



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief July 2024



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, 18 percent of the population (2.2 million people) were facing acute food insecurity and required immediate food assistance. Out of these, 229,000 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 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.



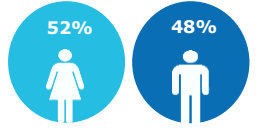
Population: **12.3 million**

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



319,382 people assisted in July 2024

USD 848,570 cash transferred under assistance to refugees, assistance to people affected by the impact of El Nino, and decentralized procurement for school feeding.

891 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 27.86 m six months net funding requirements (September 2024-February 2025)

Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition support to **57,719 refugees** (44 percent male and 56 percent female). This included 5,584 children aged 6-59 months and 2,309 elderly individuals over 60 years. Refugees received only 70 percent of the planned food rations due to resource constraints comprising hybrid rations of **464 mt** of in-kind food and cash-based transfers worth **USD 232,430**.
- **Assistance to those affected by El Nino:** WFP assisted **42,590 people** impacted by the El Nino phenomenon with hybrid ration comprising **179 mt** of in-kind food and **USD 585,691** to meet their daily food needs. This group included residents of Gatumba district, who were displaced by flooding and recently relocated by the Government to Mubimbi IDP site, as well as individuals affected by heavy rains and landslides in the provinces of Bubanza, Ngozi, Rumonge, Bujumbura, Cibitoke, Makamba and Rutana.
- **Assistance to returnees:** WFP supported **2,768 Burundian returnees** (49 percent male and 51 percent female) with **125 mt** of in-kind food. The aid provided included hot meals at transit centres and a three-month return package combining in-kind food and cash transfers.
- **School Feeding Programme:** WFP provided school meals to **211,983** children. A total of **108 mt** of food commodities were purchased and distributed, with part of the procurement conducted under a decentralized model. This model delegates the responsibility of local procurement to local authorities, helping to stimulate local economies by sourcing goods from smallholder farmers. In July, WFP disbursed **USD 30,449** through this model. However, fewer children reached this month due to many leaving for summer vacations. Assisted children were taking part in catch-up exams.
- **Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM): 4,322 children** aged 6-59 months received specialized nutrition foods through its nutrition programme implemented in the provinces of Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana, to help them recover from moderate acute malnutrition.
- **Mpox outbreak:** On 25 July, the Ministry of Health of Burundi officially declared a Mpox outbreak after three cases were identified in Bujumbura. As of 21 August, 171 cases have been confirmed. The UN Medical Directors promptly issued occupational health guidelines for all UN personnel to mitigate the risk of contracting Mpox. Awareness sessions about the disease are ongoing.

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
257.96 m	6.3 m	27.86 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

Photo: Cash distribution in Ngozi province under assistance to affected by the impact of El Nino. © WFP/ Daniele WYSS

Monitoring

- **Market price monitoring:** July typically coincides with the harvest period of agricultural season B, which accounts for more than half of the annual production. Across the 85 markets regularly monitored, food availability on the market improved compared to the same period last year. The proportion of markets with more than 5 tons of food increased to 48 percent for beans (up from 40 percent in July 2023), 46 percent for rice (up from 31 percent in July 2023) and 44 percent for maize (up from 23 percent in July 2023). However, food prices for beans, cereals and tubers remain significantly higher than the five-year average and moderately higher than last year's level. Specifically, the price of beans has risen by 93 percent, cassava flour by over 74 percent and rice by more than 47 percent in comparison to the past five years. The fuel crisis, with its effects on transport, continues to hamper trade between markets and exacerbate inflation. According to the Consumer Price Index bulletin for July 2024, the general annual inflation rate stands at +18.8 percent and that of food products at +19.8 percent.
- **Community Feedback Mechanism report:** In July, WFP and its partners received 317 feedback cases from beneficiaries through its the community feedback mechanism (CFM). These were primarily related to food assistance access including distribution schedules and duration of support. Some feedback expressed gratitude for cash assistance, while complaints centred on the system for cash distribution. Beneficiaries reported that invitations sometimes do not reach all recipients or arrive on the day of distribution. Out of the 317 cases, 298 these feedback, 298 cases (94 percent) have been resolved, with 19 cases still being addressed.

Challenges

- **Food assistance for refugees:** In July, WFP provided refugees with a reduced food ration of 70 percent due to resource constraints. Thanks to a recent contribution from USAID/BHA, the ration will be increased to 75 percent starting in September though it will remain low unless additional resources are secured. The cuts in food rations further increase the vulnerabilities of the refugee population, forcing many to resort to negative coping mechanisms such as accumulating debt, selling productive assets, and facing gender-based protection risks.
- **Funding gap for severely food insecure people:** WFP requires USD 8.9 million to support 122,000 severely food insecure people (classified as in IPC 4) for a period of three months.
- **The school feeding programme:** Funding challenges hinder the school feeding Programme continuity. WFP needs USD 16 million to sustain implementing the programme during the upcoming school year (from September 2024 to June 2025), supporting the development of Burundi's human capital and local economy. Currently, the programme aims to cover 25 percent of children attending pre and primary school in Burundi.

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

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