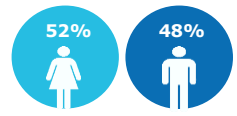




World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief November 2024



In Numbers

580,400 people assisted in November 2024

USD 1,174,334 cash transferred to refugees, people affected by climatic shocks, decentralized local food procurement for school feeding, social protection mechanisms and resilience-building programmes.

628 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 24.46 m six months net funding requirements (December 2024- May2025)

Operational Updates

- Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 58,696 refugees and asylum seekers across five camps and one transit center, comprising 44 percent men and 56 percent women. Among them were 15,848 children (6-59 months) and 2,348 elderly individuals (60+ years). A total of 54,807 refugees in camps received hybrid rations of in-kind food and cash transfers, while 3,889 asylum seekers in transit centers were provided with hot meals during their stay, which typically lasts up to three days. In November, WFP distributed 304 mt of in-kind food and USD 505,508 in cash transfers. However, due to pipeline breaks, refugees received only 75 percent of the recommended daily rations.
- Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided 29 mt of in-kind assistance to 687 Burundian returnees, including 185 children. Support included hot meals during their stay at transit centers and cash-based transfers (CBT) to cover three months of food needs as part of a return package aimed at supporting their reintegration.
- Assistance to those affected by climatic shocks:** WFP distributed USD 82,212 via cash-based transfers to 5,040 people displaced by floods. This included IDPs from the flooded Gatumba district, relocated by the Government to the Mubimbi internally displaced persons' (IDP) site, where conditions remain precarious.
- Anticipatory action:** In collaboration with Burundi's National Disaster Risk Management Platform, WFP organized a workshop on strengthening early warning systems. The workshop focused on risk knowledge, observation, monitoring and forecasting, communication, response capacities, and management and coordination during emergency operations. The workshop which brought Government officials, the Burundi Meteorological Agency (IGEBU), the Burundi Red Cross and some UN agencies provided participants with a deeper understanding of the information collection mechanisms necessary for developing and updating contingency plans.
- Additionally, in partnership with WFP Burundi, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) organized a virtual training session aimed at strengthening the capacity of IGEBU to provide early warning information for droughts and floods. These two disasters, particularly in the northern regions of the country, are among the most significant challenges facing Burundi.
- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition:** WFP supported 3,696 moderately malnourished children aged 6-59 months with 15 mt of specialized nutritious foods, across Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana Provinces. Due to a shortage of SuperCereal Plus, moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls could not receive treatment in November. Under the KfW-funded nutrition and resilience programme, 4,734 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and 12,642 children 6-24 months received 44 mt of specialised nutritious foods to prevent stunting.
- School Meals Programme:** WFP provided school meals to 448,200 children, representing 64 percent of the total planned. The major implementation challenges include fuel shortages and maize quality issues. When possible, WFP is replacing maize with locally-sourced rice. In November, WFP distributed 236 mt of in-kind commodities, and disbursed USD 319,754 for local food purchases, sourcing commodities from local smallholder farmers and cooperatives.

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 socio economic and climate crises. Vulnerabilities are linked to weak institutional capacity to manage climactic shocks, high levels of chronic and acute malnutrition and a lack of adequate safety nets.

The economic situation is marked by high inflation and recurrent fuel shortages. According to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) bulletin for November 2024, the general annual inflation rate stands at +18.8 percent and that for food products at +17 percent. The price of food commodities continues to rise, preventing vulnerable households' access to nutritive and sufficient food.

According to the December 2024 IPC survey, 13.4 percent of the population (1.88 million people) are acutely food insecure and required immediate food assistance. An additional 6.3 million people (45% of the population) are classified as being under stress (IPC Phase 2), bringing the total at risk of acute food insecurity to 8 million (58 % of the total population). 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 (2.5 USD/day)

Chronic malnutrition: 55.8 percent of children between 6-59 months

Six Month Net Funding Requirements (December 2024 – May 2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
257.96 m	0.3 m	24.46 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*

- **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 programme:** The *Merankabandi* project financed by the Government of Burundi, supports the enrolment of the most vulnerable refugee families hosted in the Bwagiriza and Nyankanda refugee camps (Ruyigi Province) into the national social protection programme. In September, WFP distributed **USD 84,361 in cash transfers to 16,880 refugees**. These transfers were complemented by training sessions on social behavior change and entrepreneurship skills, to support the development of income-generating activities and improve the refugees' financial autonomy and self-reliance.

- **SDC-funded nutrition and resilience programme:** WFP provided **USD 109,956** through cash-based transfers to 4,472 households (**22,360** people) participating in resilience-building activities to combat malnutrition through multisectoral interventions in vulnerable communities in Ngozi, Kayanza, and Muyinga provinces.

- Under the resilience-building component of the Netherlands-funded PATSAB project (Programme d'Appui à la Transformation de l'Agriculture sur les collines de Butihinda), 1,493 households (7,465 beneficiaries) in Muyinga province received USD 72,543 through cash-based transfers (CBT). These activities aimed to enhance household resilience by supporting the creation of assets such as composters and kitchen gardens.

Monitoring

- **Market price monitoring:** Prices of basic foodstuffs have been rising steadily every month since June 2024. At the end of November, the cumulative increase was 38 percent for pulses, 34 percent for cereals and 26 percent for tubers. Persistent fuel shortages, energy deficits, the closure of the land border with Rwanda, and climatic shocks have collectively disrupted the availability and prices of staple foods in local markets, further worsening the country's already severe food insecurity.

- **Protection and accountability to affected populations:** In November, WFP and its partners received 308 feedback cases from beneficiaries through the community feedback mechanism (CFM). These were primarily related to food assistance access including distribution schedules and duration of support, SCOPE card issues, registration issues. Out of the 308 cases, 222 cases (72 percent) have been resolved, with 86 cases still being addressed.

Challenges

- **Food assistance for refugees:** In November, WFP continued to provide refugees with a **75 percent food ration** due to resource constraints. WFP will continue providing the reduced ration until May 2025 when a complete pipeline break is expected if new funding is not received. Food ration cuts deeply impact the refugee population, forcing many to resort to negative coping mechanisms including accumulating debt, and gender-based risks, including prostitution and early marriage.

- **The school feeding programme:** Food quality issues and funding challenges continue to constrain the school feeding programme. WFP needs **USD 15.5 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 development.

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, UNCFERF, World Bank, World Vision UK.

Contact info: [Michel Rwamo \(michel.rwamo@wfp.org\)](mailto:michel.rwamo@wfp.org)

Country Director: [Sibi LAWSON-MARRIOTT \(sibi.lawson-marriott@wfp.org\)](mailto:sibi.lawson-marriott@wfp.org)

Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/burundi>

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