



World Food Programme

# WFP Burundi Country Brief

## November 2021

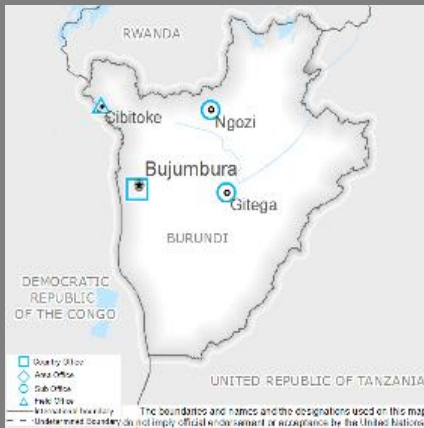
SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



### Operational Context

According to the projections for April 2021 (lean season) IPC results, 9 percent of the population (1.04 million) is facing emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity (phases 3 and 4). However, food security situation remains 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.



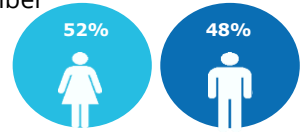
### In Numbers

**2,805 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 400,436** cash transferred under assistance to IDPs and resilience-building activities

**USD 14.2 m** net funding requirements for the next six months (December 2021 - May 2022)

**817,767 people** assisted in November 2021



### Operational Updates

**Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **52,300** refugees (**23,012** males, **29,288** females, **14,121** children aged 0-59 months and **2,092** people aged over 60 years) with the distribution of **795 mt** of in-kind food consisting of a full ration of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and iodized salt.

**Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **2,910** Burundian returnees (**1,426** males or 49 percent and **1,484** females or 51 percent), distributing **158 mt** of in-kind food. The assistance consisted of hot meals provided at transit centres, and a three-month return package consisting of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and iodized salt.

**Assistance to IDPs:** WFP provided cash-based transfers (CBT) valued at **USD 172,333** to **15,500** Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mutimbuzi districts. They were displaced due to the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika.

**Assistance to food-insecure households:** WFP provided 108 mt of food to **7,040 people** affected by hailstorms in Ngozi Province. In addition, **3,600** most food-insecure people in Bubanza, Cankuzo and Ruyigi provinces received from WFP **72 mt** of food.

**Resilience:** Under the Resilience-Building project implemented in Gitega and Karusi provinces, WFP provided CBT entitlements amounting to **USD 228,103** to **5,129** farming households (**25,645 people**) participants of whom 2,601 women.

**Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM):** In October, a total of **7,225** moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs) and **9,218** children aged 6-59 months received **126 mt** of specialized nutritious foods in Cankuzo, Kirundo, Ngozi, and Rutana provinces under MAM treatment. Due to the shortage of Plumpy Sup, malnourished children were given SuperCereal Plus (CSB++). 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 **144 mt** of specialized nutritious food to **16,620 PLWGs** and **42,543 children** aged 6-23 months in Kirundo Province. Activities included a strong SBCC component targeting the community in general. Several channels were used to deliver key messages on feeding and care practices including radios, community platforms such as the community-based peer mother support groups or care groups and “Ecoles de Maris” (‘Schools for Husbands’).

**School Feeding Programme:** The programme assisted **635,166 school children** with **1,402 mt** of food (including 101 mt of milk).

**Project site visit by Ambassador of Russia to Burundi:** On 25 November, the Ambassador of Russia to Burundi visited Bugendana I, a school assisted under the school feeding programme in Gitega Province in the centre of Burundi. The Ambassador wanted to witness the distribution of cooked wheat flour recently donated to Burundi by the Russian Government to support the school feeding programme. The Russian

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)
<b>270.1 m</b>	<b>5.6 m</b>	<b>14.2 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

Ambassador was accompanied by a high-level delegation including the Minister of Education, the First Lady of Burundi and WFP-Burundi Deputy Country Director. The Ambassador commended the good relations between Russia and Burundi and expressed the wish that this contribution could contribute to the development of the socio-economic potential of Burundi.

**WFP/UNDP joint programming:** In November, WFP and UNDP held meetings to discuss joint programming in value chain (food systems) development, resilience building and, climate change adaptation. Both partners converged on Kirundo Province for this joint-programming given that they both have interventions with possible synergies. They agreed on the development of a joint concept note and the creation of a Resilience Working Group to allow for a larger space for resilience projects.

### Supply Chain

Around 2,220 mt of food were distributed in November, with 50 percent destined to the school meals programme.

Recurrent fuel shortages have been occurring since mid-September 2021, particularly for gasoil. As such, WFP has served a total of 14,774 liters of fuel to partners in November, against 2,444 liters in October and 206 liters in September.

### Monitoring

In November, WFP and Partners received 633 feedback and complaints from beneficiaries through the complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 589 (93 percent) were resolved, and 44 are currently being addressed. A total of 39 complaints were classified high priority. They included cases of beneficiaries who did not find their names on distribution lists, food quality, suspicions of fraud, delay in food delivery at some schools and the delivery of less quantities of food than planned. It is worth noting that positive feedback accounted for 31 percent and mainly included appreciation of the food quality and the well-organized distributions for refugees and the resumption of cash distribution under resilience activities.

### Challenges

If no funding is made available soon, WFP will reduce the cereals' ration by half starting January 2022 in order to stretch the available stocks. Consequently, refugees will resort to negative coping mechanisms and the number of people with poor food consumption will increase.

MAM treatment interventions will face shortfalls of CSB++ starting in February 2022. If no funding is received, the nutritional status of moderately malnourished PLWGs will further deteriorate.

**Donors (in alphabetical order):** Burundi, Canada, European Union, France, Germany, Global Partnership for Education, Hilton Foundation, Japan, Kerry Group, Monaco, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, United States of America, World Bank.

**Photo:** Schoolchildren having their meals provided by WFP at a supported school in Muyinga province. © WFP/Aurore Ishimwe

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