



Country Specific Information: Burundi

U.S. Agency for International Development

Office of Food for Peace

Fiscal Year 2014: Title II Request for Applications

Title II Development Food Assistance Program

Summary

The U.S. Agency for Development's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) anticipates that funds and commodities will be available for Title II development food assistance programming in Burundi in fiscal year (FY) 2014, with an over-arching goal to reduce chronic malnutrition (under nutrition) in children under five years of age. The anticipated funding for one development food assistance program is \$50 million for five years, subject to the availability of funds and commodities. Applications can include variable annual funding requests, but must not exceed a total of \$50 million over the five-year period, with \$7.5 million in resources available in FY 2014. To be eligible for assistance under this Request for Applications (RFA), the program must use Title II food aid resources, specifically commodities, for direct distribution in Burundi. The direct distribution activities should be accompanied by complementary activities that increase availability, access, and utilization/consumption of food and reduce vulnerability to food insecurity. Monetization of Title II commodities is not expected for Burundi and FFP anticipates, subject to the availability of funds, providing Section 202(e) funds to support programmatic costs. Allowable costs are outlined in the FFP Information Bulletin on Section 202(e) funding. As an exception to FFP policy, applicants for Burundi are permitted to propose Section 202(e) funding levels not to exceed **55 percent** of the total food assistance program value. If Community Development Funds (CDF) or other resources become available, then Section 202(e) levels should decrease accordingly. USAID reserves the right to use CDF or other resources, in lieu of Section 202(e) funds, if these become available. This Country Specific Information (CSI) supplements FFP's FY 2014 RFA. Both documents must be used for developing an application for submission.

Country Context

Burundi's civil conflict lasted from 1993 to 2005 disrupted public services and private investments. Despite reconstruction efforts, gross national product continues to drop (US\$102 in 2011 versus US\$119 in 2007) due to a reliance on subsistence agriculture, undiversified and low-value exports, weak infrastructure, weak governance and institutional capacity, inadequate access to funding, and very low private sector investment (World Bank 2013). Approximately 80 percent of the estimated population of 10.88 million (CIA World Factbook 2013) lives below the poverty line, less than US\$1.25 per day (International Monetary Fund, 2012), which has serious repercussions on the ability of households to meet basic needs (for example, 81 percent must sell assets or borrow money to cover health costs (Government of Burundi (GoB) Ministry of Health, 2012).

Current Nutrition and Food Security Situation in Burundi

The prevalence of malnutrition in children under 5 is extremely high in Burundi. The national prevalence of stunting is 58 percent, underweight 29 percent, and wasting almost 6 percent. The prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 differs greatly between Bujumbura, the capital, where the prevalence of stunting is relatively low, and the rest of the country, where stunting is very high (ranging from 55 percent to over 62 percent) and underweight ranges from 25 percent to 33 percent (Demographic and Health Survey 2010). Wasting has decreased throughout the country and is now close to 6 percent, down from 20 percent in 2007, due primarily to significant emergency therapeutic responses since the end of the crisis in 2005. The GoB identifies several contributing factors: pervasive poverty (with over 80 percent of the population living on \$1.25 or less per day); population growth (currently at 2.4 percent annually); poorly educated mothers; inappropriate weaning and complementary feeding of children under two years of age; overall household food insecurity; poor water and sanitation practices; inadequate maternal-child health care; and a lack of micro-nutrients in the diet. Lack of dietary diversity, climate change, soil infertility and erosion, and gender equality issues are also cited. Over the past year, Burundi joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, and the SUN focal point is housed in the Office of the Second Vice Presidency. With the President of Burundi's participation, the GoB also recently launched a multi-sector food security and nutrition platform, signaling a growing political commitment to addressing this development challenge.

A major contributor to Burundi's food insecurity is low agricultural productivity resulting from unpredictable and variable weather, poor soil fertility, soil erosion, small farm plots, limited access to improved inputs and credit, absence of mechanization, little awareness of proper agronomic techniques, losses to pests and plant disease, and poor post-harvest techniques. Other factors include limited off-farm employment opportunities, low wages for unskilled labor, livestock scarcity, inadequate water and sanitation coverage, poor hygiene practices, high rates of childhood illness, lack of access to quality health care, and inappropriate infant and child feeding practices.

Lean seasons for food typically occur in April and October. Population movements such as refugees from DRC and a residual caseload of returnees and internally displaced persons from the crisis also negatively impact the food security of surrounding communities. Geographically, the areas often in a crisis classification (IPC Phase 3) are Cancuzo, Makamba, Rutana, and Ruyigi provinces in the east bordering Tanzania (*Moso Region*) and Gitega, Karusi, Kayanza, and Ngozi provinces in the north (*Plateau Humide Region*).

Programming Priorities for Title II Resources in Burundi

Overview

FFP's program strategy for Burundi is to emphasize longer-term development programming that aims to reduce chronic malnutrition and food insecurity, as well as to build resilience among chronically food insecure households. FFP seeks applications for one development program in Burundi that will have an overall goal to "reduce chronic malnutrition and food insecurity among vulnerable households" and will focus on three program priorities and one cross-cutting program priority: (1) reducing chronic malnutrition among children under five years of age; (2) increasing

household food availability and access through increased agriculture and livestock productivity, (3) increasing household incomes to improve household dietary diversity; and (4) engage, where appropriate, in national policy processes of direct relevance to reduce chronic malnutrition and food insecurity. Applicants must reflect the multi-sector factors that impact chronic malnutrition in Burundi. Applicants must demonstrate how they support current GoB's development strategies, as well as how they complement and collaborate with other USAID/Burundi programs, if applicable. All of these interventions need to include gender considerations as stipulated in the RFA.

Development Approach and Sustainability

FFP seeks to implement effective models, build capacity, and strengthen the policy and enabling environment adapted to the Burundi context. Therefore, applicants must provide an overall development strategy that seeks to strengthen existing public sector institutions, at all appropriate levels, especially the local and provincial levels, and create, when possible, sustainability through self-financing and self-transferring models that will continue to spread under their own momentum during and after the program. These models will be consistent with GOB development objectives and adaptable to other parts of the country where the Title II development program is not operating.

The GoB has implemented a number of national strategies that should guide the FFP development program, such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II (International Monetary Fund, 2012), the National Health Development Plan (2011-2015), the National Agriculture Investment Plan (2012-2017), the Multi-Sector Strategic Plan to Fight Malnutrition (2013), and the new National Nutrition Strategy (2013). The proposed Title II development program should show conformity and linkages to these national strategies.

Because chronic malnutrition and food insecurity require a multi-sector response, program applicants must explain how proposed activities in different sectors and technical areas complement and reinforce each other. Applicants are requested to propose a results framework whose diverse pathways contribute to the reduction of food insecurity and chronic malnutrition in children under five years of age. As USAID/Burundi will also be implementing two parallel programs (Integrated Health Program [IHP] and Economic Growth Program [EGP]), applicants must also demonstrate how the new Title II development program will complement, and collaborate with these USAID/Burundi programs. Specifically, applicants could but are not limited to consider the health systems strengthening activities of the IHP, and the agricultural extension strengthening and market linkage activities of the EGP. Note: EGP is still in the design phase. USAID is planning on providing between \$3 million and \$3.5 million and USAID may provide additional funding in the future. Coordination with EGP will be discussed with the successful applicant.

Proposed agriculture, livestock, and livelihoods interventions should be guided by market analyses to ensure sufficient demand may be achieved to sustainably support increased production. In this context, applicants should support the development of market linkages by working with private businesses. Applicants may also look at opportunities to work with agricultural microfinance institutions to develop and pilot the small-scale credit products that are appropriate for the rural producer groups that Title II development programs traditionally target.

Interventions should also be developed in the Burundi context with consideration of cultural practices of the target population. The impact of interventions should be measured using market research, household economy analysis, and economic modeling, such as investment vs. outcome, crop budgets, and projected household cash flow methods. While improved quantity and quality of production is important, considerable attention must be directed to the actual impact on malnutrition, as well as income, maternal and child health, and household resilience.

Sustainability is a critical program component which involves two aspects of Title II development programming in Burundi. One is the strengthening of local institutions (public sector and civil society) and their links to national level institutions, so they can continue program objectives and activities at the local level and better inform national level government decision-making. This process will involve the identification of institutional weaknesses that impede local capacity to implement nutrition-oriented programming and propose ways that the Title II development resources address those weaknesses. While institution building in Burundi will likely take longer than five years, applicants could but are not limited to provide concrete examples of what they can accomplish in terms of institution strengthening within a five-year period of time. The second aspect is to aim to substitute locally produced commodities for a portion of the Title II food aid commodities in the later years of the program. **As such, applicants may propose a shift to using Section 202(e) funds to locally procure and distribute highly nutritious foods during the final two years of the program.** Applicants should describe how increased production of local foods, including value-added processing, can sustainably respond to market forces as well as substitute for food aid interventions.

Geographic Priorities

Potential applicants could consider but are not limited to targeting areas within **Gitega, Karusi, Kirundo, Kayanza, Muyinga, and/or Ngozi** provinces, taking into account the benefits of effective complementarity between Title II program activities and USAID/Burundi activities, including the IHP and the EGP projects in those provinces (or parts of those provinces). The cumulative effect of these investments is likely to have much more impact than the implementation of these projects in isolation. Applicants could but are not limited to select one of these provinces for the next program, seeking to cover the entire province and contiguous areas and could but are not limited to select areas that lend themselves to the greatest overlap with IHP and EGP.

Most of Burundi's 17 provinces have high rates of chronic malnutrition, which must be the overarching focus of the Title II development program. It is anticipated that the IHP will be focused in the provinces of Karusi, Kayanza, Kirundo, and Muyinga and the EGP in Karusi, Muyinga, and Ngozi. Both programs have nutrition components. These five provinces are geographically contiguous, have high population densities, and are the highest producers of primary food crops. Since USAID/Burundi is seeking synergies, complementarity, and collaboration among development programs, applicants could consider but are not limited to any combination of those provinces in developing the community-based aspects of their Title II development applications. It is also anticipated that applications may have one or more components with a country-wide impact, such as activities that focus on policy reform and/or fortification.

Beneficiaries

The over-arching goal of the program will be to “reduce chronic malnutrition and food insecurity among vulnerable households”. The first 1,000 days (from the start of pregnancy until a child reaches two years of age) are the most vulnerable, in terms of preventing chronic malnutrition. The program will measure the reduction of chronic malnutrition in children under the age of five years. Therefore, targeting of provinces and of provincial sub-units (zones, districts, and/or *communes, collines, and/or sub-collines*) must be based on the prevalence of chronic malnutrition and on overall food insecurity criteria. All pregnant and lactating women and children under two must be targeted in a preventive nutrition program for the greatest impact on nutrition indicators of stunting and underweight. Applicants must develop a transparent approach to target members of households who are suited to engage in program interventions.

Some program beneficiaries may overlap with beneficiaries of the IHP and EGP.

Programmatic Priorities

Please refer to the earlier **Programming Priorities for Title II Resources in Burundi** section.

The Title II development program in Burundi could but is not limited to include activities that:

(1) Reduce chronic malnutrition in children under five years of age by:

- Focusing on the first 1,000 days
 - Promoting health family size (child spacing/family planning)
 - Social and behavior change communication (SBCC)
 - A conditional preventive food ration for the mother and child during the 1,000 days and a small protective household ration
 - Promoting Essential Nutrition Actions and Key Hygiene Behaviors
 - Improving infant and young child feeding practices including promoting exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months
 - Strengthening the use of health services
 - Water and sanitation
 - Antenatal care (ANC)
 - Immunizations
 - Micronutrient supplementation
 - Deworming
 - Malaria prevention and control
- Promoting pregnant and lactating women and children seeking preventive care and treatment for illness;
- Promoting healthy family size
- Rehabilitating acutely malnourished children
- Promoting increased use of potable water and sanitation infrastructure

(2) Increase household food availability and access through increased productivity by:

- Increasing and diversifying household crop production
 - Strengthen producer organization and capacity
 - Establish demonstration plots

- Establish seed multiplication
- Improve drainage and irrigation infrastructure systems
- Reduce post-harvest losses
- Increasing household livestock production
 - Increase animal ownership
 - Provide inputs and promote veterinary services
 - Improve artificial insemination
 - Improve forage, grazing, and feed production

Note: These activities should seek to ensure proper agriculture and natural resource management, and environmental protection. Activities could promote natural resource management focused on sound management of soil, water and biological resources.

(3) Increase household incomes to improve household diet diversity by:

- Increasing income generated through improved market linkages and off-farm activities
 - Strengthen participant organization and capacity
 - Link to market information systems
 - Increase value added processing
 - Promote vocational training
 - Optional activities such as a community warrantage system¹, provision of crop insurance, and establishment of a small grants program (Note: More information is provided about the option of establishing and supporting a community warrantage system in the Food Security Country Framework).
- Increasing production and consumption of micronutrient-rich foods
 - Promote production of indigenous plants including nutrient-rich varieties.
 - Promote food fortification through public-private partnerships
- Designing and implementing an SBCC strategy to encourage diet diversity and improved nutritional outcomes
 - Conduct formative research
 - Provide household nutrition counseling
- Support vocational training and short- or medium-term job creation for youth as well as youth-identified infrastructure projects

(4) Promote the creation and income generation of savings and credit groups

(5) Cross-Cutting Priorities: Engage in national policy processes of direct relevance to reducing chronic malnutrition and food insecurity by:

- Strengthening nutrition policy implementation, communication planning, and coordination
- Strengthening the implementation of climate-smart natural resource management and agriculture policies

¹ Producer group storage facilities offer an opportunity to facilitate credit access through a warrantage system whereby producers use stored grain as collateral to obtain credit from a bank or other credit institution. Group members agree to store a specified volume of grain in a secure warehouse in exchange for credit to buy inputs for the next season (or finance income generating activities), which also allows members to take advantage of later seasonal sales when prices are generally higher. The project can facilitate access to credit institutions.

- Strengthening the development and implementation of food policies focused on food access, prices, and fortification

Emergency Contingencies and Response Strategy

Shocks can profoundly affect the food security of the poorest and most vulnerable households, leaving them with little chance to recover. Shocks may take the form of changing climate, economic volatility, conflict, or internal household events such as job loss or death. Applicants could explain but are not limited to how they would use program resources to improve the resilience of target beneficiaries – households and their communities – through greater agricultural productivity, better access to health services, improved nutrition, and better livelihoods opportunities. Applicants could but are not limited to also articulate an approach for dealing with shocks that may be expected to affect the proposed geographic areas and target beneficiaries, and explaining how the program will adopt contingency plans.

Program Linkages

Applications could but are not limited to articulate how proposed activities complement and link with other USAID programs, particularly the IHP and EGP, and should include a draft Results Framework that illustrates these links. Applications must show a familiarity with the GOB’s national platform for food security and nutrition and show how the proposed Title II program will support that platform. They should also show linkages and/or complementarities, as appropriate, with other donor programs.

Strategic Partnerships

Successful implementation and sustainability of the Title II program will require the creation of strategic partnerships with a variety of public sector entities, at the national and local levels. Particularly important are partnerships with:

- SUN Coordinator in the Office of the Second Vice Presidency;
- PRONIANUT (National Program of Food and Nutrition within the Ministry of Public Health and Fight Against AIDS) and province-level team;
- MINAGRIE (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock) and province-level team;
- Communes;
- Provincial Medical Offices, health districts, and health centers;
- USAID’s IHP and EGP projects;
- United Nations (U.N) agencies such as UNICEF (The U.N. Children’s Fund) (nutrition, including fortification); WFP (The U.N. World Food Programme) (nutrition, including fortification, emergency response, and early warning); FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.) (training and extension services for smallholder producers); and IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) (livestock);
- University of Ngozi, as a technical and training partner in agriculture and community health; the Bujumbura Agronomy Faculty; and Institut des Sciences Agronomique du Burundi;
- Non-governmental Organizations;
- Civil Society; and
- Private Sector.

Conflict Sensitive Approaches

Applications must articulate how the program will adopt a conflict sensitive approach, and incorporate community-level peace building strategies in order to create more sustainable livelihood development. Proposed livelihood strengthening activities could but are not limited to complement - and be complemented by - conflict resolution and peace-building efforts supported by the GoB, USAID and others in the proposed target area(s).

Gender

Please refer to the RFA for information on gender.