

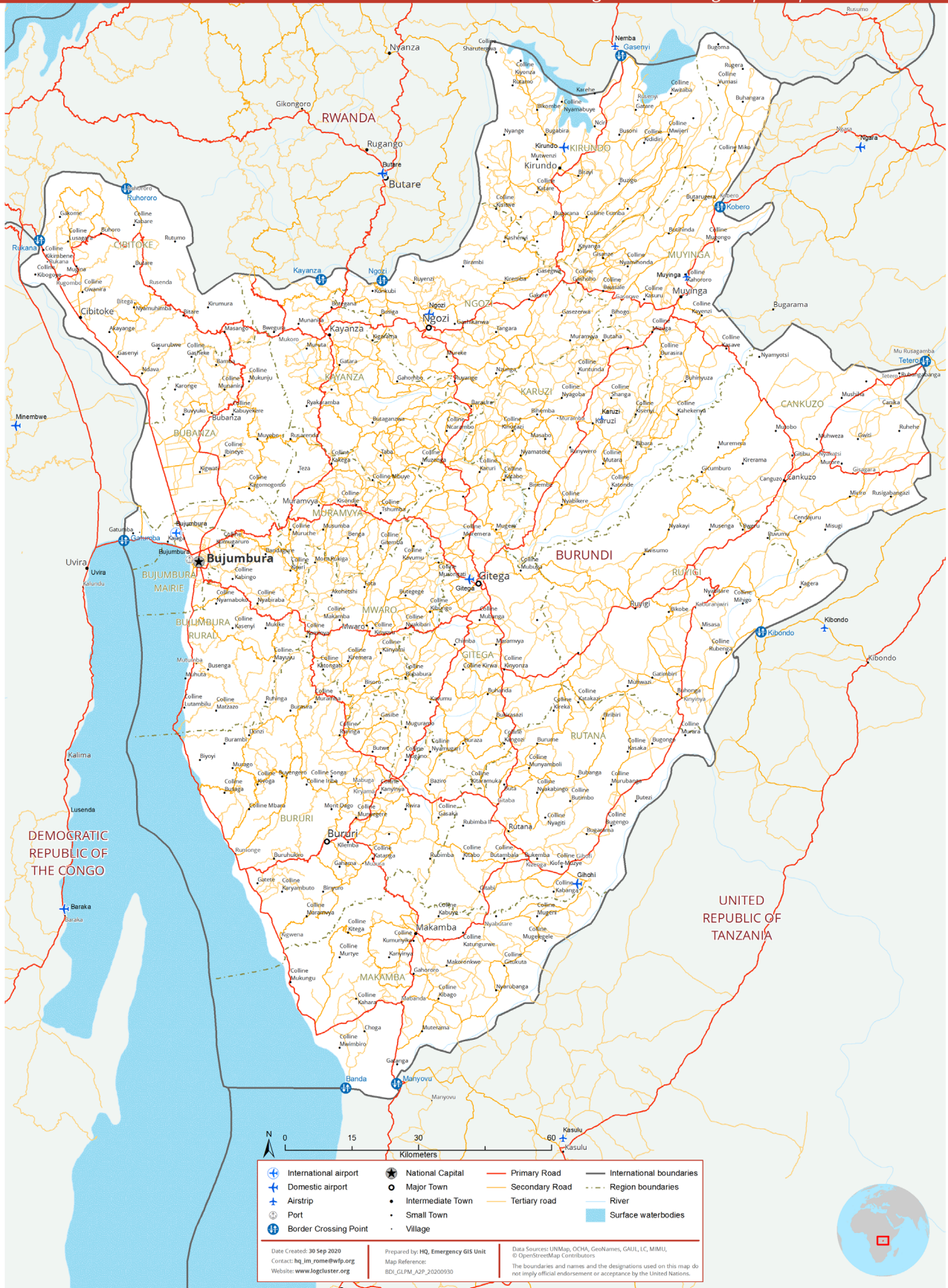
Burundi

GAPS AND NEEDS ANALYSIS (GNA)

Assessment and recommendations report

October 2020





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1. Executive Summary

1.1. Key points of primary analysis

- 1) Invitations to participate in the Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) were sent to 70 logistics key actors in Burundi. There was poor interest shown with only nine participants taking part in the Exercise (see Annex 2).
- 2) The Logistics Sector (not activated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee/IASC) was initiated in January 2020 in Burundi and formally instituted by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in April 2020. It is estimated sufficient to address current and future logistical needs in-country. A cluster activation is not deemed necessary.
- 3) Most humanitarian agencies do international procurement centrally. This means most of the focus of agencies in-country is on importation and clearance of goods.
- 4) Warehousing options are scattered throughout the country, which makes them scarce. As agencies include final delivery to beneficiaries in their purchasing, there are no particular gaps in storage capacity. However, partners may face challenges if there was to be an escalation in COVID-19 cases leading to an increase in critical supplies requiring specialised storage conditions, or if critical items need to be prepositioned.

1.2. Recommendations

- 1) Develop and strengthen the coordination of the Logistics Sector.
- 2) Engage and communicate more efficiently with the government.

The initiative for the creation of the Logistics Sector, its development and its revitalisation appear sufficient to meet the identified needs of coordination and sharing of useful and relevant information with the humanitarian community as well as strengthening government engagement on logistical issues, especially during the COVID-19 crisis.

2. Background

2.1. Humanitarian situation overview at the time of the GNA

More than 330,000 Burundians are still refugees in neighbouring countries while natural disasters continue to cause displacement of populations within the country. A total of 81,821 Burundian refugees were repatriated since the start of the voluntary repatriation programme from September 2017 to 11 February 2020.

Economic and environmental shocks weaken populations and impact people differently depending on their age, gender and level of vulnerability. Gender inequalities remain a concern in Burundi and contribute to the low human development score. Burundi is ranked 124th out of 162 on the Gender Inequality Index (United Nations Development Programme, 2018).

Safe environment and human risks: According to the Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), the situation is relatively calm with a moderate level of security throughout the country.

Environmental profile: Burundi is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters. Out of all countries threatened by climate change and natural disasters, it ranks 14th among the most vulnerable countries and 17th among those least prepared to face natural disasters (Humanitarian Response Plan, 2020). It regularly records a large number of extreme weather events. In 2020, natural disasters such as flooding caused displacement of nearly 30,000 households in Burundi. Most of these displaced persons have been taken in by host communities, which in return face overcrowded conditions.

COVID-19 impact: COVID-19 preventive measures and restrictions have impacted cross-border markets and trade with Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo, reducing formal and informal imports and severely impacting a vital lifeline for many vulnerable households.

2.2. The Logistics Sector initiation

The Logistics Sector was initiated in Burundi in early 2020, and formally instituted by the HCT in April 2020. This was in reaction to a perceived need for more coordination in the light of upcoming elections during the year. The global COVID-19 pandemic further added to the need for a systematic and consolidated logistics approach within the country. In May 2020, it was decided that a GNA would give more focus to the Logistics Sector and determine if it was the best method to ensure an efficient response. Thus, a GNA was conducted in early June 2020, with the finalization of this report in October 2020.

3. Task and methodology

In the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Global Logistics Cluster conducted, in close cooperation with the WFP Burundi Country Office, a remote GNA for Burundi to provide guidance on the most efficient

logistics coordination mechanisms to address the current constraints faced by in-country responders. This initiative was the outcome of a discussion between the Global Logistics Cluster and the WFP Burundi Country Office following the strong impact of COVID-19 on humanitarian activities, as well as other causes of potential deterioration of the situation in the country and consequent operational needs.

3.1. The GNA process (scope of work)

GNA process initiation

The detailed methodology of the GNA was shared by e-mail in the form of a Concept Note (see Annex 1). Due to the exceptional international travel restrictions affecting movements of staff and time constraints, the GNA was conducted remotely in three weeks, from 1 to 25 June 2020.

Definition of the Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA)

The GNA is a series of interviews with the logistics coordinators or operations directors of organisations that have humanitarian logistics operations in the country. It is conducted by an experienced team, supported by the Global Logistics Cluster, and aims to identify the broad logistics gaps and bottlenecks being faced. Should the GNA identify gaps and needs, the WFP Country Office can use the report and its recommendations to advocate accordingly to the HCT and the government.

3.2. GNA participation

70 invitations were sent to key actors from international organisations, non-governmental organisations, and UN agencies. Nearly 20 percent of the invited people agreed to be interviewed while slightly more than 10 percent finally participated in the GNA.

3.3. Outcomes

In reaction to the COVID-19 crisis, all projects implemented by the respondents were modified and adapted as follows:

- Anticipation of orders and storage close to programme implementation areas;
- Putting programmes on standby when implementation became impossible, and reallocation of resources and means to support the COVID-19 response.

4. Perceived gaps and needs

4.1. International level

International procurement:

- International procurement is generally centralised at headquarters and/or regional office levels. Local agencies have therefore been dependent on the availability of the agencies' own stocks and were impacted by the longer transport times and general difficulties of restocking linked to the COVID-19 outbreak. If the situation was to deteriorate on a lasting basis (i.e. if a decline in the

supply of the local market by the private sector occurred) it would perhaps be useful to consider grouping international purchases between partners.

Customs:

- Custom procedures were rarely cited as a major obstacle. While import authorisations can remain complex and cumbersome procedures, this does not seem to be insurmountable, and the procedures did not deteriorate significantly during the crisis. On the other hand, the addition of restrictive measures at the borders and during controls has created an extension of the border control transit time.
- It was noted by several participants that unexpected and undisclosed changes in procedures could occasionally create heavy delays and hindrances. This is due to a lack of communication or liaison with relevant government actors but is not in itself linked to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Commodity Importations:

- Despite a temporary closure of transit options through Rwanda, the northern corridors remained open. Obviously, the new hygiene and control measures linked to COVID-19 have caused significant delays, but there was no blockage of road transports.
- WFP's support for upstream personal protective equipment (PPE) sourcing was widely welcomed although cited as lacking in clarity. The drastic fall in the availability of air transport has on the other hand been noted as a problem for certain supplies such as medicines and products requiring cold chain.

4.2. National level

Local Procurement:

- Most of the partners interviewed either had to quickly adapt their programmes for the implementation of restrictive measures or simply readjusted them to crisis prevention support. To do so, almost all agencies turned to the local market, which covered the needs in terms of both quantity and acceptable quality.
- An inevitable but generally deemed reasonable increase in prices was noted, as well as some disruptions linked to the longer restocking times due to the new import constraints caused by the crisis.
- Organisations whose programmes permanently make use of local procurement and had already developed contracts with their local suppliers have suffered fewer constraints in terms of disruption and price increase.
- If the situation worsens over time, the international constraints linked to imports would create excessive demands on the capacity of the local market to restock itself. Consequently, the inevitable increase in prices could also generate a currency deficiency among importers. The situation must be monitored.

Local transport:

- Local transport was not perceived as a problem during the crisis. The price of fuel has remained stable and the local supply capacity seems sufficient.
- The road network is in poor condition, but the distances are relatively short in the small country of Burundi. Last mile delivery, as always, will require continued attention during the rainy season.
- WFP Country Office has a capacity of 21 trucks that can be made available under Bilateral Service Provision to support the humanitarian community during the crisis.

Partner storage:

- Partners' available storage capacity covers their own needs but leaves little or no space to share, even though organisations are not opposed to sharing if capacity allows. WFP is looking for additional capacity in preparation of potential needs. Most local purchases made by partners are made including delivery, thus limiting the need for storage space.
- The pre-positioning linked to refugee or internally displaced programmes may have caused some concerns, which seem to have been resolved. Once again, the short distances within the country mitigate the problem posed by insufficient storage capacity.

Coordination:

- In January 2020, at the initiative of OCHA, the WFP Country Office and the Global Logistics Cluster, a Logistics Sector was created in Burundi with the aim of coordinating and sharing the knowledge of logistics activities of the various humanitarian partners involved in the humanitarian response. The Humanitarian Country Team formalised it in April 2020. The Logistics Sector mandate has been expanded to include the current COVID-19 needs.

5. Conclusions

The conclusions of this GNA initiated and executed under the specific conditions imposed by the global COVID-19 crisis are as follows:

- 1) In view of the information collected during this GNA, an (IASC) activation does not appear necessary in Burundi. On the other hand, the recent creation of a logistics Sector should quickly demonstrate all its interest.
- 2) No lack of fundamental logistical means that would prevent or significantly hamper the response to the current crisis was identified, and therefore there is no need for the implementation of common services.

6. Recommendations based on the GNA

1) Develop and strengthen the coordination of the Logistics Sector:

- Facilitate information sharing on good practices (such as purchasing contracts with suppliers), available capacities, potential suppliers, etc.;
- Assess the possibility of sharing means of transport and storage capacities, in particular for those actors who have adapted their programmes but have few logistics components or logistics capacities;
- Study the feasibility of pooling international and local procurement;
- Monitor the local market to avoid competition or price surges that could increase the demands and cause disruptions, as many organisations have turned to local suppliers.

2) Increase communication with the government

The newly created Logistics Sector will coordinate information dissemination between the humanitarian community and various governmental ministries. These links will be developed, as this was a theme often mentioned during the interviews.

The Global Logistics Cluster Support Team thanks all the organisations and their staff who agreed to share their time and knowledge for the realisation of this Gaps and Needs Analysis.

7. Annexes

7.1. Annex 1: Concept Note



Logistics response and preparedness in Burundi

Partners Gaps and Needs Exercise (GNE)

Concept Note May 2020

Background

Considering the evolving situation in Burundi and the need to maintain a regular assessment and analysis of the humanitarian logistics capacities and partners' needs, a specific Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) is proposed to be organized.

The key findings of this exercise will be used to advocate for the implementation of the best possible platform to coordinate and provide coordination, information management and if required logistics services based on the analysis of the partners' potential needs for support in regards of the current response and preparedness capacity in Burundi.

Objective of the Gaps & Needs Analysis

The general objective of the exercise is to assess existing and potential logistics gaps, constraints and needs for which the Logistics support might be requested by partners who are involved in Burundi response and preparedness.

This will:

- Aim to provide technical support for the compilation and analysis of the logistics gaps and needs in regards of the existing national capacities and partners' needs, as well as recommendations on coordination mechanisms with partners.
- Aim to make sure that no essential logistics needs requested by partners are left behind, with regards to the core mandate of clusters.
- Support the identification of mitigating activities that should be implemented in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the partners' logistics response.
- Evaluate and elaborate the possible involvement of the private sector in support of the wider logistics community.

Assessment method

The GNA will focus on identifying existing and potential partners' logistics gaps and clarifying potential needs of the wider humanitarian logistics community existing out of the respective government agencies, UN agencies, international and national NGO's and the private sector, in the area of:

- Coordination: coordination mechanisms, strategic planning, standards and guidance, advocacy etc.
- Operational information: monitoring and reporting, communications flow, logistics related Information sharing mechanisms and products etc.
- Access to logistics services with WFP as lead agency and provider of last resort through the cluster system: storage, transportation, other services and support when applicable.\

The GNA team will be tasked with the following:

- Mapping of actors in country and actors potentially activating within an evolution of the response.
- Review of the humanitarian community's operational logistics needs in regard to response and preparedness.
- Identify logistics gaps and bottlenecks in the domains of the coordination between actors, the access and provision to operational information and access to logistics services.
- Ascertaining gaps and needs: Cascading down, potential solutions will need an accompanying analysis of the capacity gaps found. This entails a clear statement of partners' needs in terms of requirements.

The exercise will involve interviews and supporting questionnaires (for guidance during interviews with stakeholders).

Expected results

- Identify partners' existing capacities and potential logistics gaps and bottlenecks that partners are facing in the area of logistics coordination, information sharing, logistics services and other.
- Identify possible solutions and make recommendations based on the findings of the assessment and existing solutions to specific logistics gaps.
- Make recommendations regarding the way forward and a possible Logistics strategy and activities in regards of response and preparedness in Burundi.
- Provide a clear listing and rational for private sector engagement requirements.
- Make recommendation and provide a rational on the potential need an appropriate coordination structure endorsed by the humanitarian community.

Team composition and Period

The GNA will be undertaken by 2 staff from the Global Logistics Cluster support cell working remotely in the course of the next three weeks.

Reporting

The Gaps and Needs Analysis team will produce a report summarizing the key findings and recommendations from key stakeholders and usual Logistics partners. The final draft will be sent to OCHA, WFP Regional Bureau and Country Office, and Logistics stakeholders for their review and comments.

7.2. Annex 2: GNA Participant List

Government Strategy on Logistics:

- Burundi, Office des Routes, Projet d'urgence pour la résiliences des infrastructures (Puri), rapport provisoire : Stratégie Nationale en Matière de Planification et de Gestion du Secteur des Transport et Plan d'Action. 2018-2020 : <https://docplayer.fr/129351814-Republique-du-burundi.html>

More about the participants to this Gaps and Needs Analysis:

For more information about the participants and their programmes in Burundi please see below:

- World Health Organization (WHO): <https://www.who.int/countries/bdi/en/>
- Welthungerhilfe: <https://www.welthungerhilfe.org/our-work/countries/burundi/>
- International Rescue Committee (IRC) : <https://www.rescue.org/country/burundi>
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/africa/burundi>
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF): <https://www.unicef.org/burundi/>
- Oxfam: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/what-we-do/countries/burundi>
- World Vision International: <https://www.wvi.org/burundi>
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): <https://www.unhcr.org/burundi.html>
- World Food Programme (WFP): <https://www.wfp.org/countries/burundi>