



WFP Rwanda Country Brief December 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**

2019 Human Development Index: **157 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower**

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

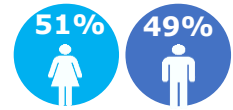
In Numbers

341 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 991,774 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 13.1 m six months net funding requirements, representing 58 percent of total requirements for the next six months (January-June 2020).

135,000 people assisted
In December 2019



Operational Updates

- **Food and Nutrition Assistance:** WFP reached over 135,000 people who are primarily Congolese and Burundian refugees living in camps with food and nutritional assistance. School feeding activities did not take place due to school holidays.
- **Social Protection:** WFP, UNICEF, FAO and government partners initiated a joint programme aimed at addressing the existing challenges affecting the delivery of social protection services to Rwanda's most vulnerable people. A technical committee meeting was conducted in December to discuss the planned activities and implementation in the first year. This joint programme is planned to be launched in January 2020. Each UN agency plans to apply its innovations and comparative advantage to better serve the government of Rwanda. WFP will focus on supporting the government respond to disasters, climate shocks and food security through national disaster preparedness and management plans and operational systems.
- **Home-Grown School Feeding:** WFP supported a high-level delegation from the Ministry of Education and the Office of the Prime Minister to attend the Global Child Nutrition Forum in Cambodia. This provided an opportunity for the Government of Rwanda to foster cross-country learning and sharing around school feeding best practices globally.
- WFP contributed to the drafting of the national school feeding policy and strategy, which is expected to be formally adopted by the Cabinet in early 2020. The policy contains a vision that all children in Rwanda achieve their full potential through sustainable school feeding.
- **Nutrition:** WFP participated in the 20th edition of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA), showcasing innovations through WFP's beneficiary and transfer management platform (SCOPE), sharing lessons learned and advocating for enhanced HIV-sensitive social protection programming.
- WFP and the Rwanda Biomedical Center conducted sensitisation campaigns, to raise awareness on HIV prevention among adolescent boys and girls, young men and women. Over 11,000 people were reached across the country.
- **Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:** A master training of trainers for post-harvest handling and storage and nutrition was conducted for NGO and government staff to prepare for the main harvest season in early 2020. A total of 55 participants will carry out onward training to 20,000 smallholder farmers in early 2020.

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Photo caption: Refugees in camps use e-cards to withdraw cash to purchase food in markets within or around the camps. This modality permits refugees to maximize their choice.

Photo: WFP/John Paul Sesonga

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
226.1 m	49.5 m	13.1 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:** December market monitoring from inside and around refugee camps indicated that the cost of purchasing a basic food basket across camps was on average 33 percent higher than the WFP transfer amount to beneficiaries. This was two percent lower than November, and 89 percent higher than December 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 in January 2020, although it could be impacted by localized floods leading to overall crop loss.
- **Joint Assessment Mission (JAM):** WFP and UNHCR continued to finalise the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in December, results are expected in January 2020. The joint assessment was launched in November assessing the food security and nutrition situation for camp-based refugees. The objective of this assessment is to provide strategic direction for joint programming to enhance capacities for improved self-reliance and meeting refugee’s basic food and other basic needs.

Challenges

- **Funding Situation:** WFP requires US\$ 13.1 million in the next six months (January-June 2020) to meet food and nutritional needs of the most vulnerable people in Rwanda. Of these, WFP urgently requires US\$ 1.9 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

Lessons in hope for refugees in Rwanda

Find a peek into Mahama refugee camp where over 60,000 refugees are benefiting from WFP assistance [here](#).



Lunch break at school in Mahama Camp — the largest refugee camp in Rwanda. Photo: WFP/Laurent Blime

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