



WFP Rwanda Country Brief

March 2018

Country Background & Strategy

Rwanda has one of the highest population densities in Africa (471 people per square kilometre). It has a limited natural resource base; agriculture comes second of the main sectors contributing to the national gross domestic product (GDP) with over 31 percent after service sector (45 percent). Agriculture generates over 50 percent of total export revenue. Life expectancy in Rwanda is 66 years and households headed by women or orphans account for 36 percent of the population.

Since the 1994 genocide and the ensuing collapse of the economy and social services, the Government embarked on rebuilding the country and improving the quality of life through long and short term development programmes such as vision 2020 and the second Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS2).

WFP's strategy is to contribute towards making Rwanda a food secure country, where people are well nourished, able to develop to their full potential and living in resilient communities. WFP has been present in Rwanda since 1975.



Population: **11.8 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **162 out of 188**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **37% of children between 6-59 months**

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/JohnPaul Sesonga
Caption: Food in WFP stores ready to be dispatched to over 104 schools where over 83,000 children are served hot lunch by WFP.

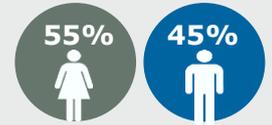
In Numbers

965mt of food assistance distributed

US\$526,097 cash based transfers made

US\$6.9 m six months (April-Sept 2018) net funding requirements, representing 57% of total

235,000 people assisted
in March 2018



Operational Updates

- In March 2018, WFP provided food assistance to 235,000 people, including vulnerable host populations and refugees in camps, through general distributions and cash transfers, nutrition interventions, asset creation activities and school meals programmes in food insecure areas.
- WFP transferred US\$ 488,392 to 72,000 refugees and US\$ 37,641 to 11,700 Rwandans participating in asset creation activities in the most food insecure areas under the Country Programme. In addition, WFP provided 965 mt of assorted food commodities to refugees in camps, to returnees, as well as Rwandan school children in the most food insecure districts.
- Despite generous donor contributions, the refugee operation continues to face serious resource shortfalls. In March 2018, WFP continued to maintain a 25% ration reduction implemented since January 2018, for all refugees. Unfortunately, if no new contributions are received soon, WFP will have to reduce the rations even further in the coming months.
- In addition, WFP continues to support small-holder farmers in Rwanda, providing training in post-harvest loss reduction and linking them with buyers and agriculture service providers, including banks and financial institutions.

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	Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Food and Nutrition Assistance to Refugees and Returnees (PRRO)			
200744 (2016 – 2018)	119.4 m	69 m (57%)	6 m (50%)
Enhancing National Capacity to Develop, Design and Manage Nationally Owned Hunger Solutions in Rwanda (CP)			
200539 (2013-2018)	51.8 m	52.8 m (102%)	0.9**

*April – Sept 2018
** FFA/Livelihood net funding requirement

GENDER MARKER 1

Monitoring

- In February, WFP conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring exercise to assess the impact of ration reductions among camp based refugees in Rwanda. The results reveal worsening food insecurity of the refugee households and an increase in negative coping strategies.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and the National Institution of Statistics of Rwanda, WFP started a Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA), a country-wide survey that provides an in-depth picture of the food security situation and the vulnerability levels of households in Rwanda. CFSVA is conducted every 3 years. The last report in 2015 showed that Rwanda has seen continued economic growth coupled with noted progress in terms of social development, while food insecurity and stunting continue to pose a challenge to many households.

Challenges

- The refugee operation is facing serious funding shortfalls. Food stocks and cash transfers are running critically low. WFP needs **US\$ 6 million** in the next six months (April-Sept 2018) to meet the needs of camp based refugees. Given the protracted crisis in Burundi and the deteriorating security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which is likely to trigger further refugee influxes into Rwanda, it is essential to maintain adequate funding levels to be able to respond to the increasing needs.

Food and Nutrition Assistance to Refugees and Returnees (PRRO 200744)

The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) targets 186,300 people, including Burundian and Congolese refugees, former Rwandan refugees returning home and children from the host communities attending the same schools as refugee children in and around refugee camps.

Refugees living in the camps in Rwanda entirely depend on assistance to meet their food needs, as they have limited access to livelihood activities.

WFP's assistance is provided through in-kind food and cash distributions, as well as safety net interventions such as blanket supplementary feeding, targeted supplementary feeding and school meals. Cash transfers in lieu of in-kind food distributions are implemented in five out of the six camps, enabling refugees to purchase food of their choice at the local markets, thus contributing to the country's economy.

This refugee operation and its components were formulated based on consultative meetings with partners including the Government of Rwanda, UN agencies and the people that WFP assists.

Enhancing National Capacity to Develop, Design and Manage Nationally Owned Hunger Solutions in Rwanda (CP 200539)

WFP's portfolio of assistance under the Common Country Programme (CCP) focuses on national capacity development and on modelling innovations in food assistance. WFP's emphasis is on the provision of technical support to the government and enabling it to develop, design, and manage nationally owned, innovative hunger solutions, including school feeding.

WFP enhances resilience and livelihood opportunities for the most vulnerable and food insecure people, and strengthens the capacity of the government to reduce hunger.

WFP builds resilience through community based asset creation activities, and is based on WFP's long term experience in asset creation and existing government initiatives such as Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme (VUP), based on a participatory approach.

Donors:

CP 200539: USDA, Republic of Korea, Multilateral, MasterCard and UN Common Funds and Agencies (excl. CERF).

PRRO 200744: USAID, UK, ECHO, Japan and UN CERF