



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Rwanda Country Brief May 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.



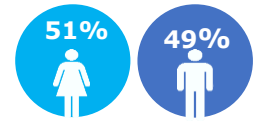
## In Numbers

585 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1,069,770 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 15 m six months net funding requirements, representing 59 percent of total requirements for the next six months (June - November 2020).

136,750 people assisted  
in May 2020



## Operational Updates

**COVID-19 Preparedness & Response:** Government measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 were reviewed on 18 May, allowing resumption of public and private services, including the reopening of markets with essential staff.

From 28 May 2020, WFP began facilitating passenger aviation services between Kigali International Airport and Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, as a part of WFP Passenger Air Services, managed by WFP's headquarters. The Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority (RCAA) authorized the services to facilitate weekly flights operated by Ethiopian Airways, available to the diplomatic community and humanitarian workers until commercial flights resume. Flights can be booked by contacting [covid19.aviationglobal@wfp.org](mailto:covid19.aviationglobal@wfp.org).

**Refugee Assistance:** WFP reached 136,750 people with food assistance in May, including 74,625 Congolese refugee, 62,109 Burundian refugees, and 16 returnees in Kijote transit center. School feeding activities in camps are suspended, as schools remain closed until September.

WFP provided all refugees with **two months of general food assistance (covering May and June)** to further minimize risk of refugee exposure to COVID-19. Normal monthly distributions are expected to resume in July. WFP adjusted food distributions for its nutrition programme from twice a month to once a month. WFP also provided a one-time in-kind distribution of Super Cereal to all refugee households as an additional safety net during the COVID crisis.

**WFP strengthened its Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM)** to ensure reported gender and protection issues are adequately addressed by WFP and partners. This effort was also in response to the potential increase in protection risks as a result of the lockdown measures. As part of this process, WFP updated the current CFM case collection template to strengthen recording and follow up of protection issues as well as enhance proper referral pathways.

The 2020 Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SEN) originally planned for May 2020 was postponed to May 2021 due to COVID-19 movement restrictions. However, WFP initiated a remote nutrition survey to assess the situation on key nutrition indicators in refugee camps, including infant and young child feeding indicators to help provide indications of the nutrition situation and the impacts of COVID-19.

The Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA) and UNHCR, along with WFP and other humanitarian actors participated in a joint assessment of the permanent site and reception centres identified to host any potential refugee influx from Burundi. A contingency plan was prepared in January 2020, to respond to any increased needs.

Population: 12.1 million

2019 Human Development Index: 157 out of 189

Income Level: Lower

Chronic malnutrition: 38 percent of children between 6-59

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Photo caption: WFP-supported farmers providing support to vulnerable community members impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown/pascal habumugisha

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
226.1 m	61.2 m	15 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 &amp; 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.

**Social Protection:** WFP is engaging in a Joint Programme to support the Government's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan led by the UN Resident Coordinator's office. WFP is contributing through Development Partner groups on social protection, food security & agriculture, and economic recovery, and has proposed actions to support those affected most by COVID-19.

**Home-Grown School Feeding (HGFS):** WFP supported the Government with an updated model of menu designs appropriate for the planned universal coverage of the school feeding programme by the government. The menu designs consider age and gender specific nutrition needs, local availability of different nutritious foods as well as prices. These designs build on the government's preferred model enabling schools to purchase food locally so as to boost the local economy.

**Nutrition:** WFP in collaboration with other stakeholders supported the Government to develop "Guidelines for nutrition services during infectious diseases outbreaks". These guidelines provide guidance to community health workers and health care professionals on provision of nutrition screening services and the management of acute malnutrition during outbreaks of infectious diseases.

WFP and other One UN agencies supported the Government to initiate the scale-up of the Smart Simplicity approach to reduce stunting in the Rambura sector, in Nyabihu district. WFP continued to collect data remotely from the pilot village to gain insights on constraints for achieving adequate nutrition for children. These insights have supported the revision of tools and processes for the scale-up.

## Monitoring

**Market monitoring inside and around refugee camps:** Regular food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated the average price of a basic food basket in May 2020 was eight percent less than April 2020 and eleven percent below the WFP transfer amount. May 2020 prices were nine percent higher than May 2019 and 29 percent higher than May 2018. Overall, dry bean prices reduced by 17 percent on average across all camps owing to the availability of fresh harvests from season B 2020. However, atypical heavy rains in early 2020 affected the overall bean production which will reduce bean supply from local producers resulting in a possible further increase in prices.

## Challenges

**Funding Situation:** WFP requires US\$ 15 million for the next six months (June-November 2020) to be able to implement planned activities. Of this, US\$ 7.6 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-supported farm cooperatives supported vulnerable community members impacted by COVID-19 [here](#).

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