



World Food Programme

WFP Burundi Country Brief September 2025



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

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 September 2025, Annual inflation stands at +34.5 percent, including +32.8 percent for food products. This level remains concerning and continues to affect the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households.

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

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



563,012 people assisted in September 2025

USD 942,929 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

705 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 34.58 million six months net funding requirements
(October 2025 - March 2026)

Operational Updates

Crisis Response

- **Refugees:** WFP supported 76,660 refugees from the DRC with hybrid food assistance, providing USD 220,589 in cash-based transfers (CBT) and 514 mt of food. However, due to funding shortfalls, only 50 percent of the standard ration was delivered. This has forced many refugees to adopt negative coping strategies such as selling assets and resorting to theft, heightening protection risks, particularly for women and girls.
- **Returnees:** WFP assisted 1,226 Burundian returnees, mainly from the DRC, including 331 children, with 63 mt of food and USD 56,368 through CBT. At transit centers, returnees received hot meals and a hybrid three-month return package to support their reintegration.
- The humanitarian community and government are preparing a contingency plan for a large-scale refugee return expected by late 2025. Between October and December, 20,500 returns are projected. WFP Burundi can support up to 15,000 returnees through April 2026 with 3-day wet feeding ration at transit centers and a 90-day package, but major funding gaps remain for the estimated 90,000 expected by June 2026.
- **Climatic shocks:** WFP provided USD 81,314 in cash-based transfers to 5,065 people displaced by floods, helping families meet urgent needs and begin rebuilding their lives. This included internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Gatumba, relocated by the Government to Gateri IDP site in Buganda district, Bujumbura province.
- **Home-grown school feeding programme:** WFP provided school meals to 438,083 children through USD 514,549 in cash-based transfers, enabling schools to source food from local smallholder farmers and cooperatives. The initiative supports child nutrition, education, and local economies. However, only half of the targeted students received meals during the reporting period due to delays in kitchen equipment delivery and pending partner contracts for in-kind food distribution.

Capacity strengthening

- As part of its support for the Early Warning for All initiative in Burundi, and following the validation of the national multi-hazard early warning system (EWS) roadmap and the provision of equipment for the monitoring room, WFP, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and with technical expertise from the International Centre for Environmental Monitoring (CIMA), helped the Government of Burundi organize a technical workshop. The workshop aimed to advance the roadmap's implementation, with a focus on operationalizing the monitoring room—a key tool for strengthening the four core pillars of the EWS. This marks a shift from planning to action, enabling faster and more effective disaster response.

Resilience Building

- **Nutrition:** WFP distributed 63 mt of specialized nutritious food to 4,242 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and 5,358 children aged 6–59 months across 3 provinces for the management of moderate acute malnutrition. In Butanyerera (Kirundo district), Gitega (Karusi district), Buhumuza (Ruyigi district), and Burunga (Rutana district) provinces, an additional 65 mt of specialized nutritious foods supported 6,966 women and 16,248 children aged 6–24 months. In Buhumuza (Muyinga district), 507 women and girls and 1,242 children aged 6–24 months received USD 34,650 to purchase locally produced nutritious food to prevent stunting.

* 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	6.64 m	34.58 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: WFP food distribution to Congolese refugees in Nyankanda camp in eastern Burundi. © WFP/Arete/Irene Nduwayezu

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- Support to smallholder farmers and livelihoods:** WFP reached 7,415 people in Muyinga with USD 35,459 in cash-based transfers for climate smart livelihood investments, including kitchen gardens and support to local agriculture. This assistance helped families strengthen food security, build resilience to climate shocks, and boost local production.

Supply Chain/Service provision

- WFP continues to mitigate the impact of fuel shortages on humanitarian operations through its fuel provision service. In September 2025 alone, WFP provided 30,000 litres of fuel to 27 humanitarian and development organizations working in Burundi.
- As part of its efforts to strengthen cold chain capacity in Burundi, WFP successfully completed two central-level training cycles for 30 trainers on temperature-sensitive logistics (TSL). These sessions are part of a broader "Training of Trainers" approach and will be followed by cascade trainings across the country's 49 health districts. This initiative aims to enhance national preparedness and ensure the safe handling of temperature-sensitive nutrition and medical supplies.

Monitoring

- Market price monitoring:** In September 2025, staple food prices remained high but generally stable, despite the gradual end of the harvest season and the onset of the lean period. Compared to August, bean prices increased by 4 percent, cereal prices rose by 6 percent, while tuber prices remained stable due to lower demand during the harvest period. Persistent fuel shortages and power outages continue to disrupt transportation and food processing, particularly in urban centers. The gradual arrival of the lean season and rising logistical costs could lead to further price increases by the end of the year.

Challenges

- Operational constraints:** WFP in Burundi continues to face major operational challenges due to long-standing structural issues, particularly poor transport infrastructure and recurring fuel shortages. These constraints hinder the movement of goods and personnel across the country. To ease the impact, WFP has introduced adaptive measures like a fuel provision service. However, while helpful, these efforts cannot fully overcome the broader logistical hurdles that still affect the speed and efficiency of humanitarian assistance.

Funding Shortfalls

- Food assistance for refugees:** In September 2025, WFP continued to provide only 50 percent of the standard food ration to refugees in Burundi due to ongoing funding shortages, a critical concern with serious consequences. Many households are resorting to harmful coping strategies, including debt, asset sales, and increased protection risks for women and girls. With new contributions from Switzerland and the United States, WFP plans to raise rations to 75 percent between December 2025 and March 2026. However, without further funding, food assistance cannot continue beyond March.
- Malnutrition:** Supplementary nutrition assistance for malnourished children, as well as for pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, will end by October 2025 unless additional resources are urgently secured. Similarly, stunting prevention activities are expected to cease by December 2025 if no new funding is identified, putting vulnerable populations at increased nutritional risk.
- School feeding programme:** To sustain its school feeding programme throughout the ongoing 2025–2026 academic year (September to June), WFP requires USD 21 million. Without additional funding, the number of meals provided to children will be reduced, negatively impacting both school attendance and nutritional outcomes.

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.