



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Country Name

Country Brief

MARCH 2019



Operational Context

A small, landlocked country with a population of 11.8 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 149,600 Congolese and Burundian refugees (as of February 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: **11.8 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **158** out of **188**

Income Level: **Lower**

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

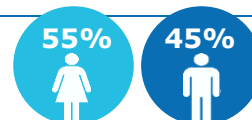
In Numbers

772 mt of food assistance commodities distributed

US\$ 980,000 cash-based transfers completed

US\$ 3.2 m six months (April- September 2019) net funding requirements, representing 62 percent of total requirements

227,900 people assisted in March 2019



Operational Updates

- The [Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis \(CFSVA\)](#), conducted in 2018 was published in March 2019. This 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.
- Over 227,900 food and nutrition insecure people were reached with WFP food assistance in March. These include over 144,800 Burundian and Congolese refugees and asylum seekers in six camps and 83,100 Rwandan school going children in the most food insecure areas.
- WFP transferred US\$ 980,000 through cash-based 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 the local economy.
- About 772 mt of food commodities were distributed for refugees and school going children in March. Over 75 percent of food commodity requirements for WFP's assistance in Rwanda is purchased locally, including from smallholder farmers.
- The Ebola virus continues to spread in North-Kivu in DR Congo, and Rwanda remains at 'high' risk. WFP continues to provide assistance for national preparedness led by the Ministry of Health.
- WFP continues to support farmers by strengthening the 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.

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Photo caption: Congolese children in Gihembe refugee camp sharing food. Thanks to donors WFP continue to support about 150,000 refugees with monthly life-saving food assistance they continue to depend on. 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	3.2 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.

Monitoring

- The 2018 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) indicates a slight decrease of chronic malnutrition among children under five years of age and indicates that 81.3 percent of all households (about 2,034,942 households) are food secure and have an acceptable diet and use a low share of their budget to cover food needs. Among these, 38.6 percent (966,160 households) are considered marginally food secure, meaning that they are at high risk of becoming food insecure. In total, 18.7 percent (468,062 households) are food insecure: out of these, 1.7 percent (42,551 households) are severely food insecure. Moreover, only 17% of households have an acceptable diet.

Challenges

- WFP has recently received contributions from the Government of USA (USAID/Food for Peace), the Government of Japan, the European Commission and the Government of Canada to support refugees. However, the funding situation remains a concern, specifically for assistance to refugees for the second half of 2019.
- WFP needs **US\$ 3.2 million** in the next six months (April–September 2019) in order to implement its activities in Rwanda as planned. Of these, **US\$ 2.9 million are urgently needed** to ensure continuous food assistance to refugees for the next six months.
- If no additional resources are received soon, WFP will be forced to reduce refugee's food rations in the second half of 2019, 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. UN CERF).