



Operational Context

A small, landlocked country with a population of 12.1 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.

Moreover, Rwanda, hosts over 150,000 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: **12.1 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower**

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

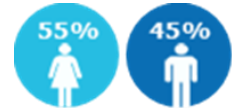
In Numbers

645 mt of food assistance commodities distributed

US\$ 967,500 cash-based transfers completed

US\$ 10.8 m six months net funding requirements, representing 50 percent of total requirements for the next six months (August 2019-January 2020).

0.3m people assisted in July 2019



Operational Updates

- Overview:** In July, WFP continued its operations and reached 229,400 targeted beneficiaries with food and nutritional assistance. These include 148,200 Burundian, Congolese refugees and asylum seekers hosted in six camps, and 81,200 school going children in primary schools located in the most food insecure areas. The most vulnerable men, women and children in camps received additional high nutritious food supplement to improve their nutritional status.
- Ebola Virus Outbreak:** In July 2019, three confirmed cases of Ebola virus were reported in the town of Goma, eastern DRC. Rwanda remains at high risk and the Ministry of Health has intensified surveillance at all ports of entry. WFP continues to provide technical support in logistics, supply chain and engineering. WFP is currently working jointly with UNICEF to fundraise for fully equipped and properly staffed 25 bed capacity Ebola Treatment Centre in Kigali.
- Tackling stunting:** In partnership with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), WFP is supporting the Government of Rwanda to address stunting using BCG's Smart Simplicity approach. The initiative more specifically focuses on reducing stunting among children under five years.
- Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue:** World Food Programme's Assistant Executive Director for partnerships, Ute Klamert together with other senior WFP colleagues will attend the Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue hosted by His Excellency President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda in cooperation with African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and The World Bank (WB) on 5-6 August 2019. The ambition of the event is to catalyse actions and financing to help address Africa's worsening food security crisis under climate change.

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	10.8 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

- **Monthly food security update:** Monthly cash-based transfers market monitoring shows a general price increase in July for all food commodities, except cooking oil. However, refugees were able to buy food from the markets since prices remained in the range of cash transfer value. The price increase is attributed to limited food supply as a result of below average harvest in season B (March-June 2019), and limited food movement from Uganda due to political differences between the two East African Community member countries.

- **Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS-2019):** was conducted in all refugee camps, and the report is in the process of being validated. The draft report shows that global acute malnutrition is 2.7 percent, which is, within WHO acceptable threshold. There is a 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. WFP assistance continues to improve the minimum meal frequency among refugee camp residents.

Challenges

- Although the Government of Rwanda and partners have been working on enhancing Rwanda's capacity to handle potential cases of Ebola outbreak in-country, significant work still needs to be completed in relation to preparedness. WFP has hired a stand-by partner to assist with Ebola related work.
- Despite generous contributions from donors, funding constraints remains a challenge and affect WFP operations in Rwanda. WFP needs US\$ 10.8 million representing 50 percent of total requirements needed for the next six months (August 2019-January 2020) to be able to respond to food and nutritional needs of all camp-based refugees. If no additional resources are received, WFP will be forced to cut food rations by over 20 percent in November 2019. Monitoring reports indicate that, previous ration reductions negatively affected refugees by reducing the minimum acceptable diet by 64 percent and increased anaemia by 11 percent among children aged 6-59 months. In addition, men and women resort to adopting negative coping mechanisms which affect the relationship with the host communities around the camps.

Story worth telling: School is the only hope for our future

School meals for refugee students in and round refugee camps in Rwanda is keeping young children at school. Older refugee students in university believe in school as a hope for self-reliance and ability to sustain themselves while in refugee camps, as well as when they will be back in their countries of origin. Yvette Dusabe, a 27-year-old university student at the Kepler University Programme in Kiziba camp, left the DRC when she was 13 years old, together with her parents and siblings. They left their home in Bukavu, South Kivu in 1996 when armed groups were killing people and burning homes in their neighbourhood.

Learn more about how refugee school meals is building refugee resilience [here!](#)

Donors

Belgium, Canada, DEVCO, ECHO, Japan, MasterCard, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, UN Common Funds and Agencies (excl. UN CERF), UK, USAID, USDA.