



World Food Programme

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LIVES  
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LIVES

# WFP Rwanda Country Brief November 2019



## 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

**695 MT** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 845,500** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 16.6m** six months net funding requirements, representing 62 percent of total requirements for the next six months (December 2019-May 2020).

**216,100 people assisted**  
In November 2019



**WFP  
SAYS  
NO to  
GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE**

## Operational Updates

- **Food and Nutrition Assistance:** WFP provided food and nutritional assistance to 216,100 beneficiaries including 134,900 Congolese and Burundian refugees living in six refugee camps, and 81,200 primary school children from 104 schools located in the most food insecure areas.
- **Home-Grown School Feeding:** WFP participated in the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) programme steering committee chaired by the Permanent Secretary of Rwanda's Ministry of Education. Committee members agreed to establish a national technical working group to ensure coordination among different government institutions, private sector and development partners. During the steering committee, WFP noted its readiness to support the integration of school feeding indicators into the national school data management system, the use of iron-fortified beans in the school feeding programme, and the development of a nutritious menu for private and boarding schools.
- **Nutrition:** WFP supported the National Early Childhood Development Programme (NECDP) through a training of trainers for health care professionals to enhance capacity in four districts on maternal, infant and young child nutrition to address issues of stunting. A subsequent cascade training has been planned for December, which will target community health workers, together with the roll out of the innovative “length mat” to support the tracking of linear growth among infants and young children at the village level for early detection of growth faltering and stunting.
- The first phase of collaboration led by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) on the Smart Simplicity approach to accelerate the reduction of stunting ended after successfully modelling the concept of ‘stunting-free villages’ which included the roll out of innovative tools and recommendations to strengthen existing nutrition programmes, including enhanced use of data to inform counselling, and patient follow up. WFP together with BCG, One UN and NECDP will continue to explore funding opportunities to scale-up the results of this initial phase.
- **Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:** WFP signed a memorandum of understanding with Kilimo Trust, a regional organisation working on agriculture to continue supporting the government's strategy to commercialize the smallholder agricultural sector and enhance market linkages, primarily for beans. Two WFP-supported cooperatives were also linked to a private sector buyer offering premium prices for high quality beans.

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**Photo caption:** Female retailer in Mahama refugee camp explaining how she works with WFP on a mission with ECHO.

**Photo:** WFP/JohnPaul Sesonga

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
226.1 m	37.8 m	16.6 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.

- **Ebola Virus Disease (EVD):** WFP and partners participated in a government-led review to evaluate the current national EVD contingency plan. Final recommendations from this review are expected in December.
- **Supply Chain:** Due to heavy rains, the main road to Mahama camp was heavily damaged, affecting usual transport along with WFP's ability to deliver humanitarian relief commodities to the camp. A joint UNHCR-WFP road assessment was conducted to better understand the situation and develop solutions to achieve timely delivery and distribution of humanitarian assistance to refugees in Mahama camp. Spot rehabilitation is required on the short term. For the longer term, further investments are required to ensure continued access throughout the year.

## Monitoring

- **Market Monitoring:** November market monitoring from inside and around refugee camps indicated that the cost of purchasing a basic food basket across camps was on average 36 percent higher than the WFP transfer amount to beneficiaries. This was 22 percent higher than October, and 95 percent higher than November 2018. Food price increases were linked to import shortages, due to the existing border restrictions primarily between Rwanda and Uganda, as well as the ongoing lean season. However, the existing weakened purchasing power will likely gradually be alleviated upon the commencement of the harvest season, though could be impacted by localized floods leading to overall crop loss.
- **Joint Assessment Mission (JAM):** WFP and UNHCR launched the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) exercise with representation from various stakeholders. The objective of the JAM is to assess the current food security and nutrition situation for camp-based refugees and provide strategic direction for joint programming to enhance their capacities for improved self-reliance and meeting their basic food and other needs. The secondary data analysis was completed and the data collection process for primary data was initiated in November. The findings are expected in December.

## Challenges

- **Funding Situation:** WFP requires US\$ 16.6 million in the next six months (December 2019-May 2020) to meet food and nutritional needs of the most vulnerable people in Rwanda. Key contributions received in November, including from ECHO, USAID, and UKAID, allowed WFP to avoid ration cuts for refugees in December.
- WFP requires US\$ 2.1 million in this period to continue providing capacity strengthening support to national programmes that improve the nutrition status of targeted populations. Should no additional funding be secured, WFP's support to these programmes could be in jeopardy.

## 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. [Read full article](#)

**Donors:** Belgium, Canada, DEVCO, ECHO, Japan, MasterCard, Norway, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, UN Common Funds and Agencies (excluding UN CERF), UKAID, USAID, & USDA.