

# WFP Burundi Country Brief

## October 2024



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



### Operational Context

The humanitarian situation in Burundi remains of high concern, with high numbers of vulnerable people and households suffering the effects of multiple and concurrent crises. Vulnerabilities are linked to weak capacity to manage climactic shocks, high levels of chronic and acute malnutrition and a lack of adequate safety nets. Climatic shocks are recurrent; between April and July, heavy rains and floods linked to El Nino led to the overflowing of Lake Tanganyika and rivers, resulting in the loss of crops, destruction of houses, damaged infrastructure, and displacement.

The economic situation is marked by high inflation and recurrent fuel shortages. The price of food commodities continues to rise, preventing vulnerable households' access to nutritive and sufficient food.

According to the April 2024 IPC survey, 18 percent of the population (2.2 million people) were acutely food insecure and required immediate food assistance. Of these, 229,000 people are in emergency (phase 4 of IPC), the highest level of in-country needs since 2017. The prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months is 52.8 percent and remains the highest in the world.

Burundi hosts a high number of refugees fleeing violence from the Democratic Republic of Congo (57,000 in five camps). Since 2017, more than 200,000 Burundians have been repatriated, further straining the scarce resources available in host communities. WFP has been present in Burundi since 1968.



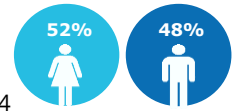
Population: **12.3 million**

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

### In Numbers



**383,409 people** assisted in October 2024

**USD 1,403,769** cash transferred to refugees, returnees, people affected by flooding, and social protection mechanisms.

**413 metric ton (MT)** of food assistance distributed

**USD 17.89 m** six months net funding requirements (November 2024-April 2025)

### Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees and returnees:** WFP transferred Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) worth USD 709,713 to 56,286 refugees (44 percent men, 56 percent women), and 18 MT of in-kind food assistance to 2,112 asylum seekers in transit centres. Due to resource constraints, WFP was forced to reduce rations covering only 75 percent of recommended daily caloric requirements. WFP supported 712 Burundian returnees with 75 MT of in-kind assistance including hot meals at transit centres and a three-month return package to support reintegration.
- **Assistance to those affected by climatic shocks:** WFP provided USD 86,721 CBT to 5,260 people displaced by floods. This support benefitted internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the Gatumba district who were relocated by the Government to the Mubimbi IDP site, where conditions remain precarious.
- **Anticipatory action:** through its forecast-based financing (FbF) programme, WFP distributed USD 85,132 in CBT to 1,223 households (6,115 people) located in the Busoni commune of Kirundo province to cushion them against the impact of the dry agricultural season A (September – December 2024). Supported households engaged in preparatory farming activities on the farms and acquired drought-resistant seeds and farming tools.
- **Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition:** WFP provided 23 MT of specialized nutritious foods to 4,499 moderately malnourished children aged 6-59 months across Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana Provinces. Due to a shortage in specialised nutritious foods, moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls could not receive treatment in October. Going forward, WFP will prioritize and invest in the prevention of malnutrition, rather than focusing exclusively on treatment.
- **Nutrition and resilience programme (KfW-funded):** 5,606 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and 12,776 children 6-24 months received 51 MT of nutritious foods as part of the stunting prevention interventions.
- **School Meals Programme:** WFP provided school meals to 272,993 children, achieving 39 percent of the planned target. The low coverage was primarily due to recurring fuel shortages which disrupted food deliveries to schools, and lack of adequate maize as the batch did not meet the WFP quality standards. A significant quantity of maize was rejected for use in school after WFP tests revealed high aflatoxin levels. To address this, WFP will replace maize with locally sourced rice from November. Under the decentralised model, WFP disbursed USD 433,520 for food purchases in schools. This model delegates the responsibility of local procurement to local authorities, boosting local economies and the agricultural sector by sourcing food from smallholder farmers and cooperatives.

**Photo:** women participating in activities supported by WFP under the anticipatory action. © WFP/ Irenée Nduwayezu

**WFP Country Strategic Plan  
Six-Month Net Funding Requirements**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
<b>257.96 m</b>	<b>11.77 m</b>	<b>17.89 m</b>

**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*

- **Activity 1:** Provide unconditional food and/or cash-based assistance to refugees in camps and transit centres
- **Activity 2:** Provide unconditional food and/or cash-based assistance to acutely food-insecure households, including shock-affected households, internally displaced persons and Burundi returnees
- **Activity 3:** 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*

- **Activity 4:** 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
- **Activity 5:** 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*

- **Activity 6:** 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
- **Activity 7:** 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*

- **Activity 8:** 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*

- **Activity 9:** Provide on-demand supply chain and emergency telecommunications and information technology services to government, development and humanitarian partners

- **Social protection:** The Merankabandi project financed by the Government of Burundi, aims to promote the self-reliance of vulnerable refugees hosted in the Bwagiriza and Nyankanda refugee camps (Ruyigi Province) by enrolling them into the national social protection programme. In September, WFP distributed CBT worth USD 88,104 to 17,100 refugees. These transfers were complemented by training sessions on social behaviour change and entrepreneurship skills, to support the establishment of income-generating activities and improve the financial autonomy of refugees.

- **Supply Chain/On-demand services:** Recurrent and prolonged fuel shortages continue to disrupt transport and humanitarian activities in Burundi. Through its on-demand services, WFP continued to play a key role in mitigating the impact of fuel shortages on humanitarian actors and enabling the continuity of their operations. From January to October 2024, 128,997 litres of gasoil was distributed to 53 organizations (UN Agencies, NGOs & Development partners). Further, WFP stored and transported 15,000 m3 of Non-Food items in-country for FAO, UNDP and Confederation of Agricultural Producers' Associations for Development (CAPAD).

- **Mpox outbreak:** More than three months after the Mpox declaration by the Ministry of Health, the response is still in very nascent stages, with infections continuing to rise. As of 27 October, more than a thousand cases have been confirmed, though this likely represents a portion of the infections due to lack of testing capacity. The National Mpox Response Coordination Committee plans to conduct a strategic review of the initial national response plan drafted in August. To support the national action plan, WFP has allocated USD 1 million using its internal financing mechanisms and is mobilizing additional funding. WFP is supporting institutional wet feeding (on-site meals), prioritizing children and minors, who make up the majority of those in isolation centres.

**Monitoring**

- **Market price monitoring:** The comparison of prices of staple commodities between June 2024 (start of harvests) and September 2024 show a cumulative monthly increase of 21 percent for cereals, 25 percent for pulses and 9 percent for tubers. This exponential increase in staple food prices is reducing food accessibility among vulnerable households

**Challenges**

- WFP continued to provide refugees with a **75 percent food ration** due to resource constraints. Food ration cuts deeply impact the refugee population, forcing many to resort to negative coping mechanisms such as accumulating debt, selling productive assets, and facing gender-based protection risks, including prostitution and early marriage.
- Food quality issues and funding challenges continue to constrain the school feeding programme. WFP needs **USD 16 million** to sustain the implementation of the programme in pre and primary schools in Burundi for this academic year (from September 2024 to June 2025), as a critical investment in Burundi's human capital and local economy.

**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, UN CERF, World Bank, World Vision UK.

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