



WFP RWANDA

Country Brief, February 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 intensified 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**

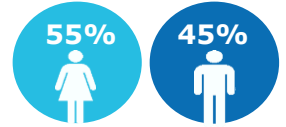
In Numbers

690 mt of food assistance commodities distributed

US\$ 976,000 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 7.4 m six months (March- August 2019) net funding requirements

223,200 people assisted in February 2019



Operational Updates

- Over 223,200 food and nutrition insecure people, were reached with WFP food assistance in February. These include, 143,360 camp based Burundian and Congolese refugees and asylum seekers and Rwandan returnees, and 79,840 Rwandan school going children in the most food insecure areas.
- WFP made US\$ 976,000 cash transfers to refugees in six camps, allowing them to purchase food of their choice from local markets and shops; thus, promoting socio-economic inclusion and boosting local economy.
- Additionally, 690 mt of assorted food commodities, were distributed to refugees and schools going children in February. Over 75 percent of food commodity requirements for WFP's assistance in Rwanda are purchased locally and from smallholder farmers.
- The Ebola virus continues to spread in North-Kivu in DR Congo and Rwanda remains at 'high' risk. WFP is providing assistance for the national preparedness led by the Ministry of Health.
- WFP is supporting farmers by strengthening value chain capacity of 52,000 members of 160 smallholder farmers' cooperatives across Rwanda. WFP assists the farmers to enhance their governance, enabling them to reduce their post-harvest losses, facilitating their access to financial services and improving their food productivity.
- WFP supports the Government of Rwanda to address malnutrition among children aged 6- 59 months and pregnant and nursing women through in provision of specially blended food.

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Photo caption: US\$ 8.2 million are urgently needed to ensure continuous food assistance camp-based refugees continue to depend on for the next six months. Photo: WFP/Noel Dukuzumuremyi

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
218.4 m	15.5 m	7.4 m

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Refugees and returnees in Rwanda have access to adequate and nutritious food at all times.

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Provide food and nutrition assistance and basic livelihood support to refugees and returnees.

Strategic Result 2: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations in food-insecure communities/areas have improved access to adequate and nutritious food all year.

Focus area: *Resilience building.*

Activities:

- Support the design, implementation, and scale up of national food security and nutrition sensitive social protection programmes.

Strategic Result 3: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Children under 5, adolescents, and pregnant, nursing women/girls in Rwanda have improved access to nutritious foods and services to meet their nutritional needs all year.

Focus area: *Root causes*

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening support to national programmes that improve the nutrition status of targeted populations

Strategic Result 4: Smallholder Productivity & Incomes

Strategic Outcome 4: Smallholder farmers, especially women, have increased marketable surplus and can safely access agricultural markets through efficient supply chains by 2030.

Focus area: *Root causes*

Activities:

- Provide support, education, and capacity strengthening services for smallholder farmers and value chain actors.

- Market monitoring exercise for February 2019 showed an increase in food prices compared to five years ago. However, the food basket cost remained lower than the transferred amount, thus enabling refugees to purchase food in local shops and markets in and around refugee camps.
- A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA), conducted in 2018 was approved. This baseline survey provides an in-depth picture of the food security situation in Rwanda. The 2018 report indicates a slight decrease of chronic malnutrition among children under five years of age from 37 to 35 percent, between 2015 and 2018. The report will be disseminated to WFP partners in March 2019.

Challenges

- Despite generous contributions from donors, and recent pledges from USAID, Government of Japan and European Commission, funding situation remains alarming specifically for assistance to refugees as the current food stocks are critically low.
- WFP needs US\$ 9 million in the next six months (Mar–Aug 2019) in order to implement its activities in Rwanda as planned. **US\$ 8.2 million are urgently needed** to ensure continuous food assistance camp-based refugees continue to depend on for the next six months.

If no additional resources are received soon, WFP might be forced to reduce refugee's food rations in May, which may affect the most vulnerable people, including children and breastfeeding mothers.

Donors

USAID, UN CERF, ECHO, UK, Japan, Belgium, Canada, USDA, Republic of Korea, MasterCard, DEVCO, Switzerland and UN Common Funds and Agencies (excl. CERF).

Monitoring