



WFP Rwanda Country Brief August 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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

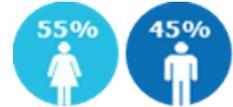
653 mt of food assistance commodities distributed

US\$ 1 m cash-based transfers completed

US\$ 16 m six months net funding requirements, representing 59 percent of total requirements for the next six months (September 2019-February 2020).

229,600 people assisted

In August 2019



Operational Updates

- Overview:** In August, WFP reached 229,600 targeted people with its continued food and nutritional assistance. These include 148,400 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.
- Local purchases:** in August, WFP procured a total of 10,900 mt of food commodities worth US\$ 12.2 million locally from Rwanda. These commodities will be used to provide assistance to people in need in Rwanda and in the region. So far, a total of 2,104 mt have been exported to WFP’s operations in Kenya and Uganda during August.
- Ebola Virus Outbreak:** As of 1 September 2019, according to WHO, the number of Ebola cases has increased to 3,036 confirmed cases and 2,045 confirmed deaths. 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, engineering and nutrition to support Ebola preparedness in Rwanda. WFP is currently working jointly with UNICEF to engage with partners to have fully equipped and properly staffed 25 bed capacity Ebola Treatment Centre in Kigali.
- Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue:** WFP high level delegation attended the Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue that took place in Kigali in August. The objective of the event was to catalyse actions and financing to support countries address Africa’s worsening food security crisis under climate change. [A jointly signed communique](#) from the conference called upon stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and scale up investment and policy response for food security in a changing climate.
- Assistance to small holder farmers:** Through Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA), WFP is testing an application to digitize transaction at the farmers’ cooperative level, to enhance transparency and efficiency of data collection for aggregation and sale of produce.

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Photo caption: With limited livelihood and income generating opportunities, refugees in six camps in Rwanda continue to rely on WFP’s cash-based transfers to meet their food requirements. *Photo:*

WFP/Noel Dukuzumuremyi

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
226.1 m	15.5 m	16 m

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Refugees, returnees and other crisis affected population 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.
- Provide food or cash, nutrition support and other assistance to local Rwandan populations in need of assistance, including through provision of WFP services to the Government of Rwanda and humanitarian agencies.

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.

Strategic Result 5: Global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 5: The Government of Rwanda and the humanitarian community is provided with adequate, timely, cost-efficient and agile supply chain services and expertise necessary to effectively respond to emergency crisis.

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Deliver supply chain services and expertise to enable all partners to provide assistance to affected population.

- **Monthly food security update:** Monthly monitoring shows stable price for all food commodities in July. Refugees were able to buy food from the markets since prices remained within the range of cash transfer value.
- **Fill the Nutrient Gap study:** Findings from the study indicate that at national level, though majority of households are food secure, their diets are dominated by energy dense staple foods and are substantially diversified. There is also a need to address sub-optimal complementary feeding practices. For the refugee context, findings showed that food accessed by refugees is low in essential micronutrients; the outstanding micronutrients would need to come from mainly animal source foods. To fill the gap, the report recommends facilitating livelihood and income earning opportunities as well as continuing community counselling on better use of cash transfers for food and preparing nutrient rich diet. [Full Report](#)
- **Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS-2019):** was conducted in all refugee camps. The draft report shows that global acute malnutrition remained within WHO acceptable threshold at 2.7 percent. It further showed a reduction of stunting levels among children in refugee camps. The report has been validated and dissemination will take place in October 2019.

Challenges

Funding: Despite generous contributions from donors, funding constraints remains a challenge: WFP needs US\$ 16 million for the next six months (September.2019-February 2020) to provide food assistance as needed. Of these **US\$ 9.5 million are urgently required** to ensure continuous food and nutritional assistance to refugees in six camps who rely on WFP assistance. If no additional resources are received, WFP will be forced to cut life-saving food rations by 20 percent in October 2019, putting refugees nutritional status at a higher risk.

Success story:

Smallholder farmers are empowered to sell more for more

Practical trainings delivered by the World Food Programme are helping smallholder farmers in rural areas to reduce post-harvest losses. More than 50,000 farmers have applied good farming and post-harvest methods to meet the food quality demanded by the market. [Full Article](#)

Donors

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

Monitoring