



WFP Burundi Country Brief June 2024

World Food Programme

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. Currently, Burundi is heavily impacted by El Nino, leading to the overflowing of Lake Tanganyika. Heavy rains and floods have severely affected populations, resulting in displacement, loss of agricultural production, destruction of houses, damaged infrastructure, halted economic activities deteriorated water quality, and limited access to water and sanitation. The galloping inflation 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 2024 IPC survey, 10 percent of the population (1.2 million people) are facing acute food insecurity and require immediate food assistance. Out of these, 122,000 people were in emergency (phase 4 of IPC). The prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months is rated at 52.8 percent, one of the highest rates 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.



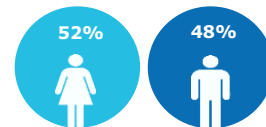
Population: **12.3 million**

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



828,968 people assisted in June 2024

USD 3,979,705 cash transferred under assistance to refugees, *Merankabandi* phase II, KfW -funded nutrition and resilience programmes, and decentralized procurement for school feeding.

1,160 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 24.28 m six months net funding requirements (August 2024-January 2025)

Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **56,646 refugees** (44 percent males and 56 percent females). Among them were 15,294 children aged 6-59 months and 2,266 people over 60. Refugees were provided with hybrid rations of 445 mt of in-kind food and cash-based transfers totalling USD 220,899. This allocation represented 70 percent of the planned food ration due to resource constraints.
- **Merankabandi Component 4, Cash for Jobs:** under this initiative financed by the World Bank *Merankabandi* programme, refugees hosted in the Bwagiriza and Nyankanda camps in the Ruyigi Province are integrated into the national social protection programme. In June, WFP provided **3,388 refugee households** (16,940 individuals) with cash transfers amounting to **USD 85,408**. These cash distributions were supplemented by training sessions on social behaviour change, entrepreneurship, and digital financial literacy to enhance the resilience of households.
- **Merankabandi, Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC):** The CERC project, financed by the World Bank *Merankabandi* programme, aims to mitigate the compounded impacts of climatic and economic crises on food security in Burundi. Targeted households in situations of acute food insecurity receive assistance through unconditional cash-based transfers. In June, 229,820 beneficiaries in Cibitoke, Bujumbura, Kirundo, Bubanza, Ngozi and Rumonge provinces received cash transfers worth USD 3,163,822.
- **Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided 1,648 Burundian returnees (49 percent male and 51 percent female) with 72 mt of in-kind food. The assistance consisted of hot meals provided at transit centres and a three-month in-kind food and cash return package.
- Under the **KfW-funded nutrition and resilience** activities, WFP assisted 3,129 households (15,645 beneficiaries) participating in resilience-building activities in Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi and Rutana provinces with USD 70,046 in cash-based transfers.
- **School Feeding Programme:** WFP provided school meals to 505,403 children in 870 schools. Out of a total purchase of 633 mt of commodities, approximately six percent of the school canteens were served under the decentralized procurement model, thereby injecting USD 439,531 into the local economies and the agricultural sector by sourcing commodities from local smallholder farmers.
- WFP also conducted a pilot for the distribution of pasteurized fresh milk to school canteens by local milk collection centres. In June, 10,104 litres of fresh milk were delivered and consumed by 3,278 schoolchildren in 5 pilot schools in the Musinga and Bubanza provinces.

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
257.96 m	0 m	24.28 m

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Country Strategic Plan Outcome 1: Shock-affected populations in targeted areas, Burundi returnees, internally displaced persons and refugees in camps can meet their basic food and nutrition 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 food and/or cash-based assistance to acutely food-insecure households, including shock-affected households, internally displaced persons and Burundi returnees
- Provide adequate and timely nutrition-dense food along with gender-transformative social and behaviour change communication to supplement the diets of acutely malnourished boys and girls aged 6–59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, people living with HIV and people undergoing treatment for tuberculosis in refugee camps and targeted areas

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Country Strategic Plan Outcome 2: People in Burundi have improved nutrition, health and education outcomes that contribute to human capital throughout the year.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Provide integrated nutrition interventions that contribute to the prevention of malnutrition among children aged 6–23 months, adolescent girls, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and people living with HIV and tuberculosis
- Promote safe and nutritious school meals to pre-primary and primary school-aged children in targeted areas

Strategic Result 3: Sustainable Food Systems

Country Strategic Plan Outcome 3: Food-insecure and risk-prone populations in targeted areas, especially women and young people, smallholder farmers, farmer-based organizations and value chain actors, have improved and more sustainable livelihoods all year round through resilient, efficient and inclusive food systems

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Provide an integrated package of assistance for smallholder farmers and value chain actors that enables them to equitably access and utilize appropriate technology, innovation, skills, inputs and services to improve their productivity and incomes and increase their access to markets
- Provide an integrated package of assistance to food-insecure, risk-prone populations including refugees and support access to nutrition-sensitive, gender-transformative, climate-resilient livelihood interventions

Strategic Result 4: Capacity Strengthening

Country Strategic Plan Outcome 4: Government and national actors in Burundi have strengthened capacities, systems and services to plan, design, implement and monitor food and nutrition assistance, food systems, school meals and social protection policies and strategies, by 2027

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Provide systems strengthening support on the co-creation, design and implementation of effective food and nutrition assistance programmes, including for supply chains, social protection, school meals, sustainable food systems and early warning and emergency preparedness systems

Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnership

Country Strategic Plan Outcome 5: The Government and humanitarian and development partners have access to reliable common services and expertise that enables them to reach vulnerable people and respond to needs and emergencies throughout the year

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- Provide on-demand supply chain and emergency telecommunications and information technology services to government, development and humanitarian partners

- **Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM):** WFP provided **2,866** moderately malnourished **children** aged 6-59 months with **10 mt** of specialized nutritious foods for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana provinces.

Monitoring

- **Market price monitoring:** June marks the largest agricultural season, leading to improved food availability in local markets. Compared to last year, the proportion of markets with more than 5 tons of food is 45 percent for beans (32 percent in June 2023), 42 percent for rice (26 percent in June 2023), and 46 percent for corn (25 percent in June 2023). Compared to May 2024, the average price of beans has decreased by 7 percent, tubers by 5 percent, while cereal prices remained relatively stable.
- **Falling but persistent double-digit inflation:** General annual inflation at 19.4 percent and food inflation at 21.3 percent for the month of June 2024 is still coupled with repetitive shortages of essential commodities and fuel affecting the economy.
- **Community Feedback Mechanism report:** In June, WFP and its partners received 457 cases from beneficiaries through its community feedback mechanism (CFM) mainly related to food assistance access (distribution schedule), expression of gratitude for cash assistance, delay of distributions, beneficiaries who did not find their names on distribution lists. Out of these, 398 cases (87 percent) were resolved, and 59 are currently being addressed.
- **Nutrition SMART survey:** the 2024 SMART survey shows a slight decline in stunting (from 55.8 percent in 2022 to 52.8 percent in 2024) against an increase in moderate acute malnutrition (from 3.4 percent in 2022 to 5.8 percent) and severe acute malnutrition (from 1.4 percent to 2.2 percent).
- **IPC Food insecurity Analysis:** the latest IPC survey reveals that for the projected period of May to September 2024, 1.2 million (10 percent of the population) are in a situation of acute food insecurity. Out of these, 122,000 people are in emergency phase 4 of IPC and require immediate assistance.

Funding Challenges

- **Food assistance for refugees:** WFP is currently providing refugees with a 70 percent food ration, which will decrease to 50 percent starting in August 2024, unless USAID/BHA's supplemental contribution is released. As refugees entirely rely on humanitarian assistance for their survival, the reduction of food rations dramatically impacts their food security and livelihoods, leading to negative coping mechanisms such as debt, the selling of assets but also gender-based protection issues including prostitution and early marriages.
- **Assistance to population in acute food insecurity:** To provide the 122,000 people in the situation of acute food insecurity (Phase 4 of the IPC) with 3-month food assistance, WFP requires USD 8.9 million.

Donors (in alphabetical order): Burundi, China, ECHO, France, Germany, Global Partnership for Education, Kerry Group, Mastercard Foundation, Monaco, Netherlands, Rockefeller Foundation, Russia, Switzerland, United States of America, UNICEF, World Bank, World Vision UK.

Photo: Cash distribution in Nyankanda refugee camp under Merankabandi project-Assistance for refugees. © WFP/ Irenée Nduwayezu