

WFP Rwanda

Country Brief

June 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 May 2020 Rwanda hosts 148,938 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**

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Photo caption: Refugee in Mahama carrying take-home ration of fortified blended food for her children during COVID-19 lockdown/Bosco Muyinda

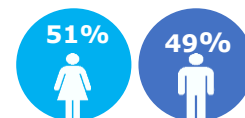
In Numbers

292.9 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1,089,902 cash-based transfers

US\$ 16 m six months net funding requirements, representing 62 percent of total requirements for the next six months (July - December 2020).

136,750 people assisted in June 2020



Operational Updates

- **COVID-19 Preparedness and Response:** WFP continued prioritising life-saving operations by providing emergency food and nutrition assistance to refugees while adhering to Government guidelines to curb the spread of COVID-19.
- **Refugee Assistance:** WFP reached 136,750 people with food assistance in June, including 74,625 Congolese refugees, 62,109 Burundian refugees, and 16 returnees in Kijote transit centre. School feeding activities in camps were not implemented as schools remain closed until September 2020, affecting approximately 48,000 refugee children and around 11,000 host community children attending the same schools with refugee children who usually benefit from school feeding.
- To protect refugees from exposure to COVID-19, the Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA) enforced lockdown measures on 16 June 2020 in Mahama and Kigeme refugee camps due to their proximity to the porous borders with Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the increase in COVID-19 cases as a result of cross border movements. Movements in and out Mahama and Kigeme refugee camps are restricted as the two are deemed at high risk of COVID-19 transmission. Only essential movements and services are allowed in Mahama and Kigeme Camps.
- WFP continued implementing monthly food distributions for its nutrition programme within refugee camps. Distributions were reduced from twice a month to once a month to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- WFP complaint and feedback (CFM) field monitors were trained on how to respond to cases reported by refugees, including Gender Based Violence (GBV), child abuse and protection issues that may arise due to the economic and social stresses triggered by the COVID-19 crisis.
- **Social Protection:** With the government's easing of lockdown measures, WFP, UNICEF and FAO, and partners in the joint programme on social protection, are working to repurpose the programme's activities in line with COVID-19 social protection needs after consultation with the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC).
- WFP has started a community-based participatory planning (CBPP) process in seven districts. The CBPP which is a programme planning tool for communities, governments and partners will identify and prioritize activities that will be implemented as part of WFP's resilience and social protection activities contributing to the government's COVID-19 recovery plan. The CBPP process is being conducted while adhering to COVID-19 preventive measures.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
226.1 m	61.3	16

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.

- **Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF):** WFP is engaging closely with the education technical working group to support the government in the implementation of its school reopening strategy which includes the provision of school feeding as an incentive for children to return to school when schools reopen in September 2020.
- The government of Rwanda has approved a central budget for the scale up of the national school feeding programme to 2.9 million pre-primary, primary and secondary students once schools reopen in September 2020. WFP will provide technical support throughout the scale-up process.
- **Nutrition:** Following the easing of COVID-19 related restrictions, WFP and partners initiated the scale-up of the Smart Simplicity approach to reduce stunting in Rwanda. The remote baseline survey and training of stakeholders including community health workers and local authorities were concluded as part of the scale-up process in Rambura sector in Nyabihu district. Preliminary findings from the baseline survey indicate low understanding of causes and prevention of stunting amongst community health workers and local authorities, highlighting the need for strengthened national efforts on stunting reduction. The roll out of tools such as the mother and child scorecard in Rambura sector will begin in July 2020.
- **Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:** WFP is engaging with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) to support the revision of government’s post-harvest strategy as part of Development Partner technical team. The revision of the strategy was identified as one of the key policy priorities for MINAGRI as elaborated in their annual forward-looking Joint Sector Review.

Monitoring

- **Market monitoring inside and around refugee camps:** Regular food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated that the average price of a basic food basket in June 2020 was four percent higher than in May 2020 and seven percent below the WFP transfer amount. Prices were still 14 percent higher than June 2019 and 34 percent higher than June 2018. On average beans prices increased by fourteen percent across all six camps as stocks from season B 2020 harvest continued to reduce. Atypical heavy rains affected the overall seasonal bean production; therefore bean prices will likely increase due to reduced supply from local producers. Forty three percent of interviewed traders foresee unusually low supply of beans which may impact prices in the coming months.

Challenges

- **Funding Situation:** WFP requires US\$16 million for the next six months (July-December 2020) to be able to implement planned activities. Of this, US\$ 1.7 million is urgently required during 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 about how take-home rations help ensure refugee children have something to eat amidst COVID-19 as they wait for school reopening in Rwanda [here](#).

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