



WFP Rwanda Country Brief APRIL 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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

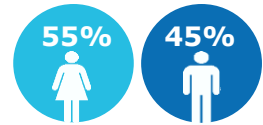
In Numbers

653 mt of food assistance commodities distributed

US\$ 973,100 cash-based transfers completed

US\$ 5.4 m six months (May- October 2019) net funding requirements, representing 62 percent of total requirements

230,200 people assisted in April 2019



Operational Updates

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 230,200 people including primary school students living in the four most impoverished and food-insecure districts of Rwanda and over 150,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Burundi and DR Congo. All camp-based refugees in Rwanda depend mainly on food and nutrition assistance provided by WFP in the form of cash transfers, in-kind food or a combination of the two. The most vulnerable members of refugee's population such as children, pregnant and breast-feeding mothers, and people living with HIV/AIDS and TB patients receive additional highly nutritious food supplements to improve their nutritional status.
- In April, WFP transferred US\$ 973,100 through cash-based transfers to refugees living in camps. This form of food assistance not only enables refugees to purchase foods of their choice from local markets and shops around the camps but also promotes the socio-economic inclusion of refugees while boosting the local economy. To further encourage self-reliance and economic inclusion, WFP supported refugees in Mugombwa camp and surrounding host communities to produce maize for household consumption and sales.
- Over 75 percent of food procured during April for WFP's assistance in Rwanda was purchased locally, including from smallholder farmers. Additionally, more than 650 mt of food commodities were distributed to refugees and school children in April.
- WFP supported smallholder farmers and continued building their capacity throughout the entire food value chain. With WFP support, more than 25,000 farmers participated in capacity building trainings during April and the supported farmers have been able to sell maize worth more than USD 1.26 million to formal private sector buyers since the beginning of the year.
- In addition to daily meals provided to students in 104 primary schools within Rwanda's four poorest and most food insecure districts, WFP also supports schools through water, sanitation and health activities. As a result, health-related absenteeism has dropped from eight percent in 2016 to less than one percent today.

Contact info: Emma Grylle (emma.grylle@wfp.org)

Country Director: Edith Heines

Photo caption: WFP provides daily school meal to primary school children in the poorest and most food insecure areas. School meals motivate students to return to school and contributes to increased academic performance and school attendance. Photo: WFP/JohnPaul Sesonga

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	5.4 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.

- 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.

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 two million 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 percent 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.
- Despite generous contributions from donors, WFP needs US\$ 5.4 million in the next six months (May–October 2019) to implement its activities in Rwanda as planned. However, WFP urgently needs **US\$ 4.8 million** to continue providing lifesaving food assistance to refugees in the next six months. Refugees are mainly dependent on humanitarian assistance. The most vulnerable receive additional nutritious food supplement from WFP.
- 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. Monitoring surveys show that refugees' food security deteriorated significantly when WFP was forced to deliver reduced rations in late 2017 through mid-2018.

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).