



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief March 2025



Operational Context

The humanitarian situation in Burundi remains critical, with high numbers of vulnerable people and households suffering from 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 access to essential services and social 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 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.

The number of Congolese refugees fleeing insecurity from eastern DRC has reached nearly 70,000, with around 15,000 sheltered in transit centers and relocated to the permanent refugee site of Musenyi in Rutana province. These new arrivals have doubled the number of Congolese refugees in Burundi who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

WFP has been present in Burundi since 1968.



2021 Human Development Index:
187 out of 191

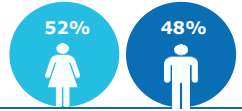
Chronic malnutrition: **55.8 percent**
of children 6-59 months

63 percent of the population live
on less than USD 2.50 a day

Population: **12.3 million**

In Numbers

685,419 people assisted in March 2025



USD 949,614 cash transferred to refugees, returnees, people affected by climatic shocks, decentralized local food procurement for school feeding, and assistance for Mpox patients.

1,036.2 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 38.43 million six months net funding requirements (May - October 2025)

Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 118,104 refugees and asylum seekers across five camps, one site, and three transit centers through the distribution of 513 mt of in-kind food and USD 341,641 of cash-based transfers. Among them, the existing 60,054 refugees in camps received hybrid rations of in-kind and cash, while 58,050 newly arrived refugees were provided with hot meals on temporary reception sites.
- **Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided 0.2 mt of in-kind food assistance and USD 348 in cash to 45 Burundian returnees, including 12 children. Support included hot meals during their stay at transit centers and cash transfers to cover three months of food needs as part of a return package aimed at supporting their reintegration. The repatriation flow is slowly resuming after being suspended in January due to the outbreak of the Marburg virus epidemic in Uganda and Tanzania.
- **Assistance to those affected by climatic shocks:** WFP provided 37,685 people affected by climatic shocks in Kirundo and Rutana provinces with assistance in cash-based transfers worth USD 504,132.
- **Supplementation of moderate acute malnutrition:** Following a previous shortage of specialized nutritious foods, WFP resumed supplementation for moderately malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls. In March, WFP provided 38 mt of specialized nutritious foods to 2,297 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and 5,313 children aged 6-59 months for supplementation of moderate acute malnutrition across Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Musinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana provinces.
- **Home-grown School Meals Programme:** WFP provided school meals to 521,872 children, representing 70 percent of the total planned, distributing 485 mt of in-kind commodities to schools and USD 87,081 of cash-based transfers for local food purchases, sourcing commodities from local smallholder farmers and cooperatives. This initiative aims to improve children's nutrition, support their education, and boost local economies by providing a procurement market to local smallholder farmers. Less schoolchildren than planned were assisted due to food delivery challenges caused by ongoing fuel shortages in the country.
- **Food assistance for Mpox patients:** In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WFP is providing food assistance to MPOX patients, caregivers, and health care staff in eight isolation centers in the provinces of Bujumbura City, Bujumbura Rural, Gitega, Musinga and Kayanza. During the reporting period, cooperating partners distributed hot meals worth USD 16,412 to 103 individuals.

WFP Country Strategy



***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	0 m	38.43 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

Monitoring

- **Rapid assessment in Kirundo province:** Following alerts from local authorities on a water deficit affecting the 2025A cropping season and potentially threatening the 2025B harvest in Kirundo province, the Inter-Sectors (ISC) in coordination with the National Platform for Risk Prevention and Disaster Management conducted a rapid multi-sectoral assessment. The assessment covered the most affected communes, Busoni, Bugabira, Ntega, Kirundo, and Giteranyi and aimed to identify urgent needs resulting from the hydric deficit. The findings will help guide emergency response efforts based on the priorities expressed by the affected communities.
- The assessment report recommended several key actions to address the crisis. These include strengthening food and seed input assistance, promoting livelihood diversification to reduce reliance on negative coping mechanisms, and prioritizing the affected areas for school feeding interventions to prevent disruption of education. The report also emphasized the importance of regularly supplying malnutrition treatment centers and continuing to monitor trends in malnutrition cases. In response, WFP will provide in-kind food assistance to 18,000 people in the affected areas throughout the four-month lean season, starting in April.
- **Market price monitoring:** In this post-harvest period, food supplies are unevenly distributed across the country, with a significant deficit in localities affected by climatic hazards, particularly in the north and east of the country, as well as in the west, which is still suffering from the after-effects of past floods. Overall, the monthly variation in prices of basic foodstuffs is on the rise, particularly in the North-East and West provinces, except for corn, whose price fell by over 15%. With the transport crisis, price differentials on the various markets are observable, ranging from simple to double, especially for more perishable foodstuffs.
- **Process monitoring:** In March, the Musenyi refugee camp in Rutana province received 10,103 new Congolese refugees transferred from temporary reception sites in Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces. These refugees received emergency food assistance from WFP, including rice, pulses and salt. Monitoring of the distributions revealed a recurring request from beneficiaries for a cash transfer to complement the food assistance. The WFP monitoring team conducted information and awareness-raising sessions on the different types of assistance and oriented the refugees on the procedures in force. This intervention helped to strengthen understanding of assistance modalities and lay the foundations for a possible adaptation of the response mechanism, in line with changes in the context and available resources.

Challenges

- **Food assistance for refugees:** In addition to the 70,000 newly arrived refugees, WFP maintains food distributions to 60,000 existing refugees hosted in five camps and one site in Burundi. With available resources, WFP can only provide food assistance at half-rations through June and will suspend food assistance entirely from July. WFP requires USD 19.8 million to provide in-kind food assistance at full rations to 120,000 refugees through 2025.

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

Photo: In Kirundo province, a beneficiary receives cash as part of WFP's intervention to assist people affected by climatic shocks. © WFP/Maria-Goretti Minani

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

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