



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief March 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 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: **12.3 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**

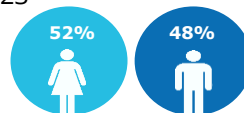
In Numbers

679 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 1,283,599 cash transferred under assistance to refugees, people affected by climatic shocks, and decentralized local procurement

USD 9.21 m six months net funding requirements (April - September 2023)

383,788 people assisted in March 2023



Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **55,703** refugees (24,509 males, 31,194 females, 15,040 children aged 6-59 months and 2,228 people aged over 60 years) with the distribution of **460 mt** of in-kind food and **USD 518,492** in cash-based transfers (CBT). Due to resource scarcity, the ration of refugees will be halved starting next month (April).
- **Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 886 Burundian returnees (49 percent male and 51 percent female). The assistance consisted of hot meals provided at transit centres, and a three-month in-kind food return package. In total, 41 mt of in-kind food was distributed to these returnees in March 2023.
- **Food assistance to people affected by climatic shocks:** In March 2023, WFP also provided food assistance to 38,480 people affected by climatic shocks (rainfall deficit) in Muyinga and Kirundo provinces, distributing USD 527,816 through cash-based transfers. In addition, WFP provided 9 mt of food assistance to 258 people affected by a landslide in Bujumbura Rural.
- **School Feeding Programme:** WFP provided daily school meals to **286,034** school children with 158 mt of food including 4 mt of milk. Out of these school children assisted, 42,415 were reached under the new decentralized procurement approach by which WFP is piloting the transfer of the responsibility of local procurement for the school feeding programme to local authorities. Under this approach, **USD 237,291** were directly transferred to smallholder farmers.
- **Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM):** In March 2023, MAM treatment activities benefitted **519** moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) and **1,908** children aged 6-59 months who received **11 mt** of specialized nutritious foods in Cankuzo, Kirundo, and Rutana provinces.
- Following funding reduction for 2023, MAM treatment is now limited to the five refugee camps and in neighboring health districts with GAM rates between 5 percent and 10 percent with aggravating factors. This readjustment in targeting is also in line with the donor's new orientation in terms of geographical focus areas.

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
262.2 m	2.06 m	9.21 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: Refugees who have just received food assistance in Musasa refugee camp. © WFP/ Irenée Nduwayezu

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- In addition, WFP signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health, through the National Integrated Programme for Feeding and Nutrition (PRONIANUT) and agreed with the Ministry of Health on the development of a roadmap for government's ownership of the MAM Treatment Programme and the implementation of alternative options to the use of Specialized Nutrition Foods (SNF) for MAM treatment. In priority areas, distribution of SNFs begun in March 2023 and supporting activities such as orientation sessions on the agreement and refresher session on the Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Protocol are ongoing, targeting health staff at national and decentralized levels. WFP continues to seek funding opportunities to address the increasing number of people requiring MAM treatment and stunting prevention activities.

Monitoring

- **Market monitoring:** In Burundi, in the context of a normal agricultural calendar, the month of March usually coincides with the post-harvest period of the first agricultural season as well as the establishment of the second agricultural season. The mVAM survey carried out in the 85 markets regularly monitored shows that market availability is down from the previous month. The proportion of markets with more than 5 tons of food available is 15 percent for beans (compared to 22 percent in February), 15 percent for rice (compared to 22 percent in February), and there has been a slight improvement for maize (25 percent compared to 18 percent last month).
- **Community Feedback Mechanism report:** In March 2023, WFP and its partners received 351 feedback and complaints messages from beneficiaries through the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 335 cases (88 percent) were resolved, and 16 are currently being addressed. The main complaints included requests for assistance in accessing food assistance or for access facilitation (42 percent).

Challenges

- **Pipeline breaks:** Refugee operation is facing a serious funding shortfall. If no funding is made available immediately, WFP will resort to halving the refugees' ration starting in April 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. 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. Furthermore, the school feeding programme will face a shortage of cereals and pulses in May and June due to challenges with import procedures and WFP is negotiating an open import permit with local authorities to ease import procedures.

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.