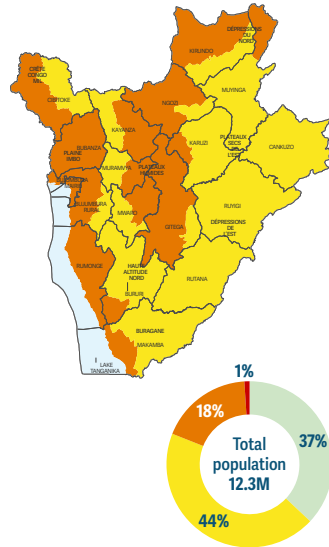# Burundi !

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | A poor early 2023 harvest, high food prices and dwindling wages led to the worst acute food insecurity since 2018.

PEAK 2023 (APRIL–MAY)

2.3M people or **19%** of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity during this lean season. This includes **0.1M people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).** This is a 65 percent increase from the 2022 peak (October–December) when 1.4 million people were experiencing these conditions. The deterioration is due to the below-average first crop harvest and high inflation.
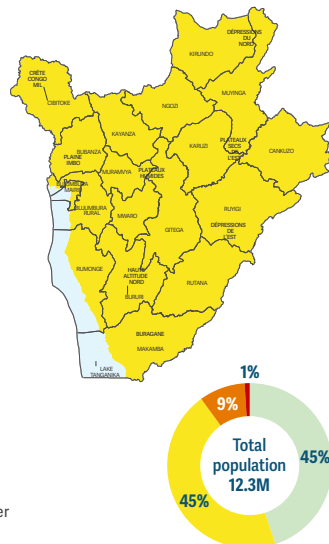
Total population 12.3M
- 1%
- 18%
- 37%
- 44%

Source: Burundi IPC TWG, May 2023.

PROJECTION 2024 (JANUARY–MARCH)

1.2M people or **10%** of the total population are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity.

The significant improvement includes the seasonal post-harvest effect and assumes an above-average 2024 season A harvest despite localized flood-related crop losses.

Total population 12.3M
- 1%
- 9%
- 45%
- 45%

Note: the projection for 2024 does not refer to the expected peak period.

Source: Burundi IPC TWG, November 2023.

DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Weather extremes A poor first harvest in late 2022–early 2023, caused by poor rainfall followed by flooding and landslides, curtailed food availability (IPC, May 2023). Normal to above-average rainfall in most areas in the February–May 2023 growing season enabled a better second harvest, but hail and violent winds destroyed crops in some areas (IPC, November 2023).

Economic shocks Shortages and increased prices of fuel and agricultural inputs constrained crop yields and increased food transportation costs, contributing to rising food prices. Currency depreciation raised the cost of imported food. Escalating insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo limited crop production and increased demand for rice and maize exports there, further contributing to price increases (IPC, May 2023; FEWS NET, November 2023). Between August 2022 and 2023, the food basket cost increased by 40 percent while agricultural labour wages increased by only 7 percent (IPC, November 2023).
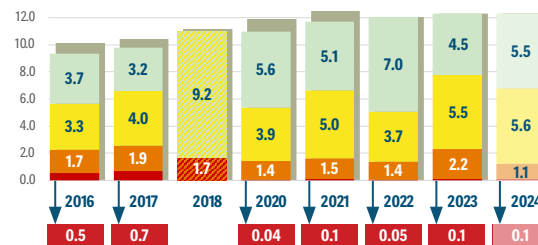
DISPLACEMENT

0.2M forcibly displaced people by 2023

0.1M IDPs

0.1M refugees and asylum-seekers

Source: IOM, July 2023.

Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2024

	2016	2017	2018	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	3.7	3.2	9.2	5.6	5.1	7.0	4.5	5.5
	3.3	4.0		3.9	5.0	3.7	5.5	5.6
	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.4	2.2	1.1
	0.5	0.7		0.04	0.1	0.05	0.1	0.1

Source: Burundi IPC TWG.

A protracted food crisis A low-income country, Burundi has been a major food crisis each year except 2019, when no IPC analysis was available and FEWS NET estimated that 0.2 million people (2 percent of the population) were facing high levels of acute food insecurity. Prevalence was highest in 2017, largely due to political tensions, poor rainfall, high food prices and crop diseases (IPC, April 2017). From 2017 to 2022, Dépressions du Nord, Dépressions de l'Est and Imbo Plains were the most food-insecure livelihood zones (IPC, September 2022).

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

0.3M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition, March 2022–February 2023

0.05M pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition, 2023–2024

- 0.24M MAM
- 0.06M SAM

Source: Burundi IPC TWG, September 2022.

Around half of Burundi's 48 analysed health districts are classified in Alert (IPC AMN Phase 2) with 5–9.9 percent of children acutely malnourished.
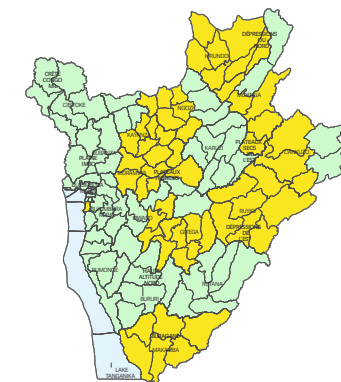
DRIVERS OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION 2023–2024

Inadequate practices Only 4 percent of children aged 6–23 months receive a Minimum Acceptable Diet, which is considered Extremely Critical (SMART 2022). Anaemia levels were a severe public health problem among children aged 6–59 months (58 percent) and a moderate public health problem among women of reproductive age (38 percent) (WHO, 2021). However, breastfeeding rates are Acceptable at 85 percent of children under 6 months (SMART 2022).

Lack of food Inadequate consumption of food (both in quality and quantity) is a greater risk factor during the lean season between July and September.

Inadequate services During the rainy season, access to clean water and adequate hygiene is challenging, increasing illnesses such as malaria, acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea cases among children, and leading to peaks of acute malnutrition.

PEAK 2023 (OCTOBER 2022–FEBRUARY 2023)

Source: Burundi, IPC TWG, September 2022.

Acute food insecurity legend:
- 1 - None/Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Catastrophe/Famine
- 1+2 - None/Minimal and Stressed
- 3+ - Crisis or worse
- Total population

Acute malnutrition legend:
- 1 - Acceptable
- 2 - Alert
- 3 - Serious
- 4 - Critical
- 5 - Extremely Critical