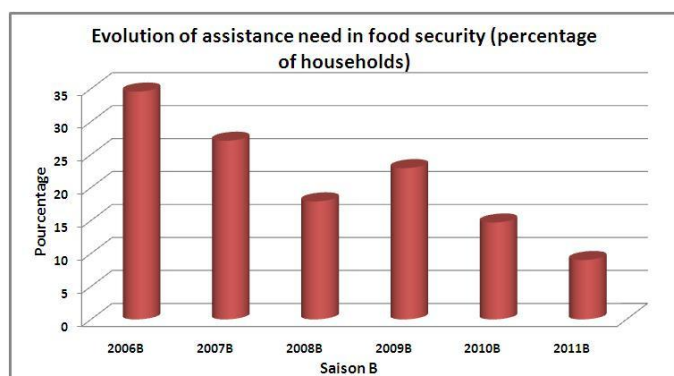
Comparison of season B crop production - 2011B/2010B			
Crop groups	2010B in T EC	2011B in T EC	Variation (%) 2011B/2010B
Pulses	172 768	178 268	3
Cereals	211 434	224 403	6
Tubers	315 949	321 027	2
Banana	67 001	68 308	2
Total	767 152	792 006	3

The sharpest increase in production is recorded for the cereals' group, that is, 6% more comparing to season 2010 B, see table below. It's worth noting that the rice season in FAO-followed zones set in the Imbo Lowland, has been excellent, with the production exceeding 40-60% the one of season 2010B.

4. Food availability and access

In the course of June, harvests for season 2011 are generally featured by an overall improvement of food security in Burundi. Signs of improvement of the food situation were effectively perceptible in May with the improvement of local markets' supplies in terms of diversity and quantity, as well as diversification of households' food regime and increase of the number and volume of daily meals.

Contrary to previous years, prices of food stuffs remained high. Moreover, despite the improvement of the 2011B season's production, the country still records food deficits as the size of imports remained small. To that effect, the needs in imports for the second semester that should compensate the previous production deficit are estimated to 61 860 tons of Cereals Equivalents, while the national capacity just covered 40% of those needs, that is, 25 000 tons of Cereals Equivalents. With the 13 033 tons CE of food assistance estimates, an uncovered food deficit is still set at 23 820 tons of Cereals Equivalents, that is, 3% of the domestic production estimated to 846.000 tons of Cereals Equivalents.



It is crucial to note that the food crisis following the drought situation that hit the far-eastern part of Africa mobilizes food resources in the sub-region and therefore limits imports opportunities for Burundi. On the contrary, the risk of exporting basic foodstuffs from Burundi is great, which will further increase the level of the food deficit and limit food access for the poorest households.

The high deficit for the second semester of the year 2011 is unequally distributed nationwide. According to the WFP survey of June and carried out in 658 households, the natural regions of Buyenzi, Bweru and Kirimiro subject to land scarcity-related structural limits and to low fertility of land, show fragility as far as diversity of the food regime and adaptation strategies are concerned. The same applies to households affected by various climate disturbances that arose during season 2011 B. The analysis of the food security mapping referring to the Integrated food Security Phase Classification(IPC) scheduled for early August, will

establish the level of food insecurity for the second semester of the year, on basis of all food security indicators.

5. Nutritional situation

With the 2011B season's harvests, the improvement in quantity and quality of the food regime contributes to an increase of the nutritional level. This nutritional improvement should continue until the next bridge-up period generally situated at the end of August. .

6. Responses to emergencies

The relatively good climate conditions recorded during season 2011B allowed the valuing of brokered agricultural assistance. FAO had notably assisted 160 000 households *via* emergency programmes (seed fairs and direct distributions) and rehabilitation programmes (production of quality seeds). The agricultural assistance boosted at the beginning of season 2011C was provided to 45 000 most vulnerable households, allowing them to carry out the production of November, in the full bridge up period. Season C is also sustained in the Imbo Lawland thanks to distribution of seeds and agricultural tools most of which comprise watering cans.

The provisional analysis report for season 2011B established that 9% of the population will need to be assisted in basic agricultural inputs for the launching of season 2012A in September. These households are globally targeted among those seriously affected by hazards during season 2011B (see chapter 2 of this bulletin).

The chart above shows emergency assistance needs and confirms that those identified after 2011 are the lowest since several years, as a result of good overall performances of season 2011 B and advantages of rehabilitation and development programmes carried out since some years.

However, regarding up-surging problems (Banana wilt, cassava and bean diseases, price increase, limited imports and growing exports) and the regular problems in country (climate hazards), the risk for the assistance needs increase in the coming months is very high.

In June 2011, the WFP provided assistance to 254 100 households with 1 401 tons of foodstuffs through the Programmes of General Distributions, School Canteens, Food for Work, Food to vulnerable persons within institutions, Food to Refugees and Repatriates. Over the period August-December, WFP faces a cumulative deficit of 1721tons (*1309 tons of cereals, 257 tons of pulses, 131 tons of complete flour CSB], , and 24 tons of oil*) worth about 1,6 million US dollars. These deficits could affect implementation of activities of the Country Programme including school canteens, nutritional assistance to vulnerable persons groups, and activities in support to the recovery and revitalization of communities.

At Glance: Support to recapitalization of vulnerable households through aviculture

Within the framework of diversification of livelihoods of structurally and/or economically vulnerable households, FAO's Agricultural Operations Unit has included in its activities the aspect of Aviculture. The option was dictated by the reality that it is a kind of stockbreeding fitting households with limited resources and little access to land.

The targeted objective is: (i) access to income through sale of livestock products, (ii) improvement of the nutritional situation through consumption of animal proteins that are lacking in most of rations, (iii) use of manure in household vegetable crops known to be having a high fertilizing value.



Three donors have already funded this programme: (i) The Belgian Kingdom in 2010, for 9 000 laying hens distributed in Bujumbura peri-urban zones (1 840 hens), Ngozi (1 880 hens), Gitega (2 080 hens), Rumonge (2 000 hens), and Muramvya (200 hens). The distributed accompanying veterinary kit include 30,6 tons of poultry food and 2 050 mangers. The kit of veterinary materials and products is put at the disposal of partners for possible health interventions; (ii) The European Union in 2011, for 9 000 chicken distributes at Kirundo (5 400 hens), Ngozi (1 800 hens) and Muyinga (1 800 hens). 104 tons of poultry food covering 3 months, 1 125 mangers are also distributed; (iii) Japanese cooperation in 2011, for 4 900 hens distributed at Rutana (1 680 hens), Cankuzo (1 610 hens) and Ruyigi (1 610 hens). 59,59 tons of poultry food covering 3 months, 700 mangers are also distributed. In total, 21 900 hens were distributed. With an average number of 8 hens per beneficiary, a laying rate of about 70% , the household can get a monthly income of 17 000 Burundi francs that very few people in the rural area can get..