



WFP Rwanda

Country Brief, January 2020

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 (38 percent according to the 2019 Global Nutrition Report for Rwanda). 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, according to UNHCR data, as of January 2020 Rwanda hosts 150,574 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: **38 percent** of children between **6-59 months**

In Numbers

458 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1,005,746 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 12.7m six months net funding requirements, representing 48 percent of total requirements for the next six months (February -July 2020).

233,822 people assisted
In January 2020



Operational Updates

Refugee Assistance: WFP reached 149,953 people with food assistance in January. These included 135,901 Congolese and Burundian refugees living in six camps, 850 returnees and 13,202 host community. Congolese refugees received full cash assistance, a combination of cash and in kind was provided to Burundian refugees, returnees were supported with full in kind and school feeding for both refugee and host community children.

The refugee physical verification exercise conducted by UNHCR and the Ministry of Emergency Management in Mahama camp was concluded. Results indicated a decrease in the number of refugees from over 173,000 in January 2018 to 150,594 refugees in January 2020. The exercise consisted of verifying and updating individual refugee registration records.

The upcoming presidential election in Burundi in May could potentially trigger an influx of additional refugees into neighbouring countries, including Rwanda. In preparation for this, humanitarian agencies in collaboration with MINEMA are developing a contingency plan to support an influx of up to 30,000 refugees. WFP in tandem is also developing a resource mobilisation strategy to support emergency food requirements for nine months, should an influx occur.

Social Protection: WFP, UNICEF and FAO in collaboration with the Government launched a joint programme on "Accelerating Integrated Policy interventions to Promote Social Protection in Rwanda". The programme, funded by the SDG Funds aims to develop innovative social protection solutions to address the identified gaps at the policy, system and community levels in order to support the Government's efforts for integrated social protection to end poverty. The programme contributes to SDG 2 targets, the United Nations Development Plan and is aligned with the Government's National Strategy for Transformation.

Home-Grown School Feeding: With the start of a new academic year, WFP added three new schools in Karongi District to its school feeding programme, bringing the number of WFP supported school to 107, reaching approximately 83,900 boys and girls with nutritious meals during each school day. The Additional schools were added to reach children that were shifted to new schools due to overcrowding.

WFP facilitated a workshop with government to incorporate new school feeding indicators into the existing school data management information system, aimed at increasing the robustness of school feeding-related programme data collection.

WFP's Executive Director Mr. David Beasley met with Honourable Minister of Education, Mr. Eugene Mutimura to discuss the partnership between WFP and the Government of Rwanda on school feeding and how it can address existing Human Capital challenges.

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Photo caption: Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Eugene Mutimura (L) and WFP Executive Director, Mr. David Beasley (R) discussing the future of school feeding in Rwanda. Photo: 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	54.3 m	12.7m

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.

Nutrition: WFP supported the Rwanda Biomedical Center to develop mentorship guidelines on acute malnutrition. The guidelines will be used by stakeholders at all levels to mentor health staff in order to improve service delivery in the management of acute malnutrition.

WFP supported the National Early Childhood Development Program (NECDP) to conduct a training on the use of length mats for over 7000 community health workers. This is in line with the efforts to initiate length measurements at the community level for children under two years old to promote early detection of child stunting, enhance nutrition service delivery and increase coverage of nutrition services for improved infant and young children nutrition.

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support: In preparation for the harvest period, WFP supported the government and cooperating partners to conduct trainings on post-harvest handling and nutrition to smallholder farmers. Ongoing deliveries of both maize and beans to contracted buyers will continue throughout May 2020.

Monitoring

Market monitoring inside and around refugee camps: Regular food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated that the average cost for buying a basic food basket was 17 percent higher than WFP's cash transfer amount and 12 percent less compared to December 2019. This was 54 percent higher than January 2019. Food price increases were linked to import scarcity, due to existing border issues primarily between Rwanda and Uganda. However, the harvest season is expected to ease the existing weakened purchasing power, although it could be impacted by localized floods that took place in late 2019. WFP is conducting further analysis on the effect of food prices on household food consumption; preliminary findings highlight that food prices influence household food consumption in terms of the diversity and quantity of food consumed.

Joint Assessment Mission (JAM): In order to provide strategic direction for refugee assistance targeting and prioritization, WFP and UNHCR conducted a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) exercise to assess the current food security and nutrition situation in the refugee camps. The exercise was concluded in December 2019 and findings revealed that household food expenditures remained high (72 percent) and about one third of non-food expenditures went to repaying loans taken to meet food needs. Road access to refugee camps also remains a challenge, particularly for Kiziba, Mahama and Mugombwa camps.

Challenges

Funding Situation: WFP requires US\$ 12.7 million in the next six months (February-July 2020) to be able to implement planned activities, particularly for food and nutrition assistance to refugees in Rwanda.

Of the US\$12.7 million WFP urgently needs US\$ 1.7 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 at risk.

Success story

Learn more about how WFP is supporting thousands of children across Rwanda through school feeding [here](#).

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