



World Food Programme

## WFP Burundi Country Brief December 2023



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

### 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, 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 analysis projects a slight decrease in the number of food insecure people (.1.33 million) during the first quarter of 2024. The prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months is rated at 55.9 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. 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

52%



48%



**959,602 people** assisted in December 2023

**USD 3,327,064** cash transferred under assistance to refugees, returnees, people affected by climatic and economic crises, nutrition and resilience programmes and decentralized procurement for school feeding.

**1,457 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 8.36 m** six months net funding requirements (February - July 2024)

### Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 55,542 refugees (44 percent males and 56 percent females). These included 14,996 children aged 6-59 months and 2,222 people over 60. Refugees received hybrid rations of in-kind food amounting to 304 mt and cash-based transfers totalling USD 345,857. This constituted 75 percent of the planned food ration because of limited resources.
- **Merankabandi II, Component 4 'integration of refugees into the national social protection system':** Under this social protection project, WFP provided 3,333 refugees hosted in 2 camps in Eastern Burundi with cash-based transfers amounting to USD 91,750 to supplement the provision of food assistance.
- **Merankabandi II, Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC):** This project, funded by the World Bank, aims to respond to the cumulative effects of the climatic and economic crises on food security in Burundi. Under this programme, 185,295 beneficiaries in situations of acute food and nutritional insecurity targeted in Cibitoke, Bujumbura, Kirundo, Bubanza and Ngozi provinces received unconditional cash transfers worth USD 2,541,772 in December.
- **Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided 374 Burundian returnees (49 percent male and 51 percent female) with a combination of in-kind food (13 mt) and cash (USD 2,989). The assistance consisted of hot meals provided at transit centres and a three-month in-kind food and cash return package.
- The France-funded AAP project to combat **acute and chronic malnutrition through the sustainable distribution of healthy and nutritious processed local products** assisted 21,375 beneficiaries who participated in nutrition sensitization sessions and received USD 147,359 to purchase locally enriched flour to serve nutritious meals to infants.
- **Under the KfW-funded nutrition and resilience project,** WFP assisted 7,210 households (36,050 beneficiaries) participating in resilience-building activities in Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi and Rutana provinces with USD 152,713 in CBT. In addition, under the same 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 December, WFP reached 17,439 PBWGs and children aged 6-23 months (5,748 PBWGs and 11,691 children) with 64 mt of nutritious foods in Karusi, Kirundo, Ruyigi, and Rutana provinces.
- **School Feeding Programme:** WFP provided school meals to 620,297 children in 870 schools, procuring 947 mt of commodities locally injecting USD 44,624 into the local economy through purchases from smallholder farmers in December.

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>257.96 m</b>	<b>1.5 m</b>	<b>8.36 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

**Photo:** Children eat nutritious porridge after a cooking class in the Mwakiro Commune, Muyinga Province. © WFP/ Fredrik Lerneryd

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- **Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM):** WFP provided 8,905 moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) and 10,992 children aged 6-59 months with 129 mt of specialized nutritious foods for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana provinces.

## Monitoring

- **Improvement of food security indicators among refugees:** After a downward trend for food security indicators among refugees, due to ration cuts introduced in April 2023 due to limited resources, a post-distribution monitoring conducted in refugee camps in December 2023 showed a positive trend, where the proportion of households consuming adequate food increased from 46 percent in June to 50 percent in December 2023. The upward trend is attributed to an increase in food ration from 70 to 75 percent in November and December 2023, and to the integration of refugees into the social protection project *Merankabandi II* with cash distribution in October. Despite the slightly upward trend, half of the camp population still have an insufficient food consumption score and an urgent restoration of full ration would make a difference among the refugee population.
- The preliminary results of **school feeding return on investment study** carried out in collaboration with Harvard University, reported better education outcomes in WFP supported schools in comparison to schools without school meals. The graduation rate in basic education was 5.1 percent higher in WFP supported schools, while repetition rate and dropout rate were lower by 1.5 percent and 3.6 percent respectively. Associated with an increase in food consumption level by 20 percent, school retention rates showed significant net gains, of approximately 2 additional years of education. School meals which account for around 7 percent of the household budget also constitute a resource transfer to vulnerable population.

## Challenges

- **Food assistance for refugees:** In December 2023, WFP continued to provide 75 percent ration to refugees due to resource constraints. If no resources are made available very soon, the ration will be reduced to 70 percent from January to May 2024, and further decrease to 60 percent in June. Starting in July 2024, WFP will not be able to provide food assistance to refugees. WFP Burundi urgently requires USD 8.6 million to restore full rations for 56,000 refugees per month from March to December 2024.
- **The school feeding programme** in Burundi is facing funding challenges. WFP needs USD 16 million to continue implementing the programme during the upcoming school year (starting in September 2024 and in June 2025), thus contributing to the development of the Burundi human capital and local economy. The programme currently covers 25 percent of children going to pre and primary school 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.