



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief January 2025



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, 15 percent of the population (1.9 million people including 179,000 in emergency [IPC4]) are acutely food insecure and required immediate food assistance. An additional 6.3 million people (45 percent 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 percent 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 an increasing 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

In Numbers



492,402 people assisted in January 2025

USD 1,261,996 cash transferred to refugees, people affected by climatic shocks, decentralized local food procurement for school feeding, and assistance for Mpox patients.

713 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 27.89 m six months net funding requirements (March - August 2025)

Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to **58,474 refugees** and asylum seekers across five camps, one site, and two transit centers. Among them, there were 15,788 children (6-59 months) and 2,339 elderly individuals (60+ years). 57,054 refugees in camps received hybrid rations of in-kind food and cash transfers, while 1,420 asylum seekers in transit centres were provided with hot meals during their stay, which typically lasts up to three days. WFP distributed **399 mt** of in-kind food and **USD 414,206** in cash transfers.
- **Increased influx of refugees from DRC:** By 20 February 2025, over 47,000 Congolese refugees have fled to Burundi following the M23 takeover of Goma and Bukavu amid the ongoing DRC crisis. WFP urgently needs USD 3 million to provide three months of emergency food assistance to 50,000 new arrivals. Due to resource constraints, in January, WFP provided the refugees hosted in camps with a 75 percent food ration. To accommodate the influx of new refugees, monthly food rations will be reduced to 50 percent in March.
- **Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided **3 mt** of in-kind assistance to 65 Burundian returnees, including 18 children. Support included hot meals during their stay at transit centers and a three-month in-kind food return package aimed at supporting their reintegration. The repatriation was suspended in January due to the outbreak of the Marburg virus epidemic in Uganda and Tanzania.
- **Assistance to those affected by climatic shocks:** WFP distributed USD 82,135 via cash-based transfers to 5,055 people affected by floods. This included populations from the flooded Gatumba district, relocated by the Government to Gateri, the new IDP site in Cibitoke province.
- **Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition:** WFP provided **16 mt** of specialized nutritious foods to **4,502 children** aged 6-59 months for supplementation of moderate acute malnutrition across Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana provinces. However, due to a shortage of specialized nutritious foods, moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls did not receive treatment in January 2025.

***Six Month Net Funding Requirements – The resources required to fully implement all WFP activities, equal to upcoming 6 months pipeline shortfalls, plus outstanding advances (i.e.: IRA, WCF) received by the project that must be repaid, minus confirmed contributions not yet programmed.**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
257.96 m	3.16 m	27.89 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

- **Home-grown School Meals Programme:** WFP provided locally procured school meals to 423,506 children, representing 58 percent of the total planned. Implementation was hindered by fuel shortages and maize quality issues. To overcome these challenges, WFP is substituting maize with locally sourced rice where market conditions allow. In January, WFP distributed 295 mt of in-kind commodities and disbursed USD 678,655 to the local economy by sourcing commodities from local smallholder farmers and cooperatives.

- **Food assistance for Mpox patients:** In collaboration with UNICEF and WHO, WFP is providing food assistance to MPOX patients, caregivers, and health care staff in eight isolation centers in the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura Rural, Gitega, Muyinga and Kayanza. In January 2025, WFP distributed hot meals worth USD 87,000 to 800 people.

Monitoring

- **Market price monitoring:** With the advent of the 2025 A agricultural season harvests (December-January), prices of basic foodstuffs have fallen slightly compared with December 2024 but remain high compared with last year and the last 5 years. Despite the slight drop in prices for main staple food, the transport crisis and the rising cost of imported foodstuffs continue to fuel a double-digit annual inflation rate high (22 percent).

Process monitoring:

In January 2025, activity monitoring achieved a coverage rate of 99 percent of sites visited, 77 percent of which were schools. All these schools visited are equipped with modern kitchens and improved third-generation stoves, facilitating quick meal preparation while reducing firewood consumption. These infrastructures enhance the efficiency of the school feeding program, supporting student retention and improving academic performance. To maximize their use, ongoing training for cooks and school canteen management committees is recommended.

Challenges

- **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): Austria, Burundi, China, European Union, FEED, Finland, France, Germany, Global Partnership for Education, Kerry Group, Mastercard Foundation, Monaco, Netherlands, Rockefeller Foundation, Russia, Switzerland, United States of America, UN CERF, World Bank.

Photo: WFP delivering cooked food to an isolation centre for Mpox patients at Prince Louis Rwagasore clinic. © WFP/Irenee Nduwayezu

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