



# WFP Rwanda Country Brief July 2020

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 June Rwanda hosts 149,149 refugees, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. 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

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Photo caption: Community members in Karongi district in western Rwanda identifying key livelihood opportunities, including areas in need of terracing to increase community resilience as a part of WFP’s community-based participatory process (CBPP), Photo/JohnPaul Sesonga

## In Numbers

**227.814 MT** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 1,085,256** cash-based transfers

**US\$ 18 m** six months net funding requirements for the next six months (August 2020 -January 2021).

**138,036 people** assisted  
in July 2020



## Operational Updates

**Refugee Assistance:** WFP reached 138,036 refugees with food assistance in July, including 74,985 Congolese refugees, 62,980 Burundian refugees, and 71 asylum seekers hosted in Kijote Transit Centre. School feeding activities in the camps were not implemented as schools remain closed. However, nutrition activities for vulnerable groups continued to be implemented.

On 24 July 2020, a meeting was convened by the Ministry of Health (MoH) to assess the COVID-19 situation in refugee camps. An agreement was reached to apply additional measures in all refugee camps to curb the spread of the virus. These include activating lockdown, set up of COVID-19 treatment centers in and around refugee camps, and the deployment of health personnel to manage the treatment centers. A taskforce team comprised of MoH, Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA), Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) and UNHCR will ensure the implementation of these measures.

WFP began providing food assistance to over 500 refugees in designated quarantine sites in refugee camps. Refugees returning to camps from other locations are placed in designated quarantine sites for observation and COVID-19 tests. They are allowed to enter the camps once they have received a negative COVID-19 test.

**Social Protection:** WFP undertook a Community-Based Participatory Process (CBPP) – a programme planning tool for communities, governments and partners. The process aimed to develop community development plans for the next five years in 10 sectors of 7 districts. The analysis of livelihood challenges, opportunities and prioritization of activities from the CBPP sessions will be used as a part of WFP’s resilience and social protection activities as well as inform the government’s social protection programming at the local level.

**Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF):** The second National School Feeding Technical Working group co-chaired by WFP and the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) took place in July. This brought together representative from governments, NGOs, and development partners. The meeting focused on the scale up of the national school feeding programme once schools reopen. A National School Feeding Steering Committee was also approved, and four sub-task forces were established which will focus on key priority areas to support the roll out of the programme scale-up.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
250.6 m	61.3	18 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:** 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 with the roll-out of the mother and child score card tools in the Rambura sector of Nyabihu district. This was implemented in collaboration with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) alongside the National Early Childhood Development Program (NECDP). The roll-out in Rambura sector is expected to be finalized in August 2020.

**Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:** WFP began supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources to update its post-harvest and agro-processing strategy, in collaboration with Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other stakeholders.

In preparation for the upcoming main agricultural season, WFP began conducting pre-season assessments to identify smallholder farmer’s needs ahead of planting season in September 2020. WFP also began pre-implementation assessments for a cross-border programme, aimed at encouraging trade and shared prosperity between border communities of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The programme will be implemented jointly with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and FAO.

Monitoring

**Outcome Monitoring:** According to the June 2020 post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey, the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted both refugee household food consumption and dietary diversity, which fell to unprecedented levels in June 2020. Food consumption scores fell from 80 percent in November 2019 to 76 percent in June 2020, the lowest value ever recorded. Households with a low dietary diversity score increased from 12 percent in November 2019 to 16 percent in June 2020. Additionally, in June 2020, 43 percent of households borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives and 25 percent of households restricted food consumption by adults so that small children could eat.

**Market monitoring inside and around refugee camps:** Regular food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated that the average price of a food basket was 4 percent higher in July 2020 than in June and 3 percent below the WFP transfer value. In July 2020, prices were 5 percent higher than July 2019 and 42 percent higher than July 2018. Dry bean prices stabilized across camps while maize grain prices fluctuated throughout the country. Increased demand from schools in September, compounded with household stock depletion is expected to drive staple commodity prices up in the coming months, if more affordable imports are not available to bridge the gap.

Challenges

**Funding Situation:** WFP requires US\$ 18 million for the next six months (August 2020-January 2021) to be able to implement planned activities. Of this, 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 introduce ration reductions from October 2020 onward.

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