



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Rwanda Country Brief December 2018



Operational Context

A small, landlocked country with a population of 12 million people growing at 2.4 percent annually, Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa. Since the 1994 genocide, the Government of Rwanda has recorded significant achievements in poverty reduction, gender equality, environmental sustainability, education and public health, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, 38.2 percent of the population continues to live below the poverty line and almost one fifth is food insecure. Levels of stunting among young children remain very high, at 35 percent. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy, with 89 percent of rural households practising small-scale farming. Poor rainfall, drought, floods and the limited amount of land that is suitable for agriculture, alongside pests and diseases, continue to pose risks to food security.

The situation is further aggravated by the presence of over 150,000 Congolese and Burundian refugees (as of January 2019). Many refugees have been in the country for decades, with limited prospects for repatriation in the immediate future, and rely almost completely on WFP food assistance. The “forgotten crises” in neighbouring countries, where protracted volatility is exacerbated by political instability, may lead to the further arrival of refugees in the coming years.

Population: **12 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
158 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic malnutrition: **35% of children between 6-59 months**

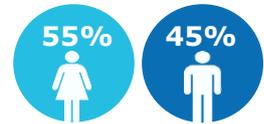
In Numbers

436 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 13.5m six months (January-June 2018) net funding requirements.

0.1m people assisted in December 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP provided **food and nutrition assistance** to more than 132,000 people in December, including Congolese and Burundian refugees living in six refugee camps across the country. In total, 436 mt of in-kind food commodities were distributed and US\$ 996,512 of cash was transferred electronically to refugee's smartcards.
- In order to verify the status of refugees living in camps, a **verification exercise** was conducted in Kiziba, Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps hosting Congolese refugees together with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). All Congolese refugees are now registered in WFP's beneficiary identity and benefit management system (SCOPE).
- A **performance evaluation exercise of NGO partners** was completed in December, and contracts were successfully extended. WFP works with 14 NGO partners in Rwanda, who implement activities at the field level, such as the home-grown school feeding programme, nutrition programmes, farmer to markets alliance and food assistance for assets, among others.
- Following the ongoing outbreak of the **Ebola virus** in neighbouring eastern DRC, **emergency preparedness activities** were conducted by WFP partnership with UN agencies and the Government of Rwanda under supervision of the Ministry of Health. This included procurement of food and non-food items (such as high energy biscuits, tents, and prefabricated sustainable office) from the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Dubai. The items were airlifted and delivered free of charge to Kigali by the end of December by the United Parcel Services (UPS).
- Following the elections in DRC and possible violence outbreak, a **joint interagency rapid assessment** was conducted by UN agencies, including WFP, in order to set up preparedness in case of influx of up to 30,000 Congolese refugees. A joint emergency task force has been formed and temporary storage facilities have been identified at strategic locations.

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Photo caption: All refugees receive food assistance through cash-based transfers from WFP/ Noel Dukuzumuremvi

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
218.4m	15.5m	13.5 m

Monitoring

- Market monitoring data indicates that the average costs of a food basket was slightly higher in December than in November, at RWF 5,364. However, this remains below the WFP cash transfer amount, which is currently at US\$9 per person/month.
- The automated growth monitoring pilot was completed in Mahama camp. This monitoring helps WFP to swiftly follow-up on children's nutrition status and respond to their nutritional needs. Implementing partners collect the information and insert it into the system, and are alerted on time which calls for early response.

Challenges

- Despite generous contributions from donors, **WFP needs US\$ 13 million in the next six months** (Jan–June 2019) in order to implement its activities in Rwanda as planned. 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.
- The **Ebola virus** continues to spread in North-Kivu in neighbouring eastern DRC. As of 10 January, there were 633 reported cases of Ebola, including 48 probable and 585 confirmed. Community resistance remains a key issue in DRC. Rwanda remains at 'very high' risk of EVD spreading to the country, and the necessary preparedness measures have been taken by WFP in support of the Government of Rwanda and various humanitarian partners.

Food and Nutrition Assistance to

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.

From 1 January 2019 onwards, WFP will transition to a Country Strategic Plan (CSP), which will be in place between 2019 and 2023 and will incorporate elements of the previous PRRO and CP. Under the CSP, WFP will work in partnership with the Government and other stakeholders through the direct implementation of integrated programmes targeting the most vulnerable people and will progressively shift towards building national capacity to formulate, manage and implement programmes for achieving zero hunger.

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.