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 Integrated Phase Classification (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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Numbers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>150,024 people</strong> assisted in July 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>USD 547,753</strong> cash-based transfers distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>USD 14.69 million</strong> six months net funding requirements (September 2023 - February 2024)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>495 mt</strong> of food assistance distributed</td>
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### Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 55,192 refugees (44 percent males, 56 percent females). These included 14,901 children aged 6-59 months, and 2,208 people over 60 years of age. Refugees received 177 mt of in-kind food and USD 307,596 in cash-based transfers (CBT). In July, refugees received a 70 percent food ration due to resource constraints.

- **Assistance to returnees:** 2,621 Burundian returnees (49 percent male and 51 percent female) received 124 mt of in-kind food and nutrition assistance consisting of hot meals provided upon arrival at transit centres and a three-month in-kind food return package.

- **Food assistance to people affected by climatic and socio-economic shocks:** Under the Japan-funded humanitarian project, WFP also provided in-kind food assistance to 3,000 people in Marangara district, Ngozi Province affected by climatic and socio-economic shocks.

- **Under the KfW and SDC-funded nutrition and resilience activities,** WFP assisted 6,898 people (34,490 beneficiaries) in Ngozi, Kayanza, Muyinga, Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi and Rutana provinces with USD 216,494 in CBT.

- **School Feeding Programme:** WFP provided school meals to 22,456 children in schools that remained opened early in July before summer holidays. WFP continued to implement its pilot decentralized procurement approach, whereby the responsibility of local procurement is transferred to local authorities. In July, WFP procured food worth USD 23,663 from local smallholder for use in the school feeding programme.

- **Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM):** WFP provided 92 mt of specialized nutritious foods to 6,137 moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) and 8,753 children aged 6-59 months in Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana provinces for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.

- **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 July, WFP reached 2,960 PBWGs and 14,415 children aged 6-23 months with 55 mt of nutritious foods in Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi, and Rutana provinces under this programme.
WFP Country Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>262.2 m</td>
<td>3.8m</td>
<td>14.69 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Strategic Result 1: Access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Shock-affected populations in targeted areas, Burundian 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 Burundian 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 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

- **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 operations in Burundi. In July 2023, WFP distributed 8,787 litres of fuel to 13 humanitarian and development organizations.

### Monitoring

- **Community Feedback Mechanism report:** WFP and its partners received 492 feedback and complaints messages from beneficiaries through its Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). Out of these, 428 cases (87 percent) were resolved, and 64 are currently being addressed. The main feedbacks (68 percent) included requests for information in accessing food assistance, beneficiaries who did not find their names on beneficiary lists and/or on distribution lists, and delay or postponement of distributions. The complaints were given high priority for a quick resolution.

- **Market prices monitoring:** July marks the harvest season in Burundi. The food availability survey shows a slight improvement on markets and in households, except for maize, which is harvested earlier in April. However, compared with June, average prices in July have risen. Average beans and cereal prices are up by 8 percent and 2 percent respectively, while average tuber prices are down slightly by 1 percent.

### Challenges

- **Refugees:** Due to resource constraints, food rations for refugees were halved in May and June, while in July a 70 percent food ration was distributed. The decrease of humanitarian funding in Burundi is having a negative impact on refugees who rely exclusively on humanitarian assistance for their survival. A post-distribution monitoring exercise carried out in refugee camps in July to gauge the refugees’ food security and nutrition situation showed an abrupt deterioration of the refugees’ food security status. The proportion of refugees consuming adequate food fell from 91.9 percent in December 2022 to 46 percent in June 2023, while the proportion of refugees consuming inadequate food rocketed from 0.3 percent to 10 percent. The proportion of those at risk of falling in the inadequate food consumption category dramatically increased from 7.8 percent to 44 percent. Fundraising efforts are underway to mobilize USD 5.2 million needed to restore full ration until end of February 2024.

- **Import permit:** Every shipment requires an import permit to be processed, and the delays in getting this permit impact the availability of food for WFP operations in Burundi.

### Donors (in alphabetical order):
- Burundi, Canada, China, European Union, FEED, France, Germany, Global Partnership for Education, Japan, Katherine Rowlinson, Mastercard Foundation, Monaco, Netherlands, Rockefeller Foundation, Russia, Switzerland, United States of America, World Bank, World Vision UK.

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**Photo:** Returnee getting ready to go back home after receiving the food return package from WFP. © WFP/ Irenée Nduwayezu

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