



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

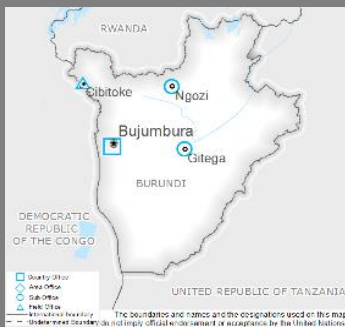
# WFP Burundi Country Brief August 2021



## Operational Context

According to April 2021 (lean season) IPC results, 14 percent of the population (1.61 million) is facing emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity (phases 3 and 4). The food security situation could improve in the coming months, thanks to the harvest of the 2021B season. For the projected period (June to September 2021), the number of people in need could decrease to about 1.04 million people (9 percent). However, food security situation will remain worse in livelihood zones of "Depression du Nord, Crete Congo Nil and Plaine de l'Imbo". Factors, such as rainfall deficit, rising waters of Lake Tanganyika, floods, population displacement in the western provinces, consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and recurrent population movements are aggravating the food insecurity in the country: staple food prices have soared highest in the past five years

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.



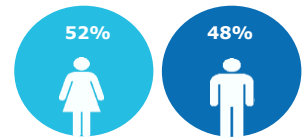
## In Numbers

**747 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 716,166** cash transferred under assistance to refugees, returnees, IDPs, and people affected by the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika

**USD 13.1 m** net funding requirements for the next six months (September 2021 - February 2022)

**100,361 people** assisted in August 2021



## Operational Updates

### Assistance to refugees

- WFP provided food and nutritional assistance to **50,909** refugees (**22,400** males, **28,509** females, **13,745** children aged 0-59 months and **2,036** people aged over 60 years) with **412 mt** of in-kind food and cash-based transfers (CBT) of **USD 194,722**. In-kind food consisted of full ration of cereals, vegetable oil and salt, and a partial ration of pulses (80 grams/person instead of 120 grams). The cash was used to complete the incomplete ration of pulses, due to insufficient stock and procurement issues.

### Assistance to returnees

- WFP assisted **5,943** Burundian returnees (**2,912** males or 49 percent and **3,031** females or 51 percent) with **215 mt** of in-kind food and CBT of **USD 184,363**. The assistance consisted of hot meals provided at transit centres, and a three-month return package consisting of cereals and vegetable oil. The cash allowed returnees to buy beans and salt, not provided in the food basket. Due to a surge in COVID-19 cases, the transit camp of Nyabitare in Ruyigi is closed. Consequently, distributions could not be carried out.

### Assistance to IDPs affected by the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika

- A total of **14,750** internally displaced people (IDPs) in Bujumbura (Gatumba district) and Rumonge Province received CBT from WFP for a total value of **USD 180,241**, to help them purchase food to meet their daily food needs.

### Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)

- In August, MAM treatment activities benefitted **7,211** moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs) and **8,713** children aged 6-59 months: **120 mt** of specialized nutritious food items were distributed in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi, and Rutana Provinces. Distributions were coupled with social behaviour change communication (SBCC) implemented by health community workers.

### Forecast-based Financing Capacity strengthening

- Under WFP's Forecast-based Financing (FbF) project supported by the European Union/ECHO, WFP transferred cash entitlements for a total value of **USD 156,840** to **12,835** people. This assistance allows beneficiaries to implement

Population: **11.7 million**

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

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

Chronic malnutrition: **52 percent** of children between 6-59

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>270.1 m</b>	<b>0.3 m</b>	<b>13.1 m</b>

### 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

anticipatory actions such as buying shelter equipment to reduce adverse effects of flooding. The FbF approach offers the possibility to implement anticipatory actions between the forecast (alert threshold) and the occurrence of the event, with the help of pre-positioned funding.

- WFP organized a session for its partners involved in the early warning element of the project to train on the use and interpretation of early warning data from the Mydewetra platform. This training was attended by senior staff of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Prevention and Management in Burundi, the Burundi Red Cross, and the Geographical Institute of Burundi.

## Supply Chain

- On 5 August, a strategic workshop organized with various governmental authorities and partners, first for the technical level to present the Lake Tanganyika Ports Assessment report. It was then followed by strategic sessions with high-level officials to discuss key topics and opportunities for the Lake corridor development. As a result of the discussions and brainstorming sessions, an action plan was developed with the strategic counterparts that includes concrete actions (reg. security ; handling ; policies ; planning) to be taken towards corridor optimization, which has been shared with the relevant bodies (Maritime Authority, Ministry of Transport, Burundi Revenue Authority (OBR), etc) to take ownership over the implementation where possible.
- From January to August 2021, **1,637 mt** of local food commodities (maize and beans) have been purchased. Further contracts were signed with local cooperatives and retailers to procure **2,828 mt** of beans and **3,455 mt** of maize by the end of September 2021.

## Monitoring

- In August, WFP and its partners received 364 feedback and complaints from beneficiaries through the complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 346 (95 percent) were resolved, and 18 are currently being addressed. The main complaints included incomplete ration entitlements and were related to the SCOPE card and information request.

## Challenges

- The food basket distributed to refugees continues to face shortages in SuperCereal due to funding constraints. In addition, constrained funding has led to delays in the implementation of treatment of MAM activities and nutrition support to people living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment and tuberculosis (TB) patients.
- WFP anticipates a shortage in cereals in October due to insufficient funding. If no additional funding is received, the food security and nutrition situation of the refugees will be further compromised.

**Photo:** Beneficiary receiving cash in August, under TUBEHONEZA project. © WFP/Aurore Ishimwe

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