



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Rwanda Country Brief MAY 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 140,000 Congolese and Burundian refugees. 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**

2018 Human Development Index: **158** out of **188**

Income Level: **Lower**

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

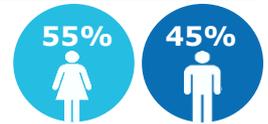
## In Numbers

**695 mt** of food assistance commodities distributed

**US\$ 973,200** cash-based transfers completed

**US\$ 6.8 m** six months net funding requirements, representing 55 percent of total requirements for the next six months (June- Nov 2019).

**229,500** people assisted in May 2019



## Operational Updates

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 229,500 people including refugees, asylum seekers, Rwandan returnees, school children under home-grown school feeding programme, and children from the host communities around the camps. WFP provides additional high nutritious food supplement to the most vulnerable men, women and children to improve their nutritional status. All camp-based refugees in Rwanda are mainly dependent on food and nutrition assistance provided by WFP in the form of cash transfers, in-kind food or a combination of the two.
- WFP made US\$ 973,200 cash transfers to over 140,000 camp-based refugees, permitting them to purchase food of their choice from food shops and markets within and around the camps. Cash transfers are provided to refugees through Equity Bank, WFP's financial service provider in Rwanda. WFP Rwanda is currently in the process of tendering a new contract for financial service providers, analysing technical and financial proposals of prospective financial service providers to manage cash-based transfers for the refugee operation in Rwanda.
- WFP provided daily meals to over 80,000 primary school going children in 104 schools located in poor and most food insecure areas in the western and southern Rwanda. WFP is engaging with the Ministry of Education for the development of an implementation plan for the national school feeding programme. A three-day inter-ministerial taskforce workshop is planned in early June to brainstorm ideas and ensure clear definitions of roles and responsibilities.
- WFP completed a US\$ nine million Zero Hunger Communities Project and this project was handed over to the local communities in the districts of Nyamagabe, Karongi and Rutsiro in the South and Western Rwanda. WFP Country Director, district authorities and the community members celebrated project success and signed a handover document outlining roles and responsibilities going forward.

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Photo caption: WFP provides high nutritious porridge to primary school children in refugee camps, children from the host communities whom attend schools in the camps are also part of the programme.

Photo: WFP/JohnPaul Sesonga

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>218.4 m</b>             | <b>15.5 m</b>                    | <b>6.8 m</b>                                |

### 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 Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) is currently being carried out in all refugee camps. Data collection has been completed, and the initial report is expected by the end of June 2019. Data collection for the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) is also on-going in all camps. PDM has been completed in Kigeme, Mugombwa and Kiziba without challenges.
- The Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA-2018) was published and distributed in April. It indicates a slight decrease of chronic malnutrition among children under five years from 38 to 35 percent, though still high as per WHO standards. The report also 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 (772,00 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

- Lack of sufficient resources remains a serious challenge to WFP operations in Rwanda, particularly for providing food and nutrition assistance to refugees. Despite generous contributions from donors, WFP still needs **US\$ 6.8 million** in the next six months (June-Nov 2019), more specifically, **US\$ 6.5 million** is urgently needed to continue providing lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to over 140,000 refugees. If no additional resources are received soon, WFP will be forced to reduce refugee's food rations in August 2019, which will affect the most vulnerable people, including children and breastfeeding mothers.
- If new funds are received, the main priority will be cash-based transfers and the purchase of high nutritious food (CSB+), and maize for refugees. The most vulnerable men, women and children are always prioritised when resources are scarce and especially when rations need to be reduced. 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).