



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Burundi Country Brief October 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 September 2023 IPC survey, during the lean season (October-December 2023) corresponding with the depletion of food reserves in households, 15 percent of the population (1.88 million people) were facing acute food insecurity and required immediate food assistance. Out of these, 164,000 people were in emergency (phase 4 of IPC), an unprecedented figure since 2017. 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 September 2023, the number of Burundians repatriating from Tanzania has multiplied by 8, adding strain on scarce resources in vulnerable host communities. WFP has been present in Burundi since 1968.



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

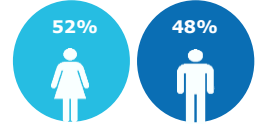
## In Numbers

**845,771 people** assisted in October 2023

**USD 1,142,881** cash transferred under assistance to refugees, returnees, people affected by climatic and socio-economic shocks, nutrition and resilience programmes and decentralized procurement

**1,811 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 17.4 m** six months net funding requirements (December 2023 - May 2024)



## Operational Updates

**Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 55,300 refugees (44 percent males and 56 percent females). These included 14,931 children aged 6-59 months and 2,212 people over 60. Refugees received hybrid rations of in-kind food amounting to 206 mt and cash-based transfers totalling USD 367,043 constituting a 75 percent reduction in their food ration because of limited resources.

**Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided 4,033 Burundian returnees (49 percent male and 51 percent female) with a combination of in-kind food (28 mt) and cash (USD 144,237). 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 35,255 persons providing them with value vouchers worth USD 372,691 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 KfW-funded nutrition and resilience** activities, WFP assisted 7,084 people (35,420 beneficiaries) in Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi and Rutana provinces with USD 110,573 in CBT.

**School Feeding Programme:** WFP provided daily school meals to 684,773 children in 650 schools distributing a total of 1,412 mt of food, including 69 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 October, WFP procured local food from smallholder farmers valued at USD 148,337.

**Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM):** WFP provided 7,775 moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) and 9,595 children aged 6-59 months with 104 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, and resilience-building activities. In October, WFP reached

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>257.96 m</b>	<b>17.75 m</b>	<b>17.4 m</b>

## 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

13,620 PBWGs and children aged 6-23 months (5,497 PBWGs and 8,123 children) with 61 mt of nutritious foods in Karusi, Kirundo, 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 October 2023, WFP distributed 3,828 litres of fuel to eight humanitarian and development organizations.

## Monitoring

**Fuel prices increase:** The ongoing surge in fuel prices persisted, marking a fourth consecutive increase in October (following increments on April 28, July 21, September 11, and October 9, 2023), occurring within a span of less than 5 months. This escalation directly impacted transportation expenses and subsequently affected the prices of other vital goods. The latest rise in October 2023 elevated the cost of a litre of petrol at the pump in Bujumbura city by nearly 40 percent compared to April 2023.

**Market prices monitoring:** October usually coincides with the start of the lean season, during which stock levels on the markets and at community level fall significantly. Consequently, there was a systematic increase in average prices for pulses (up by 5 percent) and cereals (up by 4 percent) across all provinces. Conversely, at the national level, the average monthly price of tubers saw a modest 1 percent rise. These shifts are now attributed to the transportation crisis, primarily impacting perishable goods that necessitate significant transport capabilities.

**Community Feedback Mechanism report:** In October, WFP and its partners received 444 cases from beneficiaries through its community feedback mechanism (CFM) mainly related to food assistance access, beneficiary targeting and registration and beneficiaries who did not find their names on distribution lists. Out of these, 373 cases (84 percent) were resolved, and 71 are currently being addressed.

## Challenges

Following resource constraints, WFP is encountering a severe inability to sustain support for 56,000 refugees in camps, around 5,000 new arrivals monthly among returnees, and roughly 15,000 infants, pregnant, breastfeeding women, and girls aged 0-59 months by April 2024. Without further funding, there's a looming possibility of halting assistance to these vulnerable populations who heavily rely on essential aid. For the **first half of 2024**, WFP requires **USD 8.7 million** to reinstate comprehensive food and nutrition assistance for these highly vulnerable populations.

**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: Returnees eating food provided by WFP at Gitara transit site.** © WFP/ Irenée Nduwayezu

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