



World Food Programme



WFP Rwanda Country Brief

November 2018

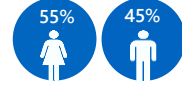
In Numbers

624 mt of food assistance distributed to refugees as well as vulnerable Rwandans

USD 984,480 transferred to refugees

USD 12 million six months net funding requirement (December 2018 - May 2019)

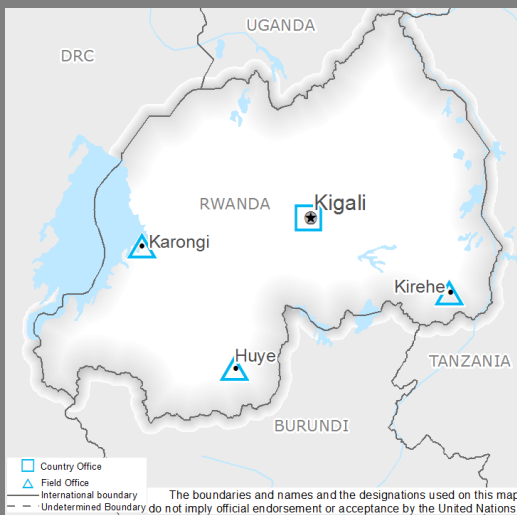
227,260 people assisted in November 2018



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; and 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.



Operational Updates

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 227,260 people in November, including 145,425 Congolese and Burundian refugees in six refugee camps. In total, 624 mt of in-kind food commodities were distributed and USD 984,480 of cash was transferred electronically to refugee's smartcards. The number of assisted refugees was slightly lower compared to last month, due to the ongoing refugee status verification exercise. All refugees are receiving cash assistance now in Rwanda, following the roll out of the hybrid cash/in-kind modality to Burundian refugees in October 2018.
- All Congolese refugees have now been registered in SCOPE-WFP's beneficiary identity and benefit management system. SCOPE helps WFP to manage the identities and entitlements of its beneficiaries. It informs on who the beneficiaries are, what they are entitled to, issues instructions to the appropriate delivery mechanism and receives feedback on whether the right amount of transfer has been given to the intended family.
- Over 1,000 returnees crossed into Rwanda from neighbouring eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in October and November. Most returnees are former combatants with their families. The government of Rwanda is providing assistance, including food and shelter. WFP is closely monitoring the situation and stands ready to provide civilian returnees with three months of food assistance.
- WFP supported the National Early Child Development Programme (NECDP) by conducting a study for the optimization of the supply chain network of fortified blended food to chronically malnourished children across the country. A proposal with recommendations has been provided to NECDP. To support the supply chain enhancement of NECDP, between January and November 2018, more than 3,580 mt of fortified blended food has been dispatched to district pharmacies to facilitate easy access to beneficiaries.

Population: 11.2 million

2017 Human Development Index: 159 out of 188

Income Level: Lower

Chronic malnutrition: 38 percent of children between 6-59 months

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/JohnPaul Sesonga

Caption: WFP assistance smallholder farmers to increase food production through better application of agriculture inputs, and link them to markets and other partners in the entire food value chain.

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

*Dec 2018 – May 2019

* PRRO and CP projects will be closed in December 2018.

GENDER MARKER

- Staff activities were organized in November around the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence awareness campaign.
- The WFP Executive Board approved the Rwanda Country Strategic Plan (CSP), whose implementation will commence on January 1st, 2019. The CSP will guide WFP's engagement in Rwanda in the next five years (2019 – 2023) in support of national priorities for achieving food and nutrition security. The five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP, 2019 – 2023) replaces the previous PRRO and Country Plan starting January 2019. Under the CSP, WFP will work in partnership with the Government of Rwanda and other stakeholders through the direct implementation of integrated programmes targeting the most vulnerable people and is progressively shifting towards building national capacity to formulate, manage and implement programmes for achieving zero hunger.

Monitoring

- The prices of food commodities in October were slightly lower than previous months, according to WFP's November Market Monitoring report. However, they remain 11 percent higher than the average five years ago, compromising poor households' access to food.
- The Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis report (CFSVA) has been validated, and WFP is currently waiting for the final endorsement by the Working Group. The report is scheduled to be disseminated in early 2019.

Challenges

- Due to the outbreak of Ebola Virus in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda has been classified as one of the high-risk zones by WHO. In response, WFP has procured preparedness equipment including two ambulances, four screening tents and ten community chlorine makers to support government response to any sudden outbreak. WFP is also

providing assistance to the WFP operation in DRC, by facilitating in-transit health supply chain items.

- Despite generous contributions from donors, WFP needs USD 12 million in the next six months (Dec 2018 – May 2019). If no additional resources are received soon, WFP might be forced to reduce 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 opportunities.

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. With Mahama camp shifted from in-kind food assistance to a hybrid combination of in-kind and cash assistance from October 2018, cash transfers are provided in all six camps, enabling refugees to purchase food of their choice at the local markets, thus contributing to the local economy.

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, MasterCard, DEVCO, Switzerland and UN Common Funds and Agencies (excl. CERF).
PRRO 200744: USAID, UN CERF, ECHO, UK, Japan, Belgium and Canada.