



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Rwanda Country Brief April 2020



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 March 2020 Rwanda hosts 148,268 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

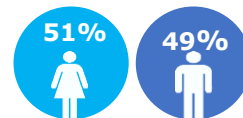
In Numbers

196. MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1,092,665 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 14.8 m six months net funding requirements, representing 43 percent of total requirements for the next six months (May - October 2020).

137,088 people assisted
in April 2020



Operational Updates

COVID-19 Preparedness & Response: WFP continued prioritising life-saving operations of providing emergency food and nutrition assistance to refugees while adhering to Government restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19.

The Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) formally requested **WFP's support for three-months emergency food and nutrition assistance to over 16,000 vulnerable People Living with HIV (PLHIV)** in Rwanda who are impacted by COVID-19 this support is critical to ensure adequate uptake of antiretroviral therapy. WFP is advocating for additional resources to support this vulnerable group; US\$ 540,000 is required to ensure assistance for three months. Food and nutrition support for PLHIV is particularly critical to ensure adequate uptake of antiretroviral therapy.

Refugee Assistance: WFP reached over 137,000 people with food assistance in April, including 74,500 Congolese refugees, 62,600 Burundian refugees and 16 returnees. Due to travel restrictions in place, no new returnees were received during the month of April. WFP implemented a number of measures to minimize the risk of refugee exposure to COVID-19 including reduction of the number of food distributions for its nutrition programme from twice a month to once a month, and providing full cash based transfers to Burundian refugees in Mahama camp instead of the hybrid modality of cash and in-kind food.

Social Protection: In line with its strategic focus on social protection, WFP continued to engage in discussions with development partners including the government to support the most vulnerable with emergency cash transfers as a part of the national social protection COVID-19 response.

School Feeding: School closure has been extended to September 2020, over 10,000 refugees and host community children are missing out on school feeding. The Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme is also on hold.

WFP contributed to the \$10 million grant proposal for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to support COVID-19 response in the education sector, which was subsequently approved and will be managed by the Government and the World Bank. WFP will provide technical support for the school feeding elements of this partnership.

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Photo caption: A refugee in Mahama camp preparing a stew for her family's lunch:
WFP/Emily Fredenberg

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
226.1 m	61.2 m	14.8 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.

Nutrition: A decline in the coverage of nutrition services particularly growth monitoring and promotion was reported by the Government following restrictions on movement and gatherings to curb the spread of COVID-19. An ad-hoc sub-committee including WFP and other partners was established to support the Government to enhance nutrition data management to inform timely decision making and minimise the impact of the pandemic on nutrition services and programmes.

Collaboration between the Government, the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), One UN agencies and other partners on the “Smart Simplicity” approach to reduce stunting continued with the development of a scale-up plan and budget based on lessons learnt from the pilot phase in Rambura sector.

WFP conducted a Mobile Vulnerability Assessment and mapping (mVAM) survey to gather feedback from caregivers, community health workers and village leaders aimed to refine the “stunting-free village model” and tools such as the mother and child scorecard for the “Smart Simplicity” approach.

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support: As part of the COVID-19 Development Partners (DP) group for food security and agriculture activities, a technical team was established with the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) to discuss issues related to the COVID-19 response in the agriculture sector. WFP acts as secretariat for this technical group.

Supply Chain: Despite current transport related challenges due to COVID-19, WFP continues to work with supply chain actors at both country and regional level to ensure timely food delivery.

Monitoring

Market monitoring: Regular food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated the average price of a basic food basket in April 2020 was four percent higher than the previous month and three percent less than the WFP transfer amount. Prices were still 27 percent higher than April 2019 and 40 percent higher than April 2018. Additionally, localized floods caused crop damage and loss, which will likely affect overall production for the March-May 2020 harvest season, resulting in possible food price increases in the coming months.

WFP continues to assess the effects of COVID-19 on food prices and the food security implications through its regular price monitoring system. In order to better understand the extent to which COVID-19 will affect food and nutrition security throughout Rwanda, WFP is currently conducting a market and supply chain analysis to inform COVID-19 response. WFP aims, with additional funding to set up a more robust monitoring system.

Challenges

Funding Situation: WFP needs US\$ 11.1 million in the next six months (May-October 2020) to be able to implement planned activities. US\$ 5.3 million is urgently required during this period to ensure continued humanitarian food and nutrition assistance to refugees. **Should additional funding not be received, WFP will be forced to impose ration reductions from July 2020 onwards**

Success Story

Learn about how WFP cash assistance allows food choice for Burundian refugee's in Rwanda [Here](#)

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