



World Food Programme

WFP Rwanda Country Brief

September 2018



Operational Context

Rwanda is a low-income, least-developed country with a population of 11.2 million people, of whom 52 percent are women and girls and 48 percent men and boys. The population is growing at 2.4 percent per year and the country has one of the highest population densities in sub-Saharan Africa. Rwanda ranks 159th of 188 countries on the Human Development Index and 84th of 159 on the Gender Inequality Index; 44.9 percent of the population lives below the income poverty line. Undernourishment affects 4.8 million people (41 percent of the population) and approximately one fifth of the population is food-insecure.

Rwanda currently hosts 175,000 Congolese and Burundian refugees and asylum seekers, of whom 79 percent reside in camps and the remaining 21 percent are urban refugees. Many refugees have been present in the country for decades, with limited prospects for repatriation in the immediate future. The “forgotten crises” in these neighbouring countries, where protracted volatility is exacerbated by political instability, may lead to the further arrival of refugees in the coming years.



Population: **11.2 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **159 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic malnutrition: **38% of children between 6-59 months**

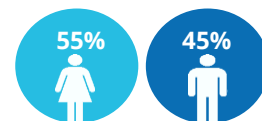
In Numbers

1,406 mt of food assistance distributed to refugees as well as vulnerable Rwandans

US\$ 621,769 transferred to refugees

US\$ 5.5 million six months net funding requirement (October 2018- March 2019)

226,600 people assisted in September 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP provided **lifesaving food assistance** for almost 145,500 refugees living in six refugee camps across Rwanda in September, under the emergency food assistance, nutrition and school feeding programmes. This included the transfer of more than US\$ 621,000 to refugees, enabling them to buy food of their choice in local shops and markets, and the distribution of 1,181 mt of in-kind food commodities.
- Furthermore, in its efforts to support **Home Grown School Feeding** in Rwanda, more than 81,000 Rwandan school children in 104 schools across the country received a daily hot meal in September. Some 225 mt of food commodities were distributed to schools during this period, with beans sourced locally from smallholder farmers. Additionally, in response to the poor school infrastructure and to provide sufficient space, storage, hygienic conditions for meal preparation and save energy, the programme finalized its second phase of kitchen and stove construction in 25 schools in Nyaruguru and Nyamagabe districts.
- All planned **food assistance for assets** activities were finalized in September, allowing over 60,000 smallholder farmers to use their assets (terraces, marshland, livestock) for food production. Going forward, the focus of the programme will be to provide the community with necessary skills and capacity to sustainably utilize the different types of assets that have been created.
- WFP supported the development of **One UN joint workplans** in September in line with the 2018-2023 United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDA). WFP is also engaging in the development of joint programmes, which will be implemented jointly with other UN agencies to build on synergies and complementarity for better results.

Contact info: Welmoed Korteweg

Email : welmoed.korteweg@wfp.org

Country Director: Edith Heines

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/rwanda

Main
Photo

Credit: WFP/ JohnPaul Sesonga

Caption: Small-holder farmers are happy for an increased harvest from the assets created by WFP in the most food insecure areas.

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
Food and Nutrition Assistance to Refugees and Returnees			
PRRO 200744 (2018)	27.6 m	17 m (62%)	5.5 m
Enhancing National Capacity to Develop, Design and Manage Nationally Owned Hunger Solutions in Rwanda			
CP 200539 (2018)	16.3 m	7.1m (44%)	-

*Oct 2018 – Mar 2019

GENDER MARKER 1

Monitoring

- Market monitoring findings from September indicate that food prices in and around all refugee camps are higher compared to other rural and urban areas in Rwanda. However, prices remain within the normal range, allowing refugees to access diversified food commodities in the local shops and markets through the cash assistance they receive from WFP.
- A website has been launched to allow beneficiaries to access information about their entitlements for free, using their mobile phones. The website will also be used by WFP to collect beneficiaries' feedback through short surveys.
- The Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis report (CFSVA) has been validated by the Agriculture Sector Working Group. All final comments are currently being consolidated and the report is scheduled to be published in November.

Challenges

- Due to the outbreak of the Ebola Virus in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda has been classified as one of the high-risk zones according to the World Health Organization (WHO). WFP is therefore taking the necessary preparedness measures, and is supporting the Government and its partners, by providing storage facilities, tents, ambulances and technical support, as well as supporting an emergency simulation exercise.
- Despite generous contributions from donors, funding constraints continue to affect WFP operations in Rwanda. WFP needs **US\$ 5.5 Million** in the next six months (October 2018 – March 2019) to be able to respond to food and nutritional needs of over 150,000 Burundians and Congolese refugees who are living in six camps. If no additional resources are received in due time, WFP will be forced to cut food rations, which may affect the most vulnerable people, including children and breastfeeding mothers.

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

WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) targets Burundian and Congolese refugees, former Rwandan refugees returning home and children from the host communities attending the same schools as refugee children living in and around refugee camps.

Refugees living in the camps in Rwanda depend almost entirely on humanitarian 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 nutrition programmes, to prevent and treat malnutrition and school meals. Cash transfers in are provided 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. The remaining camp (Mahama camp) will shift from in-kind food assistance to a hybrid combination of in-kind and cash assistance starting in October 2018.

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

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

Through asset creation, 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 a participatory approach with communities, based on WFP's long-term experience in asset creation and existing government initiatives such as Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme.

Donors

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

PRRO 200744: USAID, UN CERF, ECHO, UK, Japan, Belgium and Canada.