WFP Burundi
Country Brief, August 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 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 household 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

138,465 people assisted in August 2023
USD 740,557 cash-based transferred to refugees, returnees, people affected by climatic and socio-economic shocks, and nutrition and resilience programmes

929 mt of food assistance distributed
USD 19.18 m six months net funding requirements (October 2023 - March 2024)

Operational Updates

Assistance to refugees: WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 55,916 refugees (44 percent males and 56 percent females). These included 15,097 children aged 6-59 months and 2,237 people over the age of 60. Refugees received hybrid rations of in-kind food (618 mt) and cash-based transfers (USD 193,049) and were given a 70 percent food ration in August due to resource constraints.

Assistance to returnees: WFP provided a combination of in-kind food (207 mt) and cash-based transfers (USD 64,373) to 6,310 Burundian returnees (49 percent male and 51 percent female). The assistance consisted of hot meals served at transit centres and a three-month in-kind food and cash return package.

Food assistance to people affected by climatic and socio-economic shocks: WFP provided assistance in form of value vouchers worth USD 238,694 to 22,345 persons in Ngozi, Kirundo, Muyinga, Cibitoke, and Bujumbura provinces as part of a Japan-funded humanitarian project. These had been affected by climatic and socio-economic shocks.

Under the KfW nutrition and resilience activities, WFP assisted 7,849 households (39,245 beneficiaries) participating in resilience-building activities in Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi, and Rutana provinces with USD 244,441. Activities included marshlands exploitation, installation of kitchen gardens and small animal breeding.

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM): WFP provided 104 mt of specialized nutritious foods to 6,216 moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) and 8,433 children aged 6-59 months in Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana provinces for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.

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 August 2023, WFP distributed 2,292 litres of fuel to eight humanitarian and development organizations.
**WFP Country Strategy**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<td>262.2 m</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19.18 m</td>
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**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 centres.
- 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 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 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.

**Monitoring**

**The El Nino phenomenon**, predicted with a 90 percent probability between October and December 2023, will lead to excessive rainfall and flooding affecting the country during the lean season. WFP and humanitarian partners, under the coordination of OCHA, have started planning for anticipatory actions, with mapping of the most affected priority communes and the number of people involved in preparation planning.

**Market prices monitoring:** Prices of essential foodstuffs are rising again after a slight drop in July 2023. The harvest effect was short-lived. At the provincial level, average prices in August 2023 rose sharply compared with the previous month. Average prices for beans and cereals rose by 13 percent and 5 percent, respectively, compared to July 2023, while the price of tubers rose by 1 percent.

Food prices are expected to continue rising due to recent measures to increase the prices of controlled commodity prices (sugar, fuel, cement, transport cement, etc.) and the general increase in taxes due to measures taken in late August and early September 2023.

**Community Feedback Mechanism report:** In August, WFP and its partners received 490 cases from beneficiaries through its Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) mainly related to food assistance, ID cards issues and entitlements. Out of these, 417 cases (85 percent) were resolved, and 73 are currently being addressed.

**Challenges**

**Refugees:** Due to resource constraints, WFP continued to provide 30 percent food ration to refugees. This will continue if no additional resources are received. WFP requires an additional USD 5.3 million to reintroduce full rations for refugees between October 2023 and February 2024.

**Increasing returnee influx:** Since August 2023, humanitarian partners have observed a surge in the influx of returnees to Burundi. UNHCR anticipates a monthly influx of 8,000 people from September through December, mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania. According to UNHCR, one of the reasons underpinning the recent surge is the deterioration of living conditions in Tanzanian camps due to resource constraints by both UNHCR and WFP. UNHCR and humanitarian partners in Burundi are currently developing a repatriation contingency plan under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator.

WFP requires USD 4.6 million to continue providing a comprehensive return package to returnees from October 2023 to February 2024.

**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.

**Photo:** Distribution of e-vouchers to beneficiaries in Ngozi under the Japan-funded Food assistance to people affected by climatic and socio-economic shocks. © WFP/ Cauris Majojo

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