



WFP Burundi Country Brief

May 2022

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

According to the projections for April 2021 (lean season) Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (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 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (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.



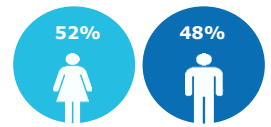
Population: **11.7 million**

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



1,469 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 337,695 cash transferred under assistance to refugees

USD 11.83 million net funding requirements for the next six months (June - November 2022)

741,451 people assisted in May 2022

Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **54,688** refugees (**24,063** males, **30,625** females, **14,766** children aged 0-59 months and **2,188** people aged over 60 years) with **303 mt** of in-kind food and **USD 337,695** cash-based transfers (CBT).
- **Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **2,136** Burundian returnees (**1,047** males or 49 percent and **1,089** females or 51 percent), distributing **51 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.
- **Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM):** In May 2022, MAM treatment activities benefitted **7,745** moderately malnourished pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs) and **9,013** children aged 6-59 months who received **95 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 **18 mt** of specialized nutritious food to **11,600** children age 6-23 months in Kirundo Province. Activities included a strong SBCC component.
- **School Feeding Programme:** The programme assisted **656,269** school children with **1,002 mt** of food (including 127 mt of milk).
- **One UN press conference:** On 25 May, within the framework of the One UN communication strategy, WFP led a press conference around the theme “Improving food security and nutrition in Burundi”. Other agencies including Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) took part to the press conference. It focused on WFP’s “changing lives” operations and particularly, the role WFP is playing in the development of food systems in Burundi.

Burundi Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022–2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
257.96m	0.2 m	11.83 m

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: WFP Burundi Country Director and the Resident Coordinator during the One UN press conference. © WFP/ Irene Nduwayezu

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Monitoring

- **Food prices monitoring:** As the lean season continues and its effects are aggravated by the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, the price of beans has been increasing since the last harvest by more than 50 percent compared to January 2022. The price of all essential commodities remains above the prices of the same period in 2021 and of the last five years. In addition, market supply remains disrupted by the persistent shortage of fuel since April 2022.
- **April Integrated Phase Classification (IPC):** The projections of the April 2022 IPC indicate that 10 percent of the population (1.18 million) is facing emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity (phases 3 and 4). The main factors behind the food insecurity identified are recurrent climatic hazards, displacement, intense repatriation flows, COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war's impact in a context of low resilience.
- **Community Feedback Mechanism report:** In May 2022, WFP and its partners received 307 feedback and complaints from beneficiaries through the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 279 (91 percent) were resolved, and 10 are currently being addressed. In May, WFP received a particularly high number of negative feedbacks (41 percent). They emanated from the then ongoing targeting process for the nutrition and resilience project and the unconditional food transfer in Kirundo Province. Beneficiaries complained about the beneficiary registration which was addressed during a public validation of the beneficiary lists.

Challenges

- **USD 2.4 million for treatment of MAM:** Starting in July until November, the programme will fall short of nutritious food (SuperCereal Plus and Plumpy Sup) to distribute to moderately malnourished PLWGs and children 5-59 months. WFP is only expecting some nutritional inputs provided by Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) under Fiscal Year 2022 to reach Burundi in October and December (49 mt of SuperCereal Plus in October; and 510 mt of SuperCereal Plus and 170 mt of Plumpy Sup in December). Meanwhile, WFP needs USD 2 million to be able to cover the period from July to November. Otherwise, the nutritional status of thousands of malnourished children and PLWG will further deteriorate.

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