



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief September 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%). 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.



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**

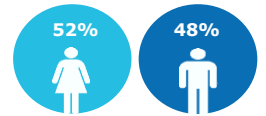
In Numbers

630 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 1,688,553 cash-based transfer under assistance to refugees, returnees, people affected by the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika and under resilience-building activities

USD 10.7 m net funding requirements for the next six months (October 2021 - March 2022)

213,496 people assisted in September 2021



Operational Updates

Assistance to refugees: WFP provided food and nutritional assistance to **51,042** refugees (**22,458** males, **28,584** females, **13,781** children aged 0-59 months and **2,042** people aged over 60 years) with the distribution of **295 mt** of in-kind food and **USD 348,563** in cash-based transfers (CBT). In-kind food consisted of a full ration of pulses, vegetable oil and salt, and a partial ration of pulses (80 gr/pers instead of 120 gr). The CBT was distributed to enable beneficiaries to purchase cereals, which is lacking in the food basket, due to unavailability.

Assistance to returnees: WFP provided food and nutritional assistance to **3,786** Burundian returnees (**1,855** males or 49 percent and **1,931** females or 51 percent), distributing **132 mt** of in-kind food and **USD 117,297** through CBT. The in-kind assistance consisted of hot meals provided at transit centres, and a three-month return package consisting of cereals and vegetable oil. The CBT was provided to allow returnees to buy beans and salt, not provided in the food basket.

Assistance to IDPs affected by the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika: A total of **24,485** internally displaced people (IDPs) in Bujumbura, Makamba and Rumonge Provinces received CBTs amounting to **USD 993,635**, to help them purchase food to meet their daily food needs for a month.

Resilience: In September, WFP initiated the third phase of its Germany’s BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) funded resilience-building activities in Gitega and Karusi. Due to the COVID-19, this phase marjorly focuses on household-specific activities, the creation of regulated community asset, and capacity strengthening of technical staff from WFP, the Government and partner. In collaboration with the cooperation partner World Vision, WFP supported beneficiary households to develop their specific development plans, including the identification of assets to be created, and an income-generating activity to be implemented. The project targets 5,127 households who had achieved good results in the second phase. In September, these participants (**25,635 beneficiaries**) received **USD 229,058** through CBT. The cash distribution was coupled with sensitization messages to provide the tools for the households to make decision making on nutritious diets and micro investments, including within the village savings and loan associations that influence local economies.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
270.1 m	0.3 m	10.7 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

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM): In September, MAM treatment activities benefitted **7,665** moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs) and **9,375** children aged 6-59 months who received **130 mt** of specialized nutritious foods in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi, and Rutana Provinces. Distributions were coupled with social behaviour change communication (SBCC) implemented by health community workers and targeting the PLWGs, and guardians present at the health centers for distributions.

Stunting prevention: WFP provided **44 mt** of specialized nutritious food to **42,965 children** age 6-23 months in Kirundo Province. Activities included a strong SBCC component targeting the community in general.

School Feeding Programme: The programme assisted **48,543 school children** with **29 mt** of food (including 18 mt of milk) in Ngozi and Kirundo Provinces. So far, few schoolchildren were reached due to reopening of schools in mid-September and the unavailability of some food commodities.

Japan contributes to school feeding: On 10 September, the Ambassador of Japan to Burundi and the Representative and Director of WFP in Burundi signed an agreement for a 350 million YEN (about USD 3.18 million) donation from Japan to support 35,000 students as part of the school feeding programme. This contribution from the Government of Japan will allow these school children to benefit from a meal per day in the provinces of Kirundo, Muyinga and Ngozi affected by substantial food insecurity.

Russia contributes to school feeding: Russia donated 1,484 mt of wheat flour equivalent to USD 2 million. This contribution is crucial for the continuation of the school feeding programme in Burundi. The first consignment of 299 mt arrived in Burundi on 6 September and the commodities will be distributed in October.

Monitoring

In September, WFP and its partners received 327 feedback and complaints from beneficiaries through the complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 272 (83 percent) were resolved, and 55 are currently being addressed. The main complaints included assistance request. In terms of priority, 67 complaints were classified high priority. They included suspicions of fraud, beneficiaries who are not in distribution lists, food quality and surge in maize meal (MML) price while refugees had received cash to purchase cereals.

Challenges

The food assistance and MAM treatment activity provided to refugees continue to face shortages due to funding constraints. WFP was not able to provide any SuperCereal Plus in 2021 nor to start the MAM treatment programme for children under 5 years of age, PLWGs, TB patients and people living with HIV/AIDS in the camps.

Photo: Japan Ambassador and WFP Country Director during the signing ceremony upon

Japanese donation for school feeding. © WFP/Irenée Nduwayezu

Contact info: [Selamawit Mamo \(Selamawit.mamo@wfp.org\)](mailto:Selamawit.Mamo@wfp.org)

Country Director: [Housainou Taal \(housainou.taal@wfp.org\)](mailto:Housainou.Taal@wfp.org)

Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/burundi>