



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief, June 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 inflation due to the Global 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) were facing acute food insecurity and required immediate food assistance in April and May 2023. Out of these, 105,000 people were in emergency (phase 4 of IPC), an unprecedented figure since 2017. Although this figure has decreased to 1.2 million with the harvests of the big agricultural season 2023 B, it is likely to rise with the lean season (October-December 2023) corresponding with the depletion of food reserves in households. 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.



Population: **12.3 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **187 out of 191**

72 percent of Burundians live under the poverty line

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

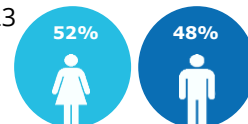
In Numbers

1,481 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 1,122,970 cash transferred under assistance to refugees, assistance to people affected by climatic shocks, nutrition and resilience programmes, and decentralized local procurement

USD 16.15 m six months net funding requirements (August 2023 - January 2024)

818,727 people assisted in June 2023



Operational Updates

Assistance to refugees: WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 55,533 refugees (44 percent males, 56 percent females). These included 14,994 children aged 6-59 months, and 2,221 people over 60 years of age. Refugees received 298 mt of in-kind food and USD 156,394 in cash-based transfers (CBT).

In June, refugees received a ration reduced by 50 percent due to resource constraints and ration cuts will continue until WFP receives new contributions.

Assistance to returnees: WFP provided 82 mt of in-kind food and nutrition assistance to 1,746 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: WFP also provided 130 mt of in-kind food assistance and USD 500,852 in CBT to 9,345 people in Gatumba district in Bujumbura Rural, and 49,205 people in Kirundo province, respectively. Their food-insecurity and vulnerability had been compounded by climatic shocks. In addition, 1,455 IDPs hosted in Mutimbuzi district received 16 mt of in-kind food assistance. They had been affected by flooding.

Under the **KfW and SDC-funded nutrition and resilience programmes**, WFP provided USD 266,046 in CBT to 8,460 people participating in resilience-building activities (42,300 beneficiaries) in Ngozi, Kayanza, Muyinga, Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi and Rutana provinces.

School Feeding Programme: WFP provided daily school meals to 618,477 school-going children. In total, 771 mt of food, including 132 mt of milk was delivered to schools in the month of June. Out of the children reached by WFP, 41,201 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 June, WFP procured food from smallholder farmers valued at USD 199,678.

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
262.2 m	0.8m	16.15 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

Photo: Beneficiary receiving cash in Karusi province under the KfW-funded nutrition and resilience programme . © WFP/ Irenée Nduwayezu

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

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM): In June, MAM treatment activities benefitted 5,375 moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) and 8,916 children aged 6-59 months who received 95 mt of specialized nutritious foods in Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana provinces.

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 June, WFP reached 26,375 PBWGs and children aged 6-23 months (6,182 PBWGs and 20,193 children) with 89 mt of nutritious foods in Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi, and Rutana provinces under this programme.

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. By mid-2023, WFP distributed 8,249 liters of fuel to 13 humanitarian and development organizations (against 2,776 liters in 2022).

Monitoring

Community Feedback Mechanism report: In June, WFP and its partners received 580 feedback and complaints messages from beneficiaries through its Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 470 cases (81 percent) were resolved, and 110 are currently being addressed. The main complaints included requests for assistance in accessing food assistance or for access facilitation and beneficiaries who did not find their names on beneficiary lists mainly under resilience activities and unconditional food assistance for people affected by climatic shocks.

Challenges

Refugees: Due to resource constraints, WFP provided a half food ration (50 percent) to refugees in June 2023. Thanks to an internal allocation and advance financing received from Germany, the ration will increase to 70 percent in July and August 2023. The decrease of humanitarian funding in Burundi is having a dramatic impact on refugees who are entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance to cover their basic needs. Fundraising efforts are underway trying to mobilize USD 5.7 million needed to restore full ration for the refugees until end of January 2024 to avoid the deterioration of their nutritional status.

MAM treatment: Following BHA's funding reduction, MAM treatment is now limited to areas around the five refugee camps. As no funding opportunities are predicted for this activity in the short and medium term, WFP is in discussions with the government for alternative solutions and a progressive handover.

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.