



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief July 2025



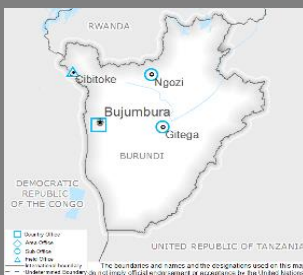
Operational Context

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 June 2025, the year-on-year inflation rate is +41.6 percent, mainly due to food prices, which have increased by +42.6 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



307,817 people assisted in July 2025

USD 631,251 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

1,112 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 42.24 m six months net funding requirements (August 2025 - January 2026)

Strategic Updates

2025 Humanitarian Response Plan: According to the needs analysis and the humanitarian response plan for the second half of 2025, published in July by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Burundi, 1.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of these, 600,000 people are targeted by a multisectoral humanitarian response, requiring an estimated USD 61.6 million in funding. Out of the total, 949,000 people are affected by food insecurity, and 444,000 are in urgent need of food assistance requiring USD 27.3 million in resources. These people are located in in food-insecure areas in the north, west, and southeast most affected by shocks.

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 74,589 people, consisting of USD 570,122 and 44 mt of in-kind food commodities respectively. 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, posing serious protection concerns, particularly for women and girls.
- **Returnees:** WFP supported 955 Burundians mostly returning from DRC, including 258 children, with 46 mt of food assistance, covering hot meals at transit centres and in-kind food for three months to support their reintegration back to communities.
- **Climatic shocks:** WFP provided 855 mt of food to 66,675 people impacted by El Niño/La Niña events in Bujumbura, Kirundo, and Rutana provinces.
- **Mpox patients:** In partnership with the Ministry of Health, WFP supported 353 Mpox patients, caregivers, and health workers in eight isolation centres across five provinces with hot meals worth USD 47,773.

Resilience Building

- **Nutrition:** WFP distributed 100 mt of specialized nutritious food to 11,016 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and 12,595 children aged 6–59 months across six provinces (Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana) for the management of moderate acute malnutrition. An additional 46 mt of specialized foods supported 8,305 children aged 6–24 months and 3,136 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls in former Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi, and Rutana provinces for prevention of malnutrition.

* 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	42.24 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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- **Home-grown school feeding:** WFP provided school meals to 129,347 children, distributing 21 mt of food and USD 13,356 in CBT for provincial directorates for education (DPE) to source commodities from local smallholder farmers for assisted schools. The number of children reached represents only 16 percent of the 786,322 targeted for the 2024-2025 school year. This is due to school closure in July for the summer holidays.

Supply Chain/Service provision

- WFP continues to **mitigate the impact of fuel shortages** on humanitarian operations through its fuel provision service. In July alone, 30,000 litres were provided to 27 humanitarian and development organizations against 93,000 litres served to 40 organizations from January to July 2025.
- Additionally, WFP is supporting UNDP with the **nationwide distribution of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs)** under a Global Fund-supported campaign. As of July 2025, a total of 14,000 m³ of LLINs have been received at WFP hubs in Ngozi, Gitega, and Bujumbura.

Monitoring

- **Market price monitoring:** In July, the main harvest season (Season B) boosted food availability: 54 percent of markets had over 5 mt of beans (up from 48 percent in July 2024), 49 percent for rice (up from 46 percent), and 53 percent for maize (up from 44 percent). Prices of staple foods remained relatively stable. However, high inflation (41.6 percent overall, 42.6 percent for food), fuel shortages, utility disruptions, and border trade restrictions continue to hinder food access.

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. In light of this challenge, WFP is currently exploring ways to strengthen its own transport capacities.

Funding Shortfalls

- **Food assistance for refugees:** Funding shortage continues to negatively impact food assistance for refugees. At current funding levels, WFP can only sustain 50 percent food ration until December 2025 for a maximum of 80,000 refugees. The reduction of food rations leads to negative coping mechanisms, such as rising debt and selling of productive assets, but also gender-based protection issues.
- **Moderate acute Malnutrition supplementation:** Due to limited funding and the absence of additional prospective funding, this programme will be discontinued from October 2025, unless new resources are quickly made available.
- **School feeding programme:** WFP requires **USD 21 million** to sustain the programme throughout the upcoming school year for 800,000 children, 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, UNICERF, World Bank.