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 inflation due to the Ukrainian crisis compounded with the trade and market supply disruptions imposed by the COVID-19 has exacerbated the national economic crisis and food insecurity in the country. The price of food commodities has continued to rise, leading to a steady decline in households’ purchasing power.

According to the April 2023 IPC survey, 19 percent of the population (2.3 million people) are facing acute food insecurity and require immediate food 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 (56,000 in five camps). Since 2017, more than 200,000 Burundians have been repatriated, adding strain on scarce resources in vulnerable host communities.

Operational Updates

**Assistance to refugees**: WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 55,768 refugees (44 percent males, 56 percent females). These included 15,057 children aged 6-59 months, and 2,231 people over 60 years of age. From May, refugees started receiving half rations due to resource constraints, but thanks to allocation of multilateral resources (USD 0.8 million) and an advance (USD 0.6 million) on German pledges, refugee ration sizes will be increased to 70 percent from July 2023.

**Assistance to returnees**: WFP provided 41 mt of in-kind food and nutrition assistance to 1,084 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.

**Food assistance to people affected by climatic shocks**: In May WFP also provided 22 mt of food assistance to 1,440 people displaced by floods in Mutimbazi district in Bujumbura Rural.

**School Feeding Programme**: WFP provided daily school meals to 658,060 school-going children. In total, 1,065 mt of food, including 103 mt of milk was delivered to schools in the month of May. Out of the children reached by WFP, 40,223 were reached under the pilot decentralized procurement approach through which WFP is transferring the responsibility of local procurement for the school feeding programme to local authorities. Under this approach, WFP contributes to local economies and supports the agricultural sector by procuring from local smallholder farmers. In May, WFP procured food from smallholder farmers valued at USD 102,769.

**Stunting prevention**: Under the KfW-funded nutrition and resilience programme and BMZ-funded nutrition programme, WFP aims to prevent stunting through the provision of specialized nutritious foods, social and behaviour change communication to sensitize the mothers on healthy feeding practices, and resilience-building activities. In May, WFP reached 27,042 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) and children aged 6-23 months (5,927 PBWGs and 21,115 children) in Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi, and Rutana provinces under this programme.

**Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)**: In May, MAM treatment activities benefitted 4,494 moderately malnourished PBWGs and 9,278 children aged 6-59 months who received 90 mt of specialized nutritious foods in Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana provinces.
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 3: 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 4: 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 5: 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

Strategic Result 6: Transform systems

**Strategic Outcome 6:** Transform systems, including food and nutrition, social protection, primary health care, ICTs, for the benefit of the affected population.

**Focus area:** Transformation

**Activities:**
- 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 7: Strengthen livelihoods

**Strategic Outcome 7:** Affected people are resilient and have access to and contribute to healthier, nutritious, resilient, and sustainable livelihoods.

**Focus area:** Resilience

**Activities:**
- Provide nutrition-sensitive and gender-transformative livelihood support to food-insecure and at risk of food insecurity households

Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnership

**Strategic Outcome 8:** The Government of Burundi, humanitarian and development partners can reach vulnerable people and respond to the needs and to

Strategic Result 9: Transform systems

**Strategic Outcome 9:** Transform systems, including food and nutrition, social protection, primary health care, ICTs, for the benefit of the affected population.

**Focus area:** Transformation

**Activities:**
- 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 10: Strengthen livelihoods

**Strategic Outcome 10:** Affected people are resilient and have access to and contribute to healthier, nutritious, resilient, and sustainable livelihoods.

**Focus area:** Resilience

**Activities:**
- Provide nutrition-sensitive and gender-transformative livelihood support to food-insecure and at risk of food insecurity households

**Service provision:** Through its fuel provision service, WFP continues to play a key role in mitigating the impact of fuel shortages on humanitarian and development action in Burundi. In May 2023, WFP distributed 2,776 liters of fuel to five humanitarian and development organizations.

**Monitoring**

In Burundi, May usually coincides with the end of the short lean season (April-May), the effects of which can be cushioned by early harvests of beans for the main growing season. According to food price market monitoring, there has been a slight overall increase in the availability of main staples in the markets compared to April. The proportion of markets with stocks of more than five tonnes is 17 percent for beans (compared to 14 percent in April), 23 percent for rice (compared to 18 percent in April), but with a slight drop for maize from 38 percent to 35 percent between April and May 2023. The average price of beans fell by -17 percent compared to April 2023, while the average prices of cereals and tubers tended to stabilize at national level.

**Community Feedback Mechanism report:** In May, WFP and its partners received 487 feedback and complaints messages from beneficiaries through its Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 429 cases (88 percent) were resolved, and 58 are currently being addressed. The main complaints included requests for assistance in accessing food assistance or for access facilitation (42 percent).

**Challenges**

Due to resource constraints, WFP started providing a half rations to refugees in May 2023. A multilateral allocation and advance financing received from Germany will allow WFP to restore rations to 70 percent starting from July 2023. Disruption of resources is having a negative impact on refugees as they are entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance. WFP needs additional resources to provide a full ration to refugees.

The Resource constraints are also negatively impacting the delivery of assistance to acutely food-insecure people in Burundi.

**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.

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**Photo:** School children in a school in Muyinga province having a school meal provided by WFP. © WFP/ Irenée Nduwayezu

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