



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief April 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 inadequate social safety nets.

The economic situation is marked by high inflation and recurrent fuel shortages. According to the [Consumer Price Index](#) (CPI) bulletin for April 2025, the annual inflation rate in April 2025 reached 29 percent, compared to 26.1 percent in March 2025. Year-on-year, the inflation rate stands at 40.9 percent, with food inflation at 40.1 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.

Since January, more than 71,000 people, mostly women and children have fled insecurity in eastern DRC and crossed the border to Burundi in search of safety. These new arrivals have doubled the number of Congolese refugees in Burundi who depend on humanitarian assistance for their food security. Since March, WFP adjusted its operations and food assistance to refugees has been reduced to 50 percent of the minimum daily caloric requirement.

WFP has been present in Burundi since 1968.



2021 Human Development Index:
187 out of 191

Chronic malnutrition: **52.8 percent of children between 6-59 months**

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

Population: **12.3 million**

In Numbers



847,124 people assisted in April 2025

USD 1,048,724 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

1,144 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 32 m six months net funding requirements (May - October 2025)

Operational Updates

- **Assistance to refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 78,128 refugees and asylum seekers across five camps, one site, and three transit centres through the distribution of 527 mt of in-kind food. Due to funding constraints and an increase in the number of beneficiaries, WFP reduced the daily food rations from 75 percent to 50 percent to stretch the available resources.
- **Assistance to returnees:** WFP provided food assistance to 506 **Burundian returnees**, including 136 children. Support included hot meals during their stay at transit centres and in-kind and cash transfers to cover three months of food needs as part of a return package aimed at supporting their reintegration.
- **Assistance to population affected by climatic shocks:** WFP provided cash-based transfers worth USD 359,830 to **24,655 people** affected by climatic shocks in Kirundo and Rutana provinces. In addition, WFP assisted **5,050 people affected by last year's floods** through the distribution of 40 mt of in-kind food and USD 73,703 in cash-based transfers. The recipients, primarily from the flooded Gatumba district, were relocated by the government to Gateri district in Cibitoke province.
- **Home-grown school feeding programme:** WFP provided school meals to **671,357 children**, representing 95 percent of the total planned, distributing 511 mt of in-kind commodities to schools and USD 389,930 of cash-based transfers for schools to source commodities from local smallholder farmers and cooperatives. This initiative aims to improve children's nutrition, support their education, and boost local economies by providing reliable markets to local smallholder farmers.
- Under the **resilience-building component of the Netherlands-funded project** (*Programme d'Appui à la Transformation de l'Agriculture sur les collines de Butihinda*), WFP reached **6,620 people** in Muyinga province with USD 31,902 of cash-based transfers for climate-smart livelihood investments. These activities aimed to enhance household resilience by supporting agricultural production and the creation of household assets such as kitchen gardens.
- The **Merankabandi project** implemented by the Government of Burundi and funded by the World Bank, aims to integrate the most vulnerable refugee families living in camps into the national social protection programme. In April, WFP distributed **USD 192,913** in cash-based transfers to **38,920** refugee families. These transfers were complemented by training sessions on social behaviour change and entrepreneurship skills to support the development of income-generating activities and improve the refugees' financial autonomy and self-reliance.
- **Supplementation of moderate acute malnutrition:** WFP provided 56 mt of specialized nutritious foods to 4,022 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and 6,814 children aged 6-59 months for supplementation of moderate acute malnutrition across Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana provinces.

* resources required to fully implement all WFP activities in upcoming 6 months		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
257.96 m	0 m	32 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

Photo: In Kirundo province, beneficiaries of PATSAB project right after receiving cash transfers. © WFP/Irenée Nduwayezu

- Under the KfW-funded nutrition and resilience programme, 116 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and 10,936 children aged 6-24 months received 32 mt of specialized nutritious foods to prevent stunting in Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi and Rutana provinces.

Monitoring

- Market price monitoring:** Staple food prices remained broadly stable in April, thanks to the Government's decision to regulate prices at the end of March. However, they were still significantly higher than in 2024 and above the five-year average. Compared to this average, prices for beans, cassava flour and rice rose by 46 percent, 28 percent and 100 percent respectively. In April, a transport crisis caused by fuel shortages led to sharp price disparities for perishable food items across provinces. For instance, the price of fresh tomatoes varied by more than 100 percent between the cheapest and most expensive province, while that of sweet potatoes showed a difference of over 85 percent, illustrating the direct impact of logistical difficulties on food accessibility. Persistent inflation (+29 percent in April according to the Burundi National Institute of Statistics) remains underpinned by the fuel crisis and currency depreciation, followed by higher import prices, with direct negative repercussions on food security.
- Process monitoring:** Monitoring results for WFP resilience-building activities including KfW and SDC-funded projects highlighted significant positive impacts on beneficiaries. Beneficiaries reported that the cash assistance they received complemented by social behaviour change and integration in village savings and loans associations enabled them to achieve greater self-reliance and meet their families' needs. For example, one beneficiary from Sabunda Hill in Gashikanwa, Ngozi Province, used the cash to launch an avocado trading business, generating a substantial profit of BIF 1,000,000 (USD 336). Similarly, a household from Gatare Hill in the same region invested the funds in a restaurant business, which now yields a monthly profit of BIF 200,000. This underscores the transformative power of targeted financial support in fostering economic independence and sustainable livelihoods within vulnerable communities.

Challenges

- Food assistance for refugees:** In addition to new arrivals, WFP maintains food assistance to 60,000 existing refugees in camps and transit centers in Burundi. Due to funding constraints and the increase of beneficiaries' numbers, WFP has adjusted its operations. Since March, food rations have been reduced from 75 percent to 50 percent kcal/person daily requirements. Thanks to the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) funding, food assistance for new arrivals (25,000 people) will be extended by 2 months until November though at 50 percent ration. WFP requires USD 16.6 million to provide assistance to all refugees at full rations until December 2025. Without additional funding food assistance to existing refugees will be fully suspended by October.

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, UNCRF, World Bank.