



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Burundi Country Brief August 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 latest [Consumer Price Index](#) (CPI) bulletin for August 2025, the average inflation rate for August 2025 stands at +36.6%, compared to +35.4% in July 2025.

Preliminary findings from the July 2025 IPC survey reveal that approximately 9 percent of the population -equivalent to 1.17 million individuals - are experiencing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and are in urgent need of food assistance. Projections suggest that this number could rise to 1.8 million over the period Oct-Dec 2025, primarily due to the onset of the lean season and the continued escalation of food prices. The most affected regions include the eastern and northern depressions, as well as the Imbo plain. 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 105,000 people, mostly women and children have fled insecurity in eastern DRC and crossed the border to Burundi in search of safety. 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.



2023 Human Development Index:  
**187 out of 193**

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

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

Population: **12.3 million**

### In Numbers



**179,124 people** assisted in August 2025

**USD 507,404** cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

**1,071 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 31.02 million** six months net funding requirements (September 2025 - February 2026)

### Operational Updates

#### Crisis Response

- **Refugees:** WFP provided food and nutrition support to 76,016 refugees from the DRC with hybrid rations - USD 146,594 in cash and 583 mt of food. Due to funding gaps and rising refugee numbers, rations were cut to 50 percent, leading to increased negative coping strategies like asset sales and theft, raising serious protection concerns, especially for women and girls.
- **Returnees:** WFP assisted 1,737 Burundian returnees from DRC, including 469 children, with 54 mt of food and USD 26,452 in cash. Four convoys arrived in August: the first two (1,200 people) received in-kind food, while the last two (537 people) received cash-based transfers. At transit centers, returnees were provided hot meals during their stay, in addition to the hybrid 3-month return package.
- **Climatic shocks:** WFP provided USD 81,271 in cash to 5,055 relocated individuals from Gatumba to Gateri, Cibitoke. Additionally, 20,575 people affected by El Niño/La Niña in Bujumbura and Kirundo received 278 mt of in-kind food.
- **Mpox patients:** In partnership with the Ministry of Health, WFP supported 369 Mpox affected people in eight isolation centres across five provinces with hot meals worth USD 59,182.

#### Capacity strengthening

- Since May 2025, WFP Burundi has supported the development of a national social registry by deploying a technical expert to Permanent Executive Secretariat of the National Social Protection Commission (SEP/CNPS) to assist in implementing the Government's roadmap. In August, a comprehensive workplan and quarterly report was prepared and jointly reviewed by the World Bank, SEP/CNPS, and WFP.

#### Resilience Building

- **Nutrition:** WFP distributed 69 mt of specialized nutritious food to 6,480 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) and 9,340 children aged 6-59 months across six former provinces (Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Ngozi, Kirundo, and Rutana) for the management of moderate acute malnutrition. An additional 86 mt of specialized foods supported 12,702 children aged 6-24 months and 7,485 PBWGs in former Kirundo, Karusi, Ruyigi, and Rutana provinces for prevention of malnutrition.
- **Durable impact for refugees:** The *Merankabandi* project aims to increase self-reliance of refugee families living in camps as well as integrate the most vulnerable into the national social protection programme. In August, WFP distributed USD 193,905 in cash-based transfers (CBT) to 39,365 refugees. These transfers were complemented by training sessions on social behaviour change communication and entrepreneurship skills to support the development of income-generating activities and improve the refugees' financial autonomy.

#### Supply Chain/Service provision

- WFP supported Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the Ministry of Health, by delivering 410,035 vaccine doses to 49 district health offices for routine immunization. Additionally, 30,172 kits of essential consumables - such as syringes, gloves, and diluents - were distributed.

* 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	31.02 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:** Josélyne Barendayabo and her baby Joyce collecting some packets of nutritious composite flour in the Mwakiro Commune, Muyinga Province, Burundi.  
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- Under the PATSAB project, WFP delivered essential equipment to four ANAGESSA warehouses located in Gitega, Bujumbura, Ngozi, and Ruyigi to strengthen the strategic grain reserve. The supplies included 16,000 tarpaulins, 30 electronic scales, 200 lab coats, 200 boots, 10 carts, 200 gloves, 4 drying machines, and 2,230 pallets. These items significantly improved national storage capacity and stock management efficiency.
- Since January 2025, WFP distributed 96,835 litres of fuel to support logistics for 60 humanitarian and development partners, helping mitigate the impact of fuel shortages. Despite this support, frequent shortages continue to limit the scale of operations.

Monitoring

- Market price monitoring:** Rising food prices remain a major challenge to achieving food security in Burundi. Three months after the start of the 2025B harvest, trader food stocks are generally at acceptable levels. In August 2025, half of the monitored markets reported more than 5 tons of beans in stock, an improvement from 44 percent in 2024. For rice, however, availability declined slightly, with 35 percent of markets reporting more than 5 tons compared to 39 percent in 2024. Maize stocks remained stable at 32 percent. Compared to July 2025, staple food prices were broadly stable, showing only minor shifts: legumes and cereals rose by 2 percent, while tubers decreased by 2 percent. The rising food prices is preventing vulnerable households’ access to nutritive and sufficient food.
- Rapid multisectoral assessment:** On August 26, 2025, humanitarian partners in Burundi conducted a rapid assessment to identify urgent needs of IDPs affected by the 2023–2024 floods in Gatumba. The mission recommended targeted food and nutrition aid for about 2,000 households—especially during the lean season—and improved flood resilience infrastructure. In response, WFP is considering food distributions, pending resource availability.

Challenges

- Operational constraints:** Burundi continues to experience very high inflation 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. Considering this challenge, WFP is currently exploring ways to strengthen its own transport capacities.

Funding Shortfalls

- Food assistance for refugees:** Due to funding shortages, WFP provided refugees with only 50 percent of the standard food ration in August, a reduced level that will continue through September 2025. However, with confirmed contributions from Switzerland and from the United States in September, WFP will gradually increase rations to reach 75 percent from December 2025 to March 2026. Unfortunately, after March 2026, WFP will no longer be able to continue food assistance due to a lack of resources. The reduced ration severely affects refugees, leading to harmful coping strategies such as increased debt, the sale of productive assets, and gender-based protection risks including prostitution and early marriage.
- Climatic shocks:** Out of 140,000 vulnerable people requiring assistance, only 26,025 people received it in August. This will be reduced to 8,000 in October due to a drastic funding shortfall.
- Malnutrition:** Supplementation assistance for malnourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls will cease after October 2025 unless new resources are quickly made available. Likewise, malnutrition prevention activity will cease by December if no funding is identified.
- School feeding programme:** WFP requires USD 21 million to sustain the programme throughout the upcoming school year, spanning from September 2025 to June 2026. If no new resources are received, children will receive fewer meals per month, impacting school attendance and nutrition.

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