



WFP Rwanda Country Brief September 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 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: **12.1 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower**

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

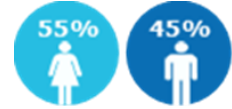
In Numbers

694 mt of food assistance commodities distributed

US\$ 989,900 cash-based transfers completed

US\$ 10.5 m six months net funding requirements, representing 61 percent of total requirements for the next six months (October 2019-March 2020).

229,100 people assisted
In September 2019



Operational Updates

- **Food and nutritional assistance:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to over 200,000 people, including refugees, vulnerable host population and school children from the most food insecure areas. In September, over US\$ 900,000 of cash was transferred to refugees and over 600 mt of assorted food commodities were distributed to refugees and primary school children.
- **Update outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD):** In September, WFP deployed a health advisor that carried out EVD training to over 270 staff and some partners. WFP has also provided over 40 multipurpose tents, ten chlorine mixers and two mobile storage to the Ministry of Health for the construction of isolation and holding areas in 15 priority districts bordering Eastern DR Congo. WFP continues to monitor the Ebola outbreak and to provide logistical support as required.
- **Nutrition:** WFP, Boston Consulting Group (BCG), One UN Nutrition Team and the National Early Childhood Programme (NECDP) are collaborating to accelerate the reduction of stunting in Rwanda using the smart simplicity approach developed by BCG. This collaboration aims at supporting the Government (NECDP) to achieve its target of reducing stunting to 19 percent by 2024 by identifying pain points, gaps and areas for improvement. The team is currently modelling the response to the gaps observed to ensure 'stunting-free' communities; incentivising the use of data for planning, programming and tracking progress towards stunting reduction; and improving multi-sectoral planning and coordination at national and sub-national levels.
- **Supply Chain:** In September, WFP implemented the *Last Mile Solution* approach to improve real time recording of food delivery. This solution enabled the strengthening of real time recording of food movement at the final delivery point for efficiency and use of accurate data for better planning, programming, and rapid supply chain decision making.

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Photo caption: WFP continues to support over 70,000 farmers across the country through Farm to Market Alliance in which smallholder farmers receive capacity building support on good agricultural practices, post-harvest handling and storage, linked to agricultural market and trained on cooperative governance. Farmers also receive facilitation support to access to formal financial services. Photo: WFP/Badre Bahaji

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	8.7 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.

Monitoring

- **Market monitoring inside and around refugee camps:** Regular food basket monitoring around and inside refugee camps indicated an increase in food prices by seven percent for maize grains and beans in September, compared to previous month (August 2019). The price increase was linked to lack of cheaper staple imports from neighbouring countries mainly Uganda, and lower market supply from household stocks incurred by poor performance of season B (April-August 2019). However, prices for rice, cooking oil and salt remained stable. Since refugee's food basket is mainly comprised of maize grains, beans, salt and oil, the price increase on cereals and beans is likely to affect food security situation for the most vulnerable refugees and may lead to refugees adopting negative coping mechanisms.
- **Home-grown school feeding monitoring:** This regular monitoring indicated a five percent increase in student's attendance rate from 92 to 97 percent in over 100 primary schools across the country. WFP provided daily school meals to over 81,000 primary school children in schools located in Rwanda's poorest and food insecure areas.

Challenges

- **Funding situation:** The refugee operation in Rwanda is facing a serious funding shortfall despite generous contributions from the donors. WFP needs US\$ 8.7 million or 61 percent of the total financial resources needed in the next six months (October 2019-March 2020) to meet food and nutritional needs of camp-based refugees. If no new funding is received in near future, WFP will be forced to reduce refugee's cash and food which may seriously affect food security situation of the refugee community. Most refugees have limited livelihood opportunities and are heavily dependent of WFP food assistance.

Success story:

The challenge of turning the land of a thousand hills into the land of plenty

WFP is helping farmers in Rwanda turn rolling hills into viable agricultural land. [Full Article](#)

Donors

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