



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief October 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 September 2025, annual inflation stands at +36.9 percent, against 36.6 percent in August. 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



972,393 people assisted in October 2025

USD 3,759,078 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

1,081 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 38.58 million six months net funding requirements
(November 2025 - April 2026)

Operational Updates

Crisis Response

- Refugees:** WFP assisted 77,345 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo through hybrid food support, delivering USD 443,075 in cash-based transfers (CBT) alongside 610 mt of food commodities. However, funding constraints limited distributions to 70 percent of the standard ration, compelling many refugees to adopt negative coping mechanisms such as selling assets or engaging in theft. WFP continues to advocate for donor support to ensure refugees meet their basic food needs.
- Returnees:** WFP supported 1,860 Burundian returnees, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo, including 502 children, with 68 mt of food and USD 11,612 CBT. At transit centers, returnees were provided with hot meals, and a hybrid three-month return package designed to facilitate their reintegration in their communities.
- The humanitarian community, in collaboration with the Government, is preparing a contingency plan to address a large-scale refugee return anticipated by late 2025. Between October and December, an estimated 20,500 individuals are expected to return. WFP Burundi has the capacity to assist up to 15,000 returnees through April 2026, providing a three-day wet feeding ration at transit centers and a 90-day hybrid return package to support reintegration. However, significant funding shortfalls persist, leaving critical gaps in assistance for the 90,000 returnees projected by June 2026.
- Climatic shocks:** WFP provided USD 193,707 in CBT to 17,315 people affected by climatic shocks in the districts of Rugombo and Gatumba, Bujumbura province. By supporting vulnerable families in areas repeatedly exposed to floods and other climate-related hazards, WFP helped mitigate the risk of negative coping strategies and contributed to strengthening community resilience.

Resilience Building

- Home-grown school feeding programme:** WFP provided school meals to 803,578 children through a combination of CBT valued at USD 2,475,371 and 264 mt of in-kind food assistance. The CBT enabled schools to procure commodities directly from local smallholder farmers and cooperatives, strengthening community markets while supporting children's nutrition. Of the total beneficiaries, 707,320 schoolchildren were reached through decentralized procurement with Provincial Directorates for Education (PDE), while 96,258 received in-kind food. The latter group is enrolled in 119 schools designated as control group for the ongoing impact evaluation sponsored by the World Bank on decentralized procurements.
- Nutrition:** WFP distributed 58 mt of specialized nutritious food to 4,528 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and 5,983 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 81 mt of specialized nutritious foods supported 8,115 women and 10,735 children aged 6-23 months for the prevention of stunting. In Buhumuza (Muyinga district), 507 women and girls and 1,242 children aged 6-23 months received USD 34,599 to purchase locally produced nutritious food to prevent stunting.
- Support to Smallholder farmers and Livelihoods:** WFP reached 7,305 people in Muyinga with USD 34,906 in CBT 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.

WFP Country Strategy

Gender and Age Marker

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* 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	3.84 m	38.58 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: Learners enjoys a nutritious meal provided daily by WFP at Bwica Primary School. © WFP/Arete/Fredrik Lerneryd

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- 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 October, WFP distributed USD 565,808 in cash-based transfers (CBT) to 33,880 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.

Capacity strengthening

- As part of its technical support to the Government of Burundi, WFP, in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), organized a national workshop to strengthen emergency preparedness and response through improved use of telecommunications. The event convened key stakeholders—including government bodies, telecom operators, media, UN agencies, NGOs, and Red Cross societies—and led to a shared understanding of operational gaps. Participants endorsed the creation of an Emergency Telecommunications Sector Group and recommended formalizing the national cluster with a dedicated action plan.

Supply Chain/Service provision

- WFP continues to mitigate the effects of fuel shortages on humanitarian operations through its fuel provision service. In October 2025, WFP supplied 25,200 litres of fuel to 27 humanitarian and development organizations operating across Burundi.

Monitoring

- Food insecurity and refugee pressures in Cibitoke, Kirundo and Rutana:** An August 2025 multisectoral evaluation in Cibitoke, Rutana, and Kirundo found severe humanitarian impacts from rising Congolese refugees, internal displacement, and climate shocks. Food insecurity is acute in Cibitoke and Kirundo, with up to 27 percent of households surviving on one meal a day. Refugees and hosts face poor diets, dependence on daily labor, and harmful coping strategies. The crisis also spans health (cholera, limited care), WASH (unsafe water, few latrines), education (overcrowding, language barriers), and protection (unsupported women and children). The report urges urgent food aid, cash transfers, WASH upgrades, and inclusive services in Rugombo, Buganda, and Kirundo ahead of the lean season.
- Market price monitoring:** October typically marks the start of the lean season, when households face depleted food stocks and rising market prices. Compared to September 2025, average prices increased by 2 percent for beans and 7 percent for cereals, while tuber prices remained relatively stable. Persistent fuel shortages continue to disrupt transport, drive up the cost of essential goods and services, and create inflationary pressure, limiting access to food and production inputs.

Funding Shortfalls

- Food assistance for refugees:** In October 2025, WFP provided 70 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:** Moderate acute malnutrition supplementation activities have stopped by October 2025, and stunting prevention is 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 2025 to June 2026), WFP requires USD 14.2 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.