



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Burundi Country Brief June 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 climatic 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 June 2025, the average annual inflation rate for June 2025 stands at +33.8 percent, compared to +31.6 percent in May 2025. 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 [IPC 4]) 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, resulting in a reduction of food assistance to refugees to 50 percent of the minimum daily caloric requirement.



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



**1,028,777 people** assisted in June 2025

**USD 1,829,392** cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

**1,631 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 38.94 million** six months net funding requirements (July - December 2025)

## Operational Updates

### Crisis Response

- **Refugees:** WFP continued to support refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), distributing hybrid rations (cash and in-kind food assistance) to 78,184 people, consisting of USD 603,968 and 45 mt of in-kind food commodities. Due to funding shortfalls and an increased refugee caseload due to the DRC crisis, WFP was forced to reduce rations to 50 percent. This reduction has led to increased negative coping mechanisms among refugee households, including asset sales, theft, and survival sex, posing serious protection concerns, particularly for women and girls.
- **Returnees:** WFP supported 760 Burundians mostly returning from DRC, including 205 children, with 25 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 446,462 in cash-based transfers (CBT) to 29,985 flood-affected people in Bujumbura and Rumonge. The assisted beneficiaries include 5,070 individuals from Gatumba now relocated to Gateri in Cibitoke. An additional 55,790 people impacted by El Niño/La Niña events in Bujumbura, Kirundo, and Makamba received 825 mt of in-kind food commodities.
- **Mpox patients:** In partnership with the Ministry of Health, WFP supported 370 Mpox patients, caregivers, and health workers in eight isolation centres across five provinces with hot meals worth USD 36,930.

### Resilience Building

- **Nutrition:** WFP distributed 112 mt of specialized nutritious food to 9,999 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and 13,848 children aged 6-59 months across six provinces (Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana) for the management of moderate acute malnutrition. An additional 24 mt of specialized foods supported 13,554 children aged 6-24 months in Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi, and Rutana for prevention of malnutrition.
- **Home-grown school feeding:** WFP provided school meals to 786,322 children distributing 600 mt of food and USD 540,837 in CBT for provincial directorates for education (DPE) to source commodities from local smallholder farmers for assisted schools. The programme improves nutrition and education outcomes while stimulating local markets.
- **Support to Smallholder farmers and Livelihoods:** WFP reached 805 people in Muyinga with USD 7,733 in cash-based transfers for climate-smart livelihood investments, including kitchen gardens and support to local agriculture.
- 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 June, WFP distributed USD 193,462 in CBT to 39,160 refugees. 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.

\* 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) *
<b>257.96 m</b>	<b>0 m</b>	<b>38.94 m</b>

### 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:** Sensitization session under the Merankabandi project. © WFP/Irenée Nduwayezu

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

**Country Director: Jean-Noël GENTILE** ([jean-noel.gentile@wfp.org](mailto:jean-noel.gentile@wfp.org))

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

*Supply Chain/Service provision*

- WFP continues to **mitigate the impact of fuel shortages** on humanitarian operations through its fuel provision service. In June 2025 alone, 15,000 litres were provided to 10 humanitarian and development organizations against 62,250 liters served to 41 organizations from January to May 2025.
- Additionally, WFP is supporting UNDP with the **nationwide distribution of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets** (LLINs) under a Global Fund-supported campaign. In June, 13,050 m<sup>3</sup> of LLINs have been received at WFP hubs in Ngozi, Gitega, and Bujumbura.
- Furthermore, WFP transported about 440 m<sup>3</sup> of Non-Food Items for partners in Bujumbura while an on-demand procurement of USD200,000 for post-harvest equipment was made for 1 organization.

## Monitoring

- **Market price monitoring:** June marks the harvest period for the main agricultural season "B". In 2025, this season was characterized by contrasting weather patterns, including a rainfall deficit in the North and excessive rains with flooding in the West, negatively impacting harvests and food availability in several areas.
- Information from the trader-informant network suggests a modest improvement in market availability compared to 2024. As of June 2025, market monitoring indicates a slightly more favourable situation than the same period last year. Beans were available in 50 percent of monitored markets, up from 46 percent in June 2024, while rice availability rose to 57 percent, compared to 42 percent the previous year. At the community level, 63 percent of key informants reported an increase in food stocks compared to the previous month, largely due to ongoing harvests.
- **Process monitoring:** In June 2025, process monitoring activities were primarily focused on schools that had not yet been visited since the start of the 2024–2025 school year. During these visits, it was observed that schools were enthusiastic about setting up school gardens and adopting small livestock farming to complement the school feeding programme.

## Challenges

- **Operational constraints:** Burundi is experiencing high inflation, averaging nearly 40 percent in early 2025 after a temporary dip, and frequent fuel shortages, which have sharply increased logistics costs. WFP leverages its light vehicle fleet and local transporters to reach remote areas. However, transporters often lack the necessary small-capacity vehicles to navigate rural roads. Acquiring its own fleet could address this challenge, but funding constraints have delayed implementation.

## Funding Shortfalls

- **Food assistance for refugees:** At current funding levels, WFP can sustain the 50 percent food ration until December 2025. The supply forecast, which last month projected a stock depletion by November, has been revised to December following a reduction in the number of beneficiaries. The reduction of food rations dramatically impacts the refugee population, leading to negative coping mechanisms, such as rising debt, and the selling of productive assets but also gender-based protection issues including prostitution and early marriages.
- **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.