



Safe Access To Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Burundi

Saving lives through SAFE cooking

WFP works to ensure that the food assistance provided can be consumed as safely and nutritiously as possible. While cooking may be thought of as a safe activity, in many circumstances, especially humanitarian settings, it poses serious health, safety and environmental risks. In Burundi, people are facing severe challenges related to a lack of access to cooking fuel.

FACTS Burundi

- **Cooking is primarily done with traditional three-stone fires**, a fuel- and time-intensive system that exposes cooks to toxic fumes and serious health hazards.
- **Due to the lack of access to firewood, meals can be undercooked or completely skipped**, jeopardizing people's nutrition and their risks of getting sick.
- **The pressure on natural resources has led to deforestation** resulting in heavy erosion, damaging people's agriculture practices, income and food security.
- **Women and children are mostly responsible for firewood collection for up to 4 hours a day**, taking away valuable time from income-generating activities, childcare and education.

Until 2015, Burundi has supported 485,570 people through the SAFE initiative. WFP has globally reached over 6 million people with SAFE in 18 countries.

The challenge

Burundi is a developing, low-income and food deficit country, troubled by one and a half decades of conflict affecting over 9 million people.

In Burundi, largely 96% of energy requirements are met through traditional biomass of which 70% is the usage of wood fuel, 18.35% agriculture residues, 5.82% charcoal, and the rest is made up of other resources, including plant residues.

Inefficient firewood usage and high population density in Burundi makes firewood increasingly scarce and places reforestation efforts in competition with land for agricultural production. Between 1990 and 2010, Burundi lost 40.5% of its forest cover. In rural areas of Burundi, income-generating activities are limited, with agriculture as the main livelihood for most people. Since most profits from crops go to purchasing food, people often cannot afford to meet their basic needs such as cooking fuel, education and health.



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Working on sustainable solutions

The **success of SAFE in Burundi** relies on an innovative combination of energy-related and income-generating activities addressing various challenges linked to access to cooking fuel. These activities focus on nutrition, livelihoods, health, gender, environment and education.

SAFE in Burundi

SAFE in Burundi is a collaborative effort between WFP and its partners. This programme implements institutional stoves through WFP's School Meals programme and introduces energy- and livelihood-related activities in communities and households.

1. School Meals programme

- **Home-grown** school meals in the western provinces (Bubanza, Cibitoke and Bujumbura)
- **Traditional** school meals in three northern provinces (Kirundo, Muyinga and Ngozi)
- **Emergency** school meals in the provinces with high concentrations of returnees and deportees (Bururi, Makamba, Rutana and Ruyigi)

2. Communities and households in Gitega

- **Production and training** in fuel efficient stoves and briquettes
- **Livelihood support** in community forestry and tree seedling planting
- **Environmental rehabilitation** through agroforestry and natural resources management
- **Community capacity building** through training and education programmes with beneficiaries on gender, health, nutrition, and fuel-efficient cooking practices

SAFE 2016-2019

In 2016, WFP and partners began a four-year SAFE initiative valued at \$US 2 million to support:

- **150 primary schools** (100,000 school children) through the home-grown school meals programme in the Cibitoke, Bujumbura, and Bubanza provinces. The model of the institutional fuel-efficient stove implemented uses briquettes instead of wood and can save 40-45% of wood compared to the three-stone fire.
- **3000 households** in the Bugendana commune and Gitega province, to be used as a SAFE pilot at the rural household level. WFP and partners plan to scale-up this initiative to reach 10,000 rural households by 2019.

WFP has globally committed to support 10 million people through SAFE activities by 2020.

Supported by



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A global survey conducted by WFP in 54 countries in 2015 highlighted that two thirds of these countries had energy-related concerns affecting people's food security, nutrition or safety. WFP has cookstove activities in 27 of its country offices.