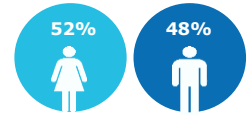




World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Burundi Country Brief January 2023



## In Numbers

**1,520 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 331,441** cash transferred under assistance to refugees, returnees, and decentralized local procurement

**USD 5.2 m** six months net funding requirements (February - July 2023)

**722,050 people** assisted in January 2023

## Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees:** In November, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 55,582 refugees (24,456 males, 31,126 females, 15,007 children aged 6-59 months and 2,223 people with over 60 years of age) distributing 770 mt of in-kind food and USD 160,061 in cash-based transfers (CBT).
- **Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 233 Burundian returnees (114 males and 119 females), distributing a combination of in-kind food and CBT. The assistance consisted of hot meals provided at transit centres, and a three-month in-kind food and CBT return package. In total, WFP distributed 7 mt of in-kind food and USD 4,528 to the returnees in January 2023.
- **School Feeding Programme:** WFP distributed 743 mt of food including 160 mt of milk to 666,235 school children from 702 schools as part of their daily school meals. Out of the supported schools, WFP is piloting the new decentralized procurement approach in 51 schools which transfers the responsibility of local procurement for the school feeding programme to local authorities. Through this approach, WFP is contributing to local economy while also enhancing capacity of smallscale farmers. In January, schools procured food worth USD 166,852 directly from smallholder farmers.
- **Cholera outbreak:** On 30 December, the Burundi Ministry of Health declared an outbreak of cholera in capital Bujumbura and in the western province of Cibitoke. The epidemic was declared after the discovery of 32 cases and 3 deaths. Later, the epidemic spread to the north. For the safety of staff, the UN Department of Safety and Security recommended the suspension/deferral of non-critical operations in the affected areas. WFP implemented prevention measures in line with the government's protocol.
- **Market monitoring:** With typical rainfall, the harvest of beans, rice, and maize in Burundi's first cropping season A typically occurs in January. When compared to December 2022, the availability of commodities in the markets has slightly increased due to the low rainfall totals observed during the fourth quarter of 2022. The percentage of markets with more than 5 tons of rice increased from 20 percent in December 2022 to 22.3 percent in January 2023, while the percentage of markets with more than 5 tons of maize increased from 10 percent in December 2022 to 14.72 percent in January 2023. In contrast, the percentage of markets with more than 5 tons of beans dropped by 1 percent from 17 percent in December 2022.

## Operational Context

The humanitarian situation in Burundi remains alarming. Recurring climate-change natural disasters lead to massive internal displacements and impact the livelihood of the rural population, highly dependent on subsistence farming for their food security. The inflationary effect of the Ukrainian crisis compounded with the trade and market supply disruptions imposed by the COVID19 restrictions have exacerbated the national economic crisis and food insecurity in the country. Compared to July 2021, the price of staple food on local markets has increased by 53 percent.

According to the August 2022 IPC survey, 12 percent of the population (1.404 million) is facing acute food insecurity and require immediate assistance. The prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months is rated at 55.8 percent, an increase of 3 percent since 2020.

Burundi hosts a high number of refugees fleeing violence from the Democratic Republic of Congo (55,000 in 5 camps). Since 2017, more than 200,000 Burundians have repatriated, adding strain on resource-scarce vulnerable host communities.

WFP has been present in Burundi since 1968.



Population: **11.7 million**

2020 Human Development Index: **185 out of 189**

**72 percent** of Burundians live under the poverty line

Chronic malnutrition: **55.8 % of children between 6-59 months**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>262.2 m</b>	<b>4.12 m</b>	<b>5.2 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:** Chantal, the maman lumière, poses for a photograph with her workshop members where she teaches families about nutrition and locally grown food in Kirundo Province. © WFP/ Frederik Lerner

**Contact info:** Michel Rwamo ([Michel.rwamo@wfp.org](mailto:Michel.rwamo@wfp.org))  
**Country Director:** Housainou Taal ([housainou.taal@wfp.org](mailto:housainou.taal@wfp.org))  
 Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/burundi>

- **Community Feedback Mechanism:** In January 2023, WFP and its partners received 481 feedback and complaints messages from beneficiaries (197 from women) through WFP's Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) consisting of helpline, help desks and suggestion boxes. Out of these, 351 cases (73 percent) were resolved, and 130 are currently being addressed. The main complaints included requests for assistance in accessing food assistance or for access facilitation (44 percent).

## Challenges

- Due to funding shortages, starting February 2023, the refugee operation will face a shortfall in pulses and vegetable oil. In addition, from April, the refugees' food basket will lack pulses and cereals. If no new funding is received, WFP will be forced to reduce quantity of commodities in the food basket to stretch the available stock. In addition, assistance to returnees, IDPs and other vulnerable food-insecure populations will be negatively impacted by the lack of pulses and cereals starting in February. With the limited available stock, WFP will prioritize returnees. The MAM treatment and stunting prevention programmes are already being disrupted by the lack of specialised nutritious foods.
- The school feeding programme will face a shortage of cereals and pulses starting in February due to challenges in importation. WFP is negotiating with the Ministry of Agriculture a blanket import permit to ease import procedures of food commodities.
- **Mobile money transfers:** WFP Burundi signed a contract with Cassava Fintech in December 2022 to provide mobile money services to WFP beneficiaries. However, there were tax compliance challenges with the service provider that impacted on WFP's plans to roll out digitized payments to beneficiaries from 2023. This has negatively impacted on WFP's plans to roll out digitized payments to beneficiaries from 2023. WFP has started a new process to onboard new financial service providers (FSPs) to support mobile money payment systems and digital inclusion. Additionally, WFP signed a statement of commitment with GSMA to support digital literacy and financial inclusion awaiting new FSPs onboarding.

**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.