



WFP Rwanda Country Brief

April 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/Noel Dukuzumuremyi
Caption: A family at their house in Gihembe refugee camp eating their one meal of the day at their house as the assistance is reduced.

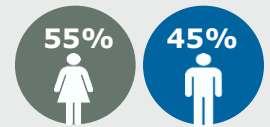
In Numbers

1,015 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 545,538 cash based transfers made

US\$ 5.5 m six months (May-October 2018) net funding requirements

277,000 people assisted in April 2018



Operational Updates

- In April 2018, WFP provided food assistance to 277,000 people including, camp based refugees and Rwandan vulnerable populations, through general distributions, cash transfers, nutrition interventions, asset creation activities, school meals programmes, as well as assistance to small-holder farmers in Rwanda.
- Through its assistance to refugees and returnees in Rwanda, WFP distributed 905 mt of assorted food commodities and transferred US\$ 488,731 of cash to 72,111 refugees and returnees to purchase food from the local market. With limited access to livelihood activities, refugees in Rwanda continue to depend on WFP monthly assistance to meet their food needs.
- Scarcity of funds, particularly for the refugee operations remain of serious concern despite continuous generosity of the international community. Ration reductions by 25 percent were maintained in April to stretch the few resources available.
- WFP transferred US\$ 56,807 to 13,310 Rwandans participating in asset creation activities in the most food insecure areas. Under this programme, WFP is assisting beneficiaries in the most food insecure districts of Nyamagabe, Rutsiro and Karongi to improve their lives through land terracing, marshland reclamation, livestock keeping and access to the markets.
- WFP provided 110 mt of assorted food commodities to 79,974 Rwandan school children in the most food insecure districts. WFP is also linking schools to farmers' cooperatives.
- WFP continues to support smallholder farmers in Rwanda by providing training in post-harvest loss reduction and linking them with formal buyers and agriculture service providers including banks and financial institutions. Over 47,000 smallholder farmers around Rwanda are assisted through this programme monthly. To date, during the 2017/2018 agricultural calendar, WFP facilitated the sale of approximately US\$ 2 million of food commodities from supported smallholder farmers to private sector buyers.

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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	70 m (56%)	5.5m (40%)
Enhancing National Capacity to Develop, Design and Manage Nationally Owned Hunger Solutions in Rwanda (CP)			
200539 (2013-2018)	51.8 m	52.5 m (101%)	

*May – Oct 2018

GENDER MARKER 1

Monitoring

- WFP conducted a remote post distribution monitoring exercise in February to assess the impact of ration reductions among camp based refugees in Rwanda. The results indicate that the food security is deteriorating, and there is an increase in negative coping strategies among the refugee households.

The percentage of refugees reporting borderline or poor food consumption had doubled from 10 percent in October 2017 to 20.4 percent in January 2018.

The number of refugees reporting that they had poor food consumption increased from 1 percent before the reductions in November 2017 to 2.7 percent in January 2018. The percentage with borderline consumption rose from 9 percent to 17.4 percent.

- In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and the National Institution of Statistics of Rwanda, WFP is conducting 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.

Challenges

- The refugee operation is facing serious funding shortages. Available resources are running critically low. WFP urgently needs **US\$ 5.5 million** to meet the needs of camp based refugees for the next six months (May - October 2018). 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, ECHO, UK, Japan and UN CERF