

International Rescue Committee Burundi: Strategy Action Plan



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IRC2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) mission is to help the world's most vulnerable people survive, recover, and gain control of their future. The aim of the IRC's global strategy, IRC2020 (see right), is to make measurable improvements in health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and decision-making power. Therefore, the IRC has made investments to design more effective programs, use resources more efficiently, reach more people more quickly and better respond to beneficiaries' needs.



BURUNDI OVERVIEW

Burundi, one of the poorest and hungriest countries in the world, plunged into turmoil after contested elections in 2015. As of May 2016, the number of refugees from Burundi exceeded 250,000 with an additional 85,000 people internally displaced.

The population's already poor health has been further degraded by the reduced availability of health services and increased poverty since the crisis began. It is estimated over half the population suffers from stunted growth due to chronic malnutrition, a result of

extreme poverty and food insecurity.

As political instability continues and the economy deteriorates, personal safety is increasingly at risk. Women and girls in particular are extremely vulnerable to rising rates of domestic violence and gender based violence.

Prior to the crisis, the average classroom size was one teacher per one-hundred children and over a third of the population was illiterate. Mass population displacements and continued

security threats destabilize an already weak educational infrastructure.

Using its established expertise and strong relationships with partners, donors and local government, the IRC in Burundi will continue to improve the lives of the people it serves. To this end, the IRC's new strategy for Burundi illustrates its commitment to improving the health, safety, education, and economic wellbeing of crisis-affected people in Burundi.

IRC'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

The IRC began programming in Burundi in 1996, providing lifesaving interventions and support for returnees who fled during the civil war. Today, the IRC supports the most vulnerable and helps communities become more resilient to crises.

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC's new strategy in Burundi will prioritize improving economic wellbeing, safety, health and education (see Fig. 1). The IRC will reach 1.4 million in Burundi people by the end of 2020, specifically targeting local communities, Burundian returnees and Congolese refugees.

To achieve improved economic wellbeing, the IRC will focus on responding to the urgent needs of the extremely vulnerable through cash support, while supporting long-term prosperity through interventions to improve livelihoods and food security.

The IRC will help ensure people are safe in their homes by focusing on the needs of unaccompanied minors and separated children and continuing

programs to prevent gender-based violence and exploitation. Survivors of violence will be further supported through programs to promote their access to justice services.

Healthcare services for gender-based-violence survivors will be made more available through the IRC's collaborations with key partners in Burundi. At the same time, the IRC will initiate programs to promote family planning and reproductive health, such as prevention of and recovery from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

The IRC will also support teachers and school staff to provide children with quality and safe learning environments to develop foundational skills.

The IRC's commitment to gender equality strives for equal outcomes for women and girls, and men and boys. To narrow the gender gap, the IRC will incorporate gender-focused programming into all activities.

Figure 1: Priority Outcomes and Future Programs

	Priority Outcomes in Burundi	Future Programs
ECONOMIC WELLBEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People generate income and assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Increase cash support for the extremely vulnerable > Promote long-term prosperity through livelihoods and food security interventions > Provide marketable skills training to encourage self-sufficiency
SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People are safe in their homes and receive support when they experience harm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Facilitate access to justice while working to prevent future human rights violations > Improve safety and livelihoods of vulnerable individuals through quality formal and non-formal education opportunities
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Women and adolescent girls are protected from and treated for the consequences of Gender Based Violence (GBV) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide direct psychosocial, legal, and case management services for GBV survivors > Train community GBV focal points and raise awareness to transform harmful gender norms - especially among boys and men
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Young children (0 - 5) have cognitive and social and emotional skills necessary for future academic success and wellbeing, according to their developmental potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide Healing Classrooms modules in formal education environments > Strengthen teacher and school director capacity to improve students' learning, social-emotional development, and retention

COMMITMENTS FOR IMPACT

In order to maximize impact and achieve the priority outcomes, the IRC in Burundi is making new investments to improve program effectiveness, use resources more efficiently, reach more people, and react more quickly when crisis strikes. The IRC made the following commitments to strengthen programming and improve the lives of the people it serves in Burundi.

Figure 2: Commitments to Ensure Impact



Effectiveness

- > Restructure and reinforce the IRC's monitoring and evaluation capacity by investing in dedicated monitoring staff



Best Use of Resources

- > Systematically evaluate logistical and operational resources to deliver quality programs at the lowest cost



Scale & Reach

- > Expand services for newly displaced populations
- > Grow the Makamba office into a hub for return and reintegration support



Speed and Timeliness

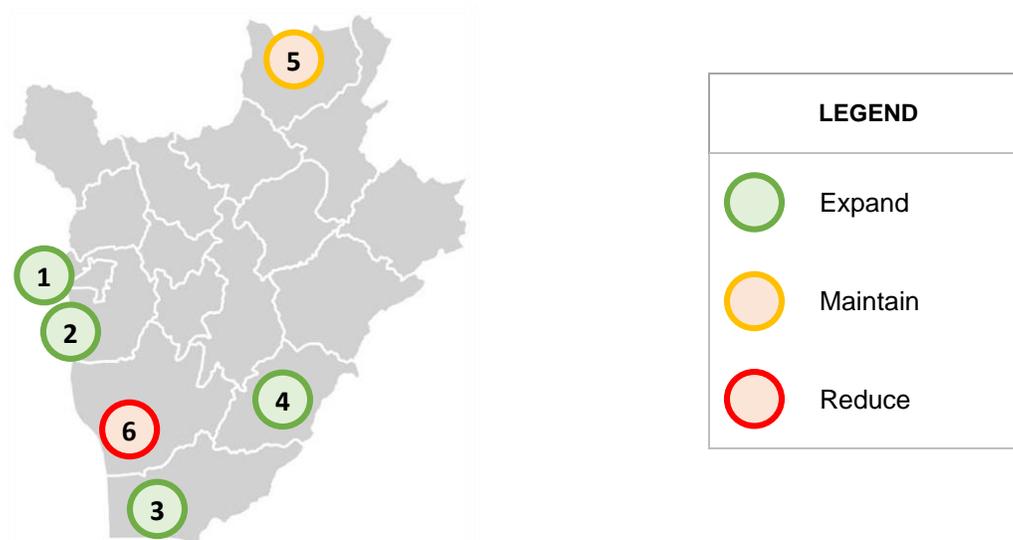
- > Build an internal team with the capacity, skills and competence to respond when crisis strikes



IRC'S STRATEGIC PRESENCE

Through the end of 2020, the IRC will expand or maintain its presence in sites across Burundi based on an analysis of where the greatest need is and where the IRC can create the biggest impact.

Figure 3: The IRC's Geographic Transitions in Burundi



Location	Geographic Transition
1 Bujumbura	Expand presence due to high levels of displacement and increased needs for protection, livelihoods, family reunification, and reintegration; Key area in current crisis, with an expected increase in urbanization as population growth continues and land availability declines.
2 Bujumbura Rural	Expand presence due to high levels of displacement and increased needs for protection, livelihoods, family reunification, and reintegration; Key area in current crisis, with pronounced economic decline.
3 Makamba	Expand presence due to significant humanitarian concerns and the need for long term return and reintegration programming; Key border province that constitutes roughly 50% of refugees in Tanzania.
4 Rutana	Expand presence due to significant humanitarian concerns and the need for long-term return and reintegration programming.
5 Kirundo	Maintain presence due to high food insecurity, socio-political crisis, and potential for return and reintegration.
6 Bururi	Reduce presence to prioritize evolving needs elsewhere in-country



The IRC in Burundi



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[Rescue.org/where/Burundi](https://www.rescue.org/where/Burundi)



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