



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

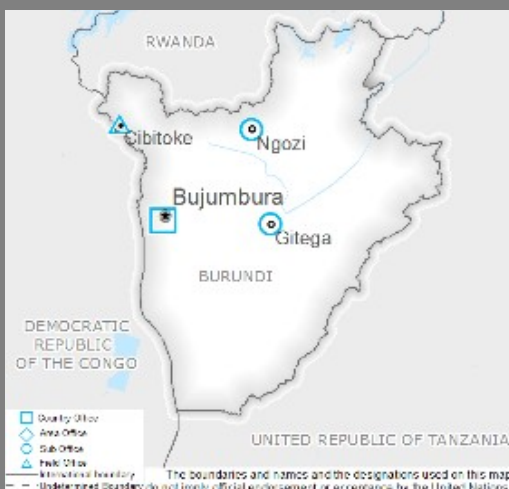
# WFP Burundi Country Brief May 2021



## Operational Context

According to October 2020 IPC results, 11 percent of the population is facing emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity (phases 3 and 4). The Joint Approach to Nutrition and Food Security Assessment (JANFSA) carried out in December 2018 revealed that 44.8 percent of the population were food insecure, with 9.7 percent in severe food insecurity. Provinces affected by severe food insecurity include Karusi (18.8 percent), Gitega (17.5 percent), Muramvya (16.0 percent), Kirundo (14.3 percent), and Mwaro (12.5 percent). The high population density, as well as the new influx of returnees from Tanzania and refugees from DRC, contributes to competition and disputes over scarce natural resources. Due to the demand for land, the poorest and most vulnerable populations, mainly women, generally depend on marginal land.

Over 90 percent of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood. Burundi's preparedness for emergencies and crises is weak and cannot cope with severe shocks such as droughts, epidemics, and floods, which often claim lives and undermine livelihoods. Burundi is the second country most affected by chronic malnutrition in the world. According to the SMART 2020, the national average stunting rate is at 52 percent well above the emergency threshold (40 percent). WFP has been present in Burundi since 1968.



## In Numbers

**2,734 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 297,364** cash transferred under assistance to refugees and IDPs

**US\$ 14.6 m** net funding requirements for the next six months (June - November 2021)

**660,992 people** assisted in May 2021

## Operational Updates

### Assistance to refugees

WFP provided 594 mt of in-kind food and cash-based transfers (CBT) of USD 259,401 to 50,631 refugees (22,278 males, 28,353 females, 13,670 children aged 6-59 months and 2,025 people aged over 60 years). In-kind food consisted of cereals, vegetable oil and salt. Cash based transfers were provided to substitute beans (pulses) which were yet to arrive in country. The provision of pulses will resume in June.

### Assistance to returnees

WFP assisted 8,081 Burundi returnees (3,960 males and 4,121 females) with 356 mt of in-kind food. The assistance consisted of hot meals provided at the transit centres, and a three-month return package consisting of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and salt. This facilitated the re-integration of returnees in their communities.

### Food assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs)

WFP also used a combination of CBT and in-kind food to assist 14,515 IDPs including households displaced by the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika in Rumonge province, and those affected by flooding in Gatumba, Bujumbura. A total of 141 mt of food and CBT worth USD 30,423 was transferred. Cash based transfers were provided to substitute beans.

### Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition activities were implemented in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi, and Rutana provinces reaching some 7,570 moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs), and 9,219 children aged 6-59 months with 128 mt of specialized nutritious foods. Distributions were coupled with social behaviour change communication (SBCC) implemented by Community Workers.

### Prevention of chronic malnutrition

Under stunting prevention, WFP reached 43,546 children aged 6-23 months and 22,879 PLWGs with 230 mt of specialized nutritious food in Kirundo province. Activities included a strong SBCC component.

### School Feeding Programme

The school feeding programme reached 503,716 school children with 1,285 mt of food (including 148 mt of milk) in Bubanza, Cibitoke, Bujumbura, Muyinga, Gitega, Ngozi and Kirundo Provinces.

Population: **11.7 million**

2019 Human Development Index:  
**185 out of 189**

**65 percent** Burundians live under the poverty line

Chronic malnutrition: **52% of children between 6-59 months**

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
270.1 m	1.6 m	14.6 m

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Crisis-affected populations including refugees in camps, internally displaced people (IDPs), and returnees in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food needs all year round.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activities:**

- Provide unconditional food and/or cash-based assistance to refugees in camps;
- Provide unconditional and/or conditional food and/or cash-based assistance to severely food insecure households among local populations, IDPs, and returnees;
- Provide capacity strengthening to Government and humanitarian partners on early warning systems, emergency food security assessments and analysis, and food security and market monitoring.

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Food insecure households in targeted areas have safe access to adequate and nutritious food all year round

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activities:**

- Provide conditional food and/or cash-based assistance to food-insecure households through productive assets creation, livelihood diversification, and nutrition counselling;
- Provide Home Grown school meals to school-aged children and support national institutions on the formulation of a national home-grown school meals policy and social protection programmes.

### Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Children 6-59 months, adolescent girls, and pregnant and lactating women (PLW), in the targeted provinces and communes have improved nutritional status throughout the year.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**

- Provide specialized nutritious foods in combination with SBCC activities to children, adolescent girls, and PLW/G, and support the implementation of a national food fortification policy and strategy.

### Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Food-insecure smallholders and communities in targeted areas have enhanced livelihoods to better support food security and nutrition needs by 2020.

**Focus area:** Root Causes

**Activities:**

- Provide technical support on post-harvest solutions, equipment, and capacity building (SBCC will be used to empower smallholder farmers to improve post-harvest management and enhanced food diversification) to smallholder farmers and farmers' organizations/cooperatives.

### Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnership

**Strategic Outcome 5:** Government, humanitarian and development partners have access to effective supply chain management and logistics all year round.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**

- Provide on-demand services for the humanitarian community and development partners.
- Provide technical assistance through the logistics sector to the National Disaster Platform and humanitarian partners to improve emergency logistics coordination and supply chain management

### Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 6:** Government and partner institutions and systems in Burundi have enhanced supply chain capacities by end of 2021.

**Focus area:** Crisis response

**Activities:**

- Provide capacity strengthening through supply chain technical advice and services to the Government of Burundi and to humanitarian and development partners

## Assets creation and livelihoods

**Photo:** Food distribution to people affected by flooding in Mutimbuzi/Bujumbura. ©

WFP/Aurore Ishimwe

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WFP provided USD 7,540 to 835 people who participated in the joint FAO/UNICEF/UNFPA/WFP Community Resilience-Building project implemented in Bubanza, Ruyigi and Cankuzo provinces in February and March 2021. They had not received their entitlements in March due to errors noticed during distribution including beneficiary registration in SCOPE.

## Supply Chain

- WFP delivered 2,877 mt of food to beneficiaries in May across all its programmes.
- In its coordination and facilitation role as part of the Lake Tanganyika Corridor revitalization initiative, WFP, working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Authorities, is preparing training sessions on port operations/warehousing/safety .
- In consortium with UNICEF and IOM and through USAID funding, WFP is providing technical support to the Ministry of Health in the COVID-19 response. WFP has installed 10 containers to be used as stores for medicine in priority health districts and the drug central store in Bujumbura.

## Monitoring

- In May, WFP and its partners received 355 feedback and complaints from beneficiaries through the complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 337 were resolved, and 18 are currently being addressed. Most of the complaints and feedback included requests for information and entitlements claims, mostly cash based transfers and non-food items in refugee camps and assisted schools.

## Challenges

- Lack of funding continues to negatively impact WFP's operations, particularly **food assistance for refugees**. The food basket for refugees continues to face shortages in SuperCereal resulting in the reduction of the calorific value from 2,100 Kcal to 1,900 kcal per person per day. In addition, constrained funding has led to delayed start-up of treatment of moderate acute malnutrition activities and nutrition support to people living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment and people with tuberculosis (TB), which was strongly recommended by the 2018 Joint Assessment Mission in refugees camps. Furthermore, WFP anticipates cereal shortages in July, August, November, and December 2021. If no additional funding is received, the food security and nutrition situation for refugees' will be further compromised.
- Under food assistance for returnees, IDPs and other food-insecure populations, WFP anticipates a funding shortfall of cereals in July, August, November and December; and a beans shortage in November and December. WFP has identified and confirmed internal funding mechanism of USD 1.5 million as well as an expected CERF funding of USD 0.5 million to fill the gap.

### Donors (in alphabetical order):

Burundi, Canada, European Union, France, Germany, Global Partnership for Education, Hilton Foundation, Japan, Kerry Group, Monaco, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, UNCF, United States of America, World Bank