



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief May 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 May 2025, year-on-year, the inflation rate stands at 43.9 percent against 40.9 percent in April, with food inflation at 43.7 percent in May. In April 2025, food inflation stood 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



823,614 people assisted in May 2025

USD 792,587 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

1,839 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 38.82 m six months net funding requirements (June - November 2025)

Strategic Updates

- **Estimated humanitarian needs in 2025:** According to OCHA's preliminary analysis, 1.45 million people in Burundi are expected to require humanitarian assistance in 2025. Of these, 444,000 people will need emergency support in food-insecure areas in the north, west, and southeast, where over 20 percent of the local population has been affected by shocks—surpassing the coping capacity of community support mechanisms. OCHA is working closely with all sectors, including Food Security and Livelihoods (led by WFP), to finalize the humanitarian needs and gap analysis.

Operational Updates

Crisis Response

- **Refugees:** WFP continued to support new arrivals from DRC, in addition to the existing refugee caseload. As of May, Burundi had received 71,000 new refugees, further increasing refugee needs amidst reduced funding. WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 77,815 refugees and asylum seekers across five camps, one site, and three transit centres, distributing 469 mt of in-kind food. Due to funding shortfalls and an increasing caseload linked to the DRC crisis, WFP was forced to reduce rations to 50 percent. This has contributed to rising negative coping mechanisms such as asset sales, theft, and survival sex—posing serious protection concerns, particularly for women and girls.
- **Returnees:** WFP supported 262 Burundian returnees, including 70 children, with 10 mt of food assistance, covering hot meals at transit centres and in-kind food for three months to support their reintegration.
- **Climatic shocks:** WFP provided USD 360,315 in cash-based transfers (CBT) to 24,770 people affected by recent climate shocks in Bujumbura and Rumonge. Additionally, 5,060 flood-affected individuals from Gatumba (now relocated to Gateri in Cibitoke) received USD 73,605 through CBT. An additional 33,935 people impacted by El Niño/La Niña events in Bujumbura, Kirundo, and Makamba received 491 mt of in-kind food.
- **Mpox response:** In partnership with the Ministry of Health, WFP supported 284 Mpox patients, caregivers, and health workers in eight isolation centres across five provinces with hot meals worth USD 25,955.

Resilience Building

- **Nutrition:** WFP distributed 66 mt of specialized nutritious food to 5,058 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and 8,713 children aged 6–59 months across six provinces for the management of moderate acute malnutrition. In Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi, and Rutana, an additional 32 mt of specialized nur foods supported 78 women and 12,700 children aged 6–24 months. In Kayanza and Ngozi, 3,226 women and girls received USD 53,727 to purchase locally produced nutritious food to prevent stunting.
- **Home-grown school feeding:** WFP provided school meals to 645,093 children (91 percent of the target), distributing 771 mt of food and USD 247,165 in CBT for schools to source commodities from local smallholder farmers. The programme improves nutrition and education outcomes while stimulating local markets.
- **Smallholder farmers:** WFP reached 6,620 people in Muyinga with USD 31,820 in CBT for climate-smart livelihood investments, including kitchen gardens and support to local agriculture.

* 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	2.28 m	38.82 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: Food distributions to people affected by climatic shocks in Kirundo province. © WFP/Irénée Nduwayezu

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Supply Chain/Service provision

- WFP continues to **mitigate the impact of fuel shortages** on humanitarian operations through its fuel provision service. In May 2025 alone, 10,000 litres were provided to 12 organizations, bringing the total to 62,250 litres distributed to 41 organizations since January.
- Additionally, WFP is supporting UNDP with the **nationwide distribution of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets** (LLINs) under a Global Fund-supported campaign against malaria. Since April 2025, 138,500 bales have been received at WFP hubs in Ngozi, Gitega, and Bujumbura, with 4,500 bales delivered to Busoni and Mukenke health districts in Kirundo province to date.

Monitoring

- **Market price monitoring:** May typically marks the end of the lean season (April–May). While the 2025B harvest (Feb–July) was hampered by low rainfall, early harvests of beans and rice have improved availability. Data from 85 markets show stable price variation (under 5 percent for cereals/tubers) compared to last year. Government price controls introduced in March have helped curb inflation, though disparities remain, particularly for perishables (vegetables, fruits). Storable goods like dry grains better reflect regulated pricing.
- **Process monitoring:** Under WFP's monthly process monitoring of its activities, the UN agency visited 11 cooperatives, 13 fortified flour mills, 131 schools, 5 health centers, 2 refugee camps, and 14 community sites. Cooperatives had functional governance but often lacked adequate storage. Sixty percent of mills produced mono- or multi-fortified flour using 100 percent local inputs, with 80 percent sold directly to households. School meals were deemed sufficient to retain students, with recommendations for school gardens to enhance dietary diversity.

Challenges

- **Operational constraints:** WFP operations continue to face logistical challenges due to periodic fuel shortages, which affect the deliveries; to address this, WFP obtained an import license and coordinates a joint supply mechanism with UN agencies. Difficult access, worsened by the rainy season, is partly mitigated by using light fleets and strategic prepositioning. The lack of local transport capacity is offset by renting fleets from neighboring countries and mobilizing internal trucks through the regional network. To improve stock management, WFP is investing in digitalization and targeted warehouse rehabilitation. Lastly, new national requirements regarding food destruction and quality control have led to strengthened dialogue with technical authorities.

Funding Shortfalls

- **Food assistance for refugees:** At current funding levels, WFP can maintain the 50 percent ration until October 2025. Without new contributions, assistance will be fully suspended by November. To restore full rations through December 2025 for 100,000 refugees, **USD 17.7 million** is urgently required.
- **School feeding programme:** WFP requires **USD 21 million** to sustain the programme throughout the upcoming school year, spanning from September 2025 to June 2026. This funding is crucial for nurturing the development of the Burundi human capital and local economy.

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