



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burundi Country Brief November 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 November 2025, The year-on-year inflation rate stands at +27.1%, mainly driven by food prices, which have recorded an increase of +19.8%.

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



946,014 people assisted in November 2025

USD 3,109,771 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

1,010 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 36.68 million six months net funding requirements
(December 2025 - May 2026)

Operational Updates

Crisis Response

- **Refugees:** WFP supported 75,794 Congolese refugees with hybrid assistance, providing USD 378,875 in cash transfers and 583 mt of food. Due to funding gaps, rations were reduced to 75 percent, forcing many to adopt negative coping strategies. WFP is urging donor support to safeguard refugees' basic food needs.
- **Returnees:** WFP supported 2,717 Burundian returnees, primarily from Tanzania, including 733 children, with 83 mt of food and USD 18,472 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 for a large-scale refugee return anticipated by late 2025. In the second half of December 2025 and January 2026, an estimated 18,000 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 93,000 returnees projected by June 2026.
- **Climatic shocks:** WFP provided USD 212,901 in CBT to 17,465 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 800,907 children through a combination of CBT valued at USD 2,430,181 and 211 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, 704,649 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 13 mt of specialized nutritious food to 1,117 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and 1,211 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 120 mt of specialized nutritious foods supported 15,045 women and 22,709 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 34,542 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	0 m	36.68 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		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Activity 9: Provide on-demand supply chain and emergency telecommunications and information technology services to government, development and humanitarian partners		

Photo: Furaha Neema, 33, shares a meal of rice and beans with her children in their tent at Musenyi refugee site. © WFP/Arete/Kibuuka Mukisa

- Support to Smallholder farmers and Livelihoods:** WFP reached 7,300 people in Muyinga with USD 34,800 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.

Capacity strengthening

- WFP, in collaboration with the Government of Burundi, facilitated a participatory update of the Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index (EPCI) to evaluate current institutional readiness for emergencies. The assessment reviewed both national and local capacities, highlighted key gaps, and identified priority actions for strengthening preparedness systems, while also documenting progress since the 2023 exercise. Findings indicate that the overall EPCI score improved from 1.9 to 2.3 (on a scale of 1–3), reflecting notable advances but also underscoring the need for sustained technical and institutional support to further enhance Burundi’s emergency preparedness and response capacities.

Supply Chain/Service provision

- In November, WFP successfully completed two Temperature Sensitive Logistics Risk Management (TSL RM) training sessions for Health District Staff, equipping 112 vaccine managers with critical supply chain skills under the training of trainers’ framework facilitated with Africa CDC. Under the Strengthening Local Logistics Project, WFP distributed over 985,000 vaccine doses and 467,000 Essential Consumable Kits across 49 Health Districts, strengthening operational readiness for the Expanded Programme on Immunization. Additionally, the extension phase of the 2025 Mass Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets Campaign achieved a 98% Prepositioning Rate on Supply Forecast Database, reflecting strong logistical performance. Furthermore, WFP distributed 30,000 litres of fuel to support logistics for 24 humanitarian and development partners, helping mitigate the impact of ongoing fuel shortages.

Monitoring

Market price monitoring: Staple food prices (beans, rice, maize, cassava, sweet potato, and potato) have remained relatively stable in November, with variations under 5 percent, largely due to government price regulation. However, persistent fuel shortages continue to disrupt transport, driving up costs for food and essential services, heightening inflationary pressures, and limiting access to food and agricultural inputs. At the same time, regional insecurity and the influx of populations into Burundi are placing significant strain on local resources in hosting areas.

Funding Shortfalls

- Food assistance for refugees:** In November 2025, WFP provided 75 percent of the standard food ration to refugees in Burundi due to ongoing funding shortages. Despite rations being reduced to 75 percent, WFP faces an imminent pipeline break in January. WFP requires **USD 21.6 million** to support 172,000 refugees for six months, including **USD 14.4 million** for the 92,000 newly arrived refugees. The funding shortfall is also constraining WFP’s capacity to address the needs of returnees from Tanzania, which requires an additional **USD 6 million**.
- 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.