

# WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL BURUNDI

## CANKUZO CLUSTER

### NUTRITION DIALOGUE REPORT

#### 1. What is the social and economic context? (e.g. climate change, conflict, poverty)

Burundi, a country in the Great Lakes region, has an area of 27,834 km<sup>2</sup> including 2,700 km<sup>2</sup> of lakes and 23,500 km<sup>2</sup> of potentially agricultural land. Its total population is estimated at 13,097,399 inhabitants in 2023 with an average density of 470 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> (ISTEEBU projection, 2016). According to the Integrated Survey on Household Living Conditions in Burundi (EICVMB) of 2019-2020, 51.4% of the population lives below the poverty line. Burundi's economy is heavily dependent on the agricultural sector which, despite the scarcity of arable land, employs 80% of the population (ISTEEBU, 2021). The level of food insecurity is almost twice as high as the average for other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with an estimated 1.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2023 (OCHA et al., 2023). This results in a critical nutritional situation among children under 5 years of age, exacerbated by recurrent economic shocks and epidemics, thus compromising child survival and development.

#### 1. What is the situation re people's nutrition nationally and/or locally? (Data can be sourced from national and local authorities, NGOs, UN (FAO, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, others))

##### a) Latest nutrition data (numbers and prevalence (%)) for all population, for women, for children under 5 years of age)

In Burundi, malnutrition is a major public health problem. On a national scale, according to the ENSNMB survey based on the SMART 2022 methodology, the prevalence of stunting was estimated at 55.8% [54.9%-56.8%]. This prevalence is well above the very high threshold of 30% set by the WHO. On a national level, GAM was estimated at 8.0% between 7.4% and 8.7% during this survey. This prevalence is above the average threshold (alert) of 5% set by the WHO, placing the country in a so-called average (precarious) public health situation. It increased by 3.2 percentage points compared to that observed during the ENSNMB of March 2022 where it was 4.8% [4.6-5.1],  $p = 0.00$ . In the 23 DS studied in the provinces of Cankuzo, Karusi, Kayanza, Kirundo, Makamba, Muramvya, Mwaro, Rutana and Ruyigi, the GAM varies from 3.3% in Kiganda to 12.6% in Fota. It is noted that the DS of Fota (12.6%), Makamba (12.3%), Kirundo (11.2%), Gisuru (11.1%) and Ruyigi (10.8%) recorded prevalences above the high threshold (alert) of 10% set by the WHO. Regarding Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), it also

increased at the national level from 1.4% [1.2-1.5] in 2022 to 2.2% [1.9-2.5] in 2024 which is above the emergency threshold of 2% set by the WHO. According to gender, MAG affects significantly more boys (9.9% [9.0-10.8]) than girls (6.2% [5.6-6.9]). It affects significantly more children aged 6 to 23 months than those aged 24 to 59 months with respectively 9.5% [8.2-10.9] for 6 to 11 months and 10.2% [9.2-11.2] for 12 to 23 months compared to 7.4% [6.9-7.9] for 24 to 59 months.

#### **b. Trends (reducing, increasing, stable)**

The prevalence of acute malnutrition by measuring the arm circumference in children aged 6 to 59 months was estimated at 5.3% [4.9-5.8] during this survey at the national level. It has seen a significant increase of 1.3 percentage points compared to that of the ENSNMB 2022 where it was at 4.0% [3.8-4.3]. The prevalence of stunting is 52.8% at the national level, between 51.4% and 54.3%, which is well above the very high threshold (emergency) of 30% set by the WHO. It has decreased by 3 points compared to the ENSNMB 2022 where it was at 55.8% [54.9-56.8],  $p = 0.000$ .

#### **2. Which groups of people are at risk of malnutrition in your community?**

In 2014 (the date of the last available census), 64.6% of the population lived below the national poverty line, 12 and 44.4% lived in extreme poverty<sup>13</sup>, mainly in rural areas. Those most affected were youth, women, indigenous people and internally displaced persons. Burundi has a human development index of 0.433 (low human development category), ranking it 185th out of 189 countries. In 2019, the gender inequality index was 0.504, ranking Burundi 124th out of 162 countries. Food insecurity is high due to low incomes, recurrent climatic shocks, high population density and limited access to land for production. While the acute malnutrition rate stood at 6.1% in 2020, stunting decreased from 58% in 2010 to 54% in 2019. (IFAD, BASIC SURVEY 2022/135/R.18)