



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Rwanda

Country Brief, June 2019



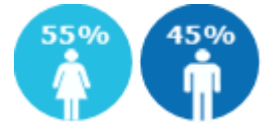
In Numbers

695 mt of food assistance commodities distributed

US\$ 969,500 cash-based transfers completed

US\$ 7.1 m six months net funding requirements, representing 65 percent of total requirements for the next six months (July- Dec 2019).

228,700 people assisted in June 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.



Operational Updates

- In June, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 228,700 people including refugees, asylum seekers, Rwandan returnees, and school children assisted under home-grown school feeding programme. The most vulnerable men, women and children in refugee camps received additional high nutritious food supplement 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.
- Over US\$ 970,000 cash was transferred to all camp-based refugees through their bank accounts, allowing them to purchase food of their choice from retailers and markets within and around the camps.
- WFP provided daily school meals to over 80,000 primary school going children in 104 schools located in some of the poorest and most food insecure areas in the western and southern provinces of Rwanda. WFP is engaging with the Ministry of Education for the development of an implementation plan for the national school feeding programme. A validation workshop will be conducted in July 2019 to approve the final document before presenting to the Permanent Secretary and Minister of Education.
- WFP was appointed as co-chair of the social security and short-term assistance subcommittee under the newly restructured national Social Protection Sector Working Group.
- Ebola virus continues to spread in North-Kivu region in DR Congo. On 14 July 2019, a confirmed case of an Ebola patient was reported in the town of Goma seven kilometres away from Rwanda's western boarder of Rubavu around lake Kivu, putting Rwanda at a 'very high' risk. WFP continues to provide assistance for national preparedness led by the Ministry of Health. Two Ambulances have been provided by WFP and deployed to Rubavu and Rusizi high priority districts. WFP continues to provide technical support on Logistics, supply chain and engineering to National Tasks force contingency plan for preparedness and response.

Population: **11.8 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **158** out of **189**

Income Level: **Lower**

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

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Photo caption: WFP provides food and nutrition assistance to all refugees in six camps. The most vulnerable men, women and children under five years receive additional nutritious food to boost their nutritional status. Photo: WFP/ Rein Skullerud

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	7.1 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

- Cash based transfers market monitoring inside and around refugee camps was completed in June 2019. Food prices generally increased compared to May 2019. However, the food basket cost remained lower than the transfer amount across camps. Market monitoring trends predicts increased food prices in the coming months due to recent below average seasonal harvests occasioned by localized droughts in the region.
- The Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS-2019) was conducted in refugee camps and the report is in the process of being validated. The draft report shows that global acute malnutrition remained within WHO acceptable threshold. There is reduction of stunting among children (between 6 and 59 months) in refugee camps. The report also shows an improved diet among children between six and twenty-three months since the restoration to full rations for refugees in July 2018. WFP assistance continues to improve the minimum meal frequency among refugee camp residents.

Challenges

Despite generous contributions from donors, funding constraints remains a challenge and continue to affect WFP operations in Rwanda. WFP needs US\$ 8.5 million representing 65 percent of total requirements needed for the next six months (August-December 2019) to be able to respond to food and nutritional needs of over 150,000 refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. If no additional resources are received, WFP will be forced to cut food rations by over 70 percent in September 2019. This will strongly affect men, women and children hosted in refugee camps and are mainly dependent on food assistance provided by WFP.

- 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).