

Republic of Burundi



Participant in the Study Visit

Dr. Célestin Sibomana, MD,MPH is the Permanent Executive Secretary of the Multisectoral Platform for Food Security and Nutrition, attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, since July 2019; he is also the Focal Point for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) and National Coordinator for Consultations on Food Systems. Prior to this, he was the Health Sector Advisor to the Second Vice Presidency of the Republic of Burundi. He is a medical doctor and holds a Master's degree in Public Health. He has particular expertise in the management of Health-Nutrition Systems and in Quality Assurance for Health-Nutrition Care and Services (Total Quality Management, TQM). In Burundi, he has experience in working at local, intermediate and central levels.

Expectations for the Study Visit

Get insights on tools that support intersectoral nutrition programming such as:

- A Digital Multisectoral Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to regularly collect and process data from various stakeholders (in sectors contributing to nutrition) to make information available promptly for decision-making.
- A user-friendly nutrition stakeholder mapping tool, integrating budget monitoring: Who does what? Where? How? And with how much?
- Other coordination tools (e.g., Common Results Framework & Reporting Templates "situation note/production of multisectoral nutrition information bulletins") and related best practices.

Nutrition Facts

Burundi continues to make steady progress in improving maternal, infant, and young child nutrition outcomes, demonstrating strong commitment across multiple nutrition indicators. According to SOFI 2025, some advancement has been made towards the low birth-weight global target, with 14.8% of infants born underweight in 2020. Burundi remains on track for the exclusive breastfeeding target, with as much as 85.0% of infants aged 0-5 months exclusively breastfed in 2023. The national implementation score of legal measures related to the implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes is 75 (out of a maximum of 100). However, no progress has been observed in reducing anemia among women of reproductive age, which currently affects 39.0%. Stunting persists as a critical challenge, affecting 52,8% of children under five in 2024, with an up-and-down trend since 2012.

Wasting is also high, affecting 7.8% of children under five in 2024, but it still remains below the 10% threshold defined by the WHO. Overweight prevalence among children under five is low at 2.4%, though Burundi is currently facing challenges in preventing its increase. Obesity affects 5.0% of adults in 2022.

Governance and Coordination Mechanisms

Burundi maintains strong multisectoral coordination through the Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Platform (PMSAN) with the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Platform (SEP/PMSAN), as a technical arm. Engagement in PMSAN is expanding at all administrative levels, supported by a multisectoral monitoring and evaluation system that includes a consolidated matrix of indicators. This system guides stakeholders, who align their efforts with the Strategic Multisectoral Plan for Food and Nutrition Security II (PSMSAN II), itself integrated within the National Development Plan. This framework promotes joint responsibility and coordination across sectors such as health, agriculture, social protection, water, sanitation, and hygiene.

The institutional foundation of this mechanism is anchored in Décret N°100/143 du 11 Mai 2021 portant Révision du Décret N°100/068 du 13 Avril 2019, which formally established the National Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (PMSAN). Its Steering Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, convenes the Ministers of Interior, Finance, Social Affairs, Education, Scientific Research, Public Health, Agriculture, Hydraulics, Commerce, and Communication. This high-level composition reinforces the multisectoral nature of nutrition governance, ensuring coordination, policy coherence, resource mobilization, and regular reporting to the Council of Ministers.

Country Priorities and Initiatives

Key priorities include **updating the mapping of food security and nutrition interventions**, **collecting multisectoral data on health and food security**, **conducting budget monitoring**, and **developing a communication and advocacy strategy**. A notable good practice in 2022 focused on transforming food systems and empowering women, supported by the Women's Bank.

Progress Towards Integrating Nutrition

Burundi has made notable progress towards integrating nutrition objectives into sectoral policies. To strengthen and sustain strong policy and advocacy environments, the country has established provincial and communal platforms for food security and nutrition, effectively decentralizing governance and enhancing multisectoral coordination. In developing and aligning shared country priorities for action, the Multisectoral Platform plays a central role in ensuring that stakeholder priorities remain aligned with the Food Security and Nutrition Strategic Plan. An annual joint review process is being put in place to evaluate the implementation of the plan and to support informed preparation for future programming.

PSMSAN: Multisectoral strategic plan for food security and nutrition (strategy/policy document).
PMSAN: Multisectoral platform for food security and nutrition (institution/structure).

In promoting governance that encourages country leadership and mutual accountability, efforts are underway, supported by UN-Nutrition, to monitor budgets and update the mapping of stakeholders and interventions. These actions aim to enhance transparency, understand resource allocation more clearly, and strengthen coordination across sectors involved in food security and nutrition.

School Feeding Initiatives

Burundi aims to progressively increase school feeding coverage for pre-primary and primary schools from 24% in 2023 to 50% by 2027 and achieve universal coverage by 2032. This expansion will be supported by increased national budget allocations through the Finance Act. The National School Feeding Policy is slated for revision by 2024, with plans to integrate it into the Food Fortification Policy and the School Health/Nutrition Strategy by the end of 2025. Procurement from smallholder farmers and local food processors will be scaled up, targeting at least 50% of supported schools by 2027. Efforts to improve meal quality include introducing new menu guides featuring fortified and bio-fortified foods and scaling up energy-efficient cooking stoves in 100 schools starting in the 2024-2025 academic year. By the end of 2025, Burundi plans to finalize an impact evaluation of school feeding, including cost-benefit analyses and assessments of the nutritional status of school-age children, to inform policy review and resource mobilization.

N4G Commitments (made at the N4G Tokyo 2021)

Area of intervention	Description of the commitment
Commitment to the impact of multisectoral interventions	Reduce the rate of chronic malnutrition (stunting) from 52.2% to 42.2% by 2027.
	Reduce the rate of acute malnutrition from 6.1% to less than 3% by 2027
Increase in agricultural and livestock production	Double agricultural production by 2027 (maize, rice, wheat, beans, fruit and vegetables) and livestock production (cattle and sheep)
Increasing access to clean water	Increase the number of households with access to drinking water from 73% to 90% by 2027.
Controlling population pressure	Reduce the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) from 5.5% to 4%.
Financial commitment to food and nutrition security	Increase the national budget allocated to specific nutrition-sensitive interventions by 10%.
Multisectoral and inclusive governance of food and nutrition security	By 2027, Provincial and Municipal Food Security and Nutrition Platforms will be operational in all provinces and municipalities (strengthened multisectoral governance at the local level).
Multisectoral and inclusive monitoring and evaluation in nutrition and food security	Make data on nutrition and food security available regularly and on time. (Functional Multisectoral System for Monitoring and Evaluation of Food Security and Nutrition (SMSESAN): Complete and timeliness)

Burundi is an early member of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.

Engagement with the Healthy Diets Coalition

Burundi joined the Healthy Diets Coalition in 2024, underscoring the country's interest and actions within global efforts to promote sustainable and nutritious diets. The country focal point for the Coalition is also the SUN focal point, ensuring coherence across platforms. In April 2024, Burundi engaged in a webinar organized under one of the Coalition's focus areas "Promotion of Healthy Diets in Fragile Settings," where they highlighted national perspectives on strengthening food systems for affordable, nutritious diets and resilient socio-economic development. The intervention emphasized actions such as empowering women and youth, improving access to land and capital, promoting diversified production and nutrition education, and developing innovative financing and value-chain quality control to improve diets and resilience. Membership in the Coalition provides Burundi with opportunities to exchange experiences, strengthen national commitments, and align with international actions to advance healthy diets and resilient food systems, leveraging the Coalition's broad member base across both the Global North and Global South.

Remaining Challenges

Burundi has demonstrated commitment to advancing nutrition outcomes through multisectoral governance, strategic planning, and targeted interventions. While progress towards some key MIYCN targets is promising, continued focus is needed to address persistent challenges such as anemia and stunting. The country's forward-looking school feeding strategy and multisectoral coordination efforts are well-positioned to support sustained improvements in nutrition and food security.