



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
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LIVES

## WFP Burundi Country Brief September 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 continues 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. 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, the highest rate in the world.

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 below the poverty line

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

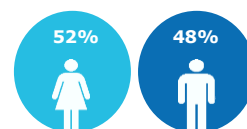
### In Numbers

**570,467 people** assisted in September 2023

**USD 945,296** cash transferred under assistance to refugees, returnees, people affected by climatic and socio-economic shocks, nutrition and resilience programmes and decentralized procurement

**764 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 25.94 m** six months net funding requirements (November 2023 - April 2024)



### Operational Updates

**Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 55,774 refugees (44 percent males and 56 percent females). These included 15,059 children aged 6-59 months and 2,231 people over 60. Refugees received hybrid rations of in-kind food (174 mt) and cash-based transfers (USD 352,936) representing a reduced 70 percent food ration due to resource constraints.

**Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided 4,510 Burundian returnees (49 percent male and 51 percent female) with a combination of in-kind food (94 mt) and cash (USD 96,811). The assistance consisted of hot meals provided 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 assisted 35,700 persons providing them with value vouchers worth USD 376,854 in Ngozi, Kirundo, Muyinga, Cibitoke, and Bujumbura provinces as part of a Japan-funded humanitarian project, assisting population affected by climatic and socio-economic shocks.

**Under the SDC-funded nutrition and resilience programme,** WFP provided USD 43,687 in CBT to 4,792 households participating in resilience-building activities (23,960 beneficiaries) in Ngozi, Kayanza, and Muyinga provinces. Activities included the installation of kitchen gardens and land preparation for the agricultural season 2024 A.

**School Feeding Programme:** WFP provided daily school meals to 429,494 children in 650 schools distributing a total of 379 mt of food, including 14 mt of milk. Around 10 percent of the school canteens were served under the decentralized procurement model through which WFP is transferring the responsibility of local procurement to local authorities. Under this approach, WFP supports local economies and the agricultural sector by purchasing commodities from local smallholder farmers. In September, WFP procured local food from smallholder farmers valued at USD 75,008.

**Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM):** WFP provided 6,875 moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) and 7,703 children aged 6-59 months with 96 mt of specialized nutritious foods for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana provinces.

**Stunting prevention:** Under the KfW-funded nutrition and resilience 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,

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
262.2 m	6.20	25.94 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:** 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

**Contact info:** Michel Rwamo ([Michel.rwamo@wfp.org](mailto:Michel.rwamo@wfp.org))  
**Country Director:** Fatiha Terki ([Fatiha.terki@wfp.org](mailto:Fatiha.terki@wfp.org))

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and resilience-building activities. In September, WFP reached 6,451 PBWGs and children aged 6-23 months (2,895 PBWGs and 3,556 children) with 21 mt of nutritious foods in Ruyigi, and Rutana provinces.

**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 September 2023, WFP distributed 1,525 litres of fuel to eight humanitarian and development organizations.

**Capacity strengthening:** WFP donated 60 motorbikes to the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock and a vehicle to the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research. The donation, worth USD 338,000 will be used to support the field work of the ministry's technicians in supervising smallholder farmers and to monitor the decentralized procurement model of the school feeding programme.

## Monitoring

**Fuel prices increase:** Prices of premium petrol, diesel, and kerosene have been increased with effect from 11 September 2023. The latest price of gasoline has seen an increase of a litre from BIF 3,985 to BIF 4,450, diesel has increased from BIF 3,795 to BIF 4,250, and petrol from BIF 4,135 to BIF 3,730. The latest prices were last established in July 2023. The immediate effect has been a spike in food prices and other basic commodities on the market while the purchasing power of the populations continue to shrink due to the continued depreciation of the local currency.

**Market prices monitoring:** The month of September saw a further decline in food stocks built up from the harvests of the main growing season (June-July), combined with a rise in food prices. According to the market price monitoring survey carried out in September 2023, the proportion of markets with substantial stocks of more than 5 tons was 33 percent for beans, 27 percent for rice and 22 percent for maize. The North-West and South-West provinces are experiencing particularly high food prices, as the increase in fuel prices is creating price differences on local markets.

**Community Feedback Mechanism report:** In September, WFP and its partners received 499 cases from beneficiaries through its community feedback mechanism (CFM) mainly related to food assistance access, ID cards issues, the spike in food prices and the change in family size. Out of these, 389 cases (78 percent) were resolved, and 110 are currently being addressed.

## Challenges

**Refugees ration cuts:** the Government of Burundi recently granted the import licence for 2,200 mt of rice donated by USAID/BHA which was stuck in Dar-Es-Salaam port due to fumigation issues. As a result, WFP will be able to sustain 70 percent food ration to refugees until February 2024. WFP continues to advocate for new resources to restore a full ration for refugees.

**Increasing returnees' influx:** following a tripartite agreement signed by the Governments of Burundi and Tanzania and the UNHCR promoting voluntary returns, there has been a sharp influx of returnees to Burundi. Between September and December, UNHCR projects a monthly caseload of 8,000 people, compared to 1,000 people per month previously. With existing projections, WFP is facing a complete pipeline break in supporting returnees by January 2024 and refugees by March 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.