

Burundi



Burundi joined the Coalition in August 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in October 2023 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

The number of schoolchildren receiving school meals increased from 730,000 in 2023 to 810,000 in 2025. In two years, the government tripled the national contribution budget for school meals from USD 2.5 million (BIF 4.8 billion) in 2022-2023 to USD 9 million (BIF 27 billion) in 2024-2025.

The revised National School Feeding Programme is awaiting approval, and an implementation and financing strategy is being developed with support of the Sustainable Financing Initiative.

The 2024-2027 school health and nutrition strategy, validated in March 2024, integrates school feeding and is accompanied by a roadmap and capacity development manual for stakeholders.

Local purchases increased from 50 schools in 2023 to 264 primary schools in 2025 – 30% of the 885 schools. From September 2024 to June 2025, more than 3300 tons of food were purchased through cooperatives of small producers to serve 205,000 students with a total of USD 3,347,500 injected in local economies.

A menu guide for school meals was approved in 2024, including the consumption of locally sourced products. The Nyakiriza Sun Project, financed by the World Bank, supported 1600 improved cookstoves for more sustainable energy sources.

Studies on impact evaluation and value for money have been completed and published in collaboration with Harvard University and the World Bank.

Breakfast has been introduced in schools, supported by local purchasing – providing meals fortified with micronutrients to 109,953 children in 138 schools.

The government hosted the Africa Day of School Feeding in 2024 under the High Patronage of the President of the Republic and the First Lady. More than 28 countries and 15 Ministers of Education participated, along with the AU Commissioner for Science and Technology.

Next steps

To support implementation of the program, analysis is being done at the subnational level on the structure needed.

The government highlights the following challenges:

- Insufficient budget to support universal coverage, compounded by inflation in the costs of commodities; only 25% of schools are currently covered.
- Limitations in supply due to quality of food products, low capacity of processing units to provide necessary local products, and low agricultural production and productivity.

The government welcomes assistance with a sustainable financing strategy and with capacity development at both the central and decentralized levels.

Highlights

- Schoolchildren receiving meals increased from 730,000 in 2023 to 810,000 in 2025. In two years, the government tripled the budget for school meals from USD 2.5 million (BIF 4.8 billion) in 2022-2023 to USD 9 million (BIF 27 billion) in 2024-2025.
- Local purchases from smallholder farmer cooperatives increased from 50 schools in 2023 to 264 primary schools in 2025 and will be expanded to 851 schools in 2026 with support from international financing institutions and multilateral funds.
- Hosted the Africa Day of School Feeding in 2024 under the High Patronage of the President and the First Lady, with participation from 28 countries and the African Union.