



Home-Grown School Feeding in Rwanda

BACKGROUND

WFP supports the Government of Rwanda (GoR) to provide daily school meals to 81,250 children in 104 schools in the four most vulnerable and food-insecure districts across the country.

The programme takes a holistic approach to improving access to and quality of primary education in Rwanda.

Apart from the provision of daily meals, consisting of porridge (CSB+ and sugar) or a combination of fortified maize, beans, salt and vegetable oil, WFP and its partners implement complementary activities at the supported schools in order to increase education outcomes among the targeted students.

These activities range from supporting teacher trainings, implementing literacy projects, building infrastructure, constructing school gardens and promoting access to clean water, among others.

Furthermore, in line with the GoR's home grown school feeding model in which all school feeding commodities would be produced locally in Rwanda, WFP works closely with smallholder farmer (SHF) cooperatives to build capacity for future supply to schools.

A cost-benefit analysis of the programme, conducted in 2017, demonstrates that the Home Grown School Feeding programme in Rwanda has been a very valuable investment.

Every US \$1 invested, brings an economic return of US \$4.80 from improved health, education and productivity.



Figure 1. HGSF districts: Rutsiro, Karongi, Nyamagabe, and Nyaruguru

WFP works closely with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources in implementing the programme, as well as with World Vision International and Gardens for Health International. The programme is currently funded by USDA - McGovern Dole and Mastercard.

RWANDA SNAPSHOT

RWANDA RANKS **158TH OUT OF 189** COUNTRIES ON THE 2018 UNDP HUMAN **DEVELOPMENT INDEX.**

59 PERCENT OF BOYS COMPLETE THEIR PRIMARY EDUCATION IN RWANDA, COMPARED TO **72 PERCENT** OF GIRLS

IN THE **FOUR DISTRICTS** OF NYAMAGABE, NYARAGURU, RUTSIRO, AND KARONGI, SCHOOL **ENROLMENT RATES ARE THE LOWEST COUNTRYWIDE**, WHILE POVERTY AND MALNUTRITION LEVELS REMAIN VERY HIGH

"I used to skip classes and stay at home to help my mother prepare food for a large family of 10 people. When I started to receive daily meals from WFP at school , I began to attend classes regularly"

Bodouine Amani, 13 ~ Kigeme



ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

The average primary school in Rwanda has only one toilet for every 57 students, while only 36 percent of schools have access to piped water. To improve hygiene and increase access to clean water at the targeted schools, additional infrastructure is constructed such as latrines, hand washing stations and water storage tanks.

IMPROVING GIRLS' ATTENDANCE

As female students traditionally miss school during their monthly cycles, a 'girls' room is constructed in each newly constructed latrine block. This room is equipped with sanitary pads, water, towels and a bed to be used during girls' monthly menstruation cycles. Sensitization campaigns conducted by school health clubs at all schools have helped to reduce menstrual-related absenteeism among girls. Female students now have access to a clean room where they can wash-up and return to class confidently.

LITERACY

Students in all 104 schools are benefitting from new reading materials and libraries, while teachers receive training to improve their teaching skills and knowledge. Reading capacity of the targeted students is expected to increase by 69 percent by the completion of the project.



SCHOOL GARDENS

School gardens have been established in all schools and are used as a platform for the provision of nutrition education to parents, teachers and students, teaching them how to prepare and adopt a balanced and nutritious diet for the household.

TRAINING AND SENSITIZATION

All cooks, administrators, teachers and district officials participate in quarterly capacity strengthening trainings that include a gender focus. This is especially important for teachers, as only 30 percent of the school staff are

female. Additionally, the parent teacher committees and cooks are encouraged by the programme to include at least 50 percent female participation.



FOOD PREPARATION EQUIPMENT

WFP has been constructing new kitchens and store rooms and providing energy-saving stoves in all 104 programme schools. To date, 80 schools have received new kitchens, store rooms and stoves, in addition to serving tools, thereby increasing access to improved hygiene. Additionally, 330 school cooks and storekeepers have been trained on safe food preparation and storage practices.



ACCESS TO PREVENTIVE HEALTH INTERVENTIONS

Digestive worm infections affect 65 percent of the population in Rwanda. With the objective to reduce health-related school absences, the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC), in collaboration with WFP, annually distributes deworming medication to all 83,500 children enrolled at the WFP supported schools.

SMALLHOLDER FARMER ENGAGEMENT

In an effort to support local economic development and smallholder farmers' access to markets and financial institutions, the programme purchases all the beans requirements from farmer cooperatives and smallholder farmer-friendly processors in Rwanda. With an exception to 2018 when there was a quality issue with the local maize meal processor, the programme purchases maize meal under the same conditions as beans. As such, the local purchase of different food commodities provides a profitable marketing opportunity for smallholder farmers, and is directly supporting the Rwandan economy. This activity is linked to WFP's Farm to Market Alliance initiative, where smallholder farmers are linked to local markets.

109,000 
Story books distributed

81,250  **49%**
Students supported  **51%**

15 million 
School meals provided annually

104 
Schools supported in four districts

Photos page 1 and 2: WFP/Photolibrary
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