



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Burundi Country Brief February 2023



## 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 global inflationary effect 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.



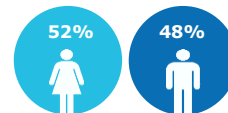
Population: **11.7 million**

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**

## In Numbers



**1,434 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 1,304,658** cash transferred under assistance to refugees, returnees, and decentralized local procurement

**USD 8.2 m** six months net funding requirements (March - August 2023)

**778,174 people** assisted in February 2023

## Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **55,744** refugees (24,527 males, 31,217 females, 15,051 children aged 6-59 months and 2,230 people with old persons (over 60 years) with the distribution of **625 mt** of in-kind food and **USD 320,031** in cash-based transfers (CBT).
- **Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **425 Burundian returnees** (49 percent males and 51 percent 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 **14 mt** of in-kind food and **USD 6,743** to these returnees in February 2023.
- **Food assistance to people affected by climatic shocks:** In February 2023, WFP also provided food assistance to **57,415** people affected by drought in Bubanza and Kirundo provinces, distributing **USD 772,658** through cash-based transfers. The assistance was provided in the form of CBT and received.
- **School Feeding Programme:** WFP distributed 795 mt of food including 198 mt of milk to 664,590 school children from 771 schools as part of their daily school meals. Out of the supported schools, WFP piloted the new decentralized procurement approach in 50 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 205,226 directly from smallholder farmers.
- **UNSDCF 2023-2027:** WFP and FAO will co-lead the first pillar of the new United Nations Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development (UNSDCF) 2023 – 2027 that the UN System in Burundi has just launched. The first pillar of the UNSDCF focuses on Sustainable Food systems. The UNSDCF is the main instrument for planning and carrying out UN development activities to support the implementation of the Burundi National Development Plan (2018-2027) and the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 in Burundi. In this role, WFP and FAO will coordinate the development and implementation of food systems strategy in Burundi.
- **New Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2024-2027:** To align with the new UNSDCF, WFP Burundi will develop a new CSP 2024 – 2027, that will be presented to WFP Executive Board during the March

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>262.2 m</b>	<b>0.5 m</b>	<b>8.2 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:** Cash distribution to people affected by climatic shock in Kirundo province. © WFP/ Irenée Nduwayezu

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2024 session. The new CSP will retain a dual mandate mission of saving lives and changing lives, with 'sustainable food systems' a key strategic objective aligned with the Government of Burundi's priorities and the new UNSDCF.

## Monitoring

- **Market monitoring:** The month of February usually coincides with the harvest and post-harvest period for beans, rice, and maize in the first cropping season, according to a normal agricultural calendar for Burundi. However, the limiting factors (delays in planting, rainfall deficit, climatic hazards, shortages of seeds and fertilizers, unprecedented level of inflation on the market) that were observed throughout the growing season resulted in insufficient harvests. Market availability is clearly down in the 85 markets that are regularly monitored when compared to the same period in 2022. The proportion of markets with more than 5 tons of availability is 22 percent for beans, 22 percent for rice (up from 24 percent in 2022), and 18 percent for maize (up from 26 percent in 2022). The average price of beans has risen by 8 percent since January 2023, while cereal and tuber prices have risen by 6 percent and 2 percent, respectively.
- **Accountability to affected population:** WFP's Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) comprising of helplines, helpdesks, face-to-face, suggestion boxes are useful in collecting feedback on WFP activities from beneficiaries. In February 2023, WFP and its partners received feedback from 459 beneficiaries (239 women). Out of these, 381 cases (83 percent) were resolved, and 78 are currently being addressed. The main complaints included requests for assistance in accessing food assistance or for access facilitation (39 percent).

## Challenges

- Starting April 2023, WFP will reduce food rations for refugees by half to help make up for the funding shortfalls. 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 March. The moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment and stunting prevention programmes are already being disrupted by the lack of special nutritious foods. Furthermore, the **school feeding programme** has faced a shortage in cereals and pulses since February due to importation challenges. WFP is negotiating with the Ministry of Agriculture for a blanket import permit to ease import procedures of food commodities.
- **For Nutrition**, following BHA's funding reduction, MAM treatment is now limited to areas around the five refugee camps, reducing the number of targeted beneficiaries by 46 percent in 2023. WFP is meeting with the Ministry of Health to explain the withdrawal and explore alternative options. This withdrawal is likely to result in increased MAM prevalence rates in the regions left. In priority areas, preparatory consultations are ongoing for distribution of specialised nutritious foods. WFP continues to seek funding opportunities to address the increasing number of people requiring MAM treatment and stunting prevention activities.

**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.