



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

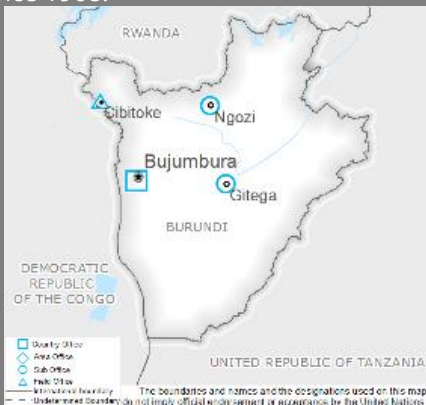
# WFP Burundi Country Brief March 2022



## 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.



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**

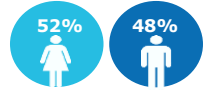
## In Numbers

**1,330 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 392,478** cash transferred under assistance to refugees

**USD 14.72 m** net funding requirements for the next six months (April - September 2022)

**378,465 people** assisted in March 2022



## Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **54,291** refugees (**23,888** males, **30,403** females, **14,668** children aged 0-59 months and **2,173** people aged over 60 years) with the distribution of **249 mt** of in-kind food and **USD 392,478** in cash-based transfers (CBT). In-kind food consisted of pulses and vegetable oil.
- **Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **1,304** Burundian returnees (**639** males or 49 percent and **665** females or 51 percent), distributing **68 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 drought-affected people:** **40,000** food-insecure people affected by drought received **612 mt** of food assistance in Kirundo province.
- **Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM):** In March 2022, MAM treatment activities benefitted **7,579** moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs) and **8,337** children aged 6-59 months who received **96 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 of children 6-59 months present at the health centers for distributions.
- **Stunting prevention:** WFP provided **17 mt** of specialized nutritious food to **11,203** children age 6-23 months in Kirundo Province. Activities included a strong social and behaviour change communication component.
- **School Feeding Programme:** The programme assisted **255,751 school children** with **288 mt** of food (including 1 mt of milk). WFP assisted only 37 percent of the targeted children due to shortage of cereals supply. (see explanation under “challenges”).
- **Endorsement of the new ICSP 2022-2024:** On 1st of March 2022, the WFP Executive Board endorsed the new Burundi Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) 2022-2024 during its first regular session held on 28 February and 1 March 2022. The new ICSP is

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>257.96m</b>	<b>0.82 m</b>	<b>14.72 m</b>

## Strategic Result 1: Access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Shock-affected populations in targeted areas, Burundi returnees, refugees in camps, can 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 and transit centers;
- Provide unconditional and/or conditional food and/or cash-based assistance to severely food insecure households including IDPs and Burundi returnees;

## Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Children 6-59 months, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, PLHIV and TB clients in the targeted provinces have improved nutritional status throughout the year.

**Focus area:** *Resilience Building*

### Activities:

- Provide an integrated nutrition-specific and sensitive package to children aged 6-59 months, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and other vulnerable groups including people living with HIV/AIDS

## Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Vulnerable populations including school-aged children and food value chain actors in Burundi have access to and contribute to healthier, nutritious, resilient, sustainable and gender-transformative food systems by 2024

**Focus area:** *Resilience Building*

### Activities:

- Provide nutritious home-grown school meals to pre-primary and primary school-aged children;
- Provide improved access to technologies and capacity development to smallholder farmers and food value chain actors;
- Provide nutrition-sensitive and gender-transformative livelihood support to food-insecure and at risk of food insecurity households

## Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Government and national actors in Burundi have strengthened capacities, systems and services by 2024

**Focus area:** *Resilience Building*

### Activities:

- Provide advisory and technical services, skills and assets to Government, Private Sector, Burundi Red Cross and NGOs for the design and implementation of effective and gender-responsive food and nutrition assistance including supply chain, social protection, school feeding, nutrition, sustainable food systems and early warning and emergency preparedness.

## Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnership

**Strategic Outcome 5:** The Government of Burundi, humanitarian and development partners can reach vulnerable people and respond to the needs and to emergencies throughout the year.

**Focus area:** *Crisis Response*

### Activities:

- Provide on-demand supply chain and emergency telecommunications and shared IT services to Government, development and humanitarian partners.

**Photo:** A member of Kerry Group mission during a school meal at an assisted school visited during the Kerry Group mission in Burundi. © WFP/Irene Nduwayezu

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aligned to the Government's National Development Plan (NDP 2018-2027). The major strategic shift of the ICSP will consist in the adoption of a Food Systems approach to address food insecurity and malnutrition and improve the resilience of vulnerable people to increasingly frequent climate shocks, while retaining a strong capacity to prevent and respond to emergencies.

- **Kerry Group donor's field visit:** From 29 March to 1 April 2022, a mission from Kerry Group visited Burundi. The objective of this mission was for Kerry Group staff to understand the local context and challenges that the milk value chain actors face i.e., the dairy farmers, milk collectors, transporters, and processors. In early 2020, WFP partnered with Kerry Group to improve food security and nutrition through the revitalizing the milk value chain project. The partnership entails of a USD 750,000 contribution by Kerry Group to WFP Burundi, USD 250,000 per year. The objectives of the project are 1) to increase milk production and smallholder dairy farmers revenue, 2) to promote milk consumption through demand creation activities and 3) to strengthen public-private partnerships across the milk value chain. The mission visited farmers, milk collectors and a collection centre, and witnessed the provision of milk to schoolchildren in a school assisted by WFP under the school feeding programme.

## Monitoring

- In March 2022, WFP and its partners received 328 feedback and complaints from beneficiaries through the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 321 (98 percent) were resolved, and 7 are currently being addressed. The main complaints included assistance request for resolving issues linked to assistance distribution. In terms of priority, 92 complaints were classified as high priority. They included cases of beneficiaries who did not find their names on distribution lists, people meeting targeting criteria but who were not included on beneficiary lists, delay in food delivery and fraud suspicions.

## Challenges

- **Food shortages in assisted schools:** WFP is encountering challenges in the procurement process of food purchased from local cooperatives. Indeed, with the Government's ban on maize import, the available quantities on the markets have diminished and the price of this commodity has increased. Several suppliers under contract with WFP, including cooperatives, withdrew from their commitment, preferring to sell their production to other clients at a higher price. Consequently, more than 500,000 schoolchildren in Bubanza, Bujumbura, Cibitoke, Kirundo, Muyinga, Ngozi and Gitega provinces are not receiving school meals since January 2022. WFP is working with the Government and other partners on rapid solution to this issue.

**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.