



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Rwanda Country Brief August 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 August 2020 Rwanda hosts 147,474 refugees, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. Many refugees have been in the country for decades 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**

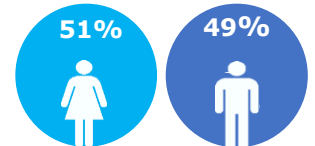
In Numbers

223.212 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1,061,305 cash-based transfers

US\$ 19 m six months net funding requirements, representing 68 percent of total requirements for the next six months (October 2020 - March 2021).

138,236 people assisted in August 2020



Operational Updates

- **Refugee Assistance:** WFP reached 138,236 people with food assistance in August, including 75,202 Congolese refugees, 63,018 Burundian refugees, and 16 returnees. School feeding activities in camps were not implemented as schools remain closed due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- On 13 August 2020, a tripartite technical meeting on the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in Rwanda was organized between the Government of Rwanda, Government of Burundi, and UNHCR, to discuss and agree on practical modalities of the repatriation and reintegration process. This was a revitalization of the 2005 Tripartite Agreement. On 27 August 2020, the first convoy of 493 voluntary repatriated Burundian refugees departed from Mahama camp. Refugees received hot meals from WFP before departure. UNHCR estimates that 8,000 Burundian refugees will repatriate in 2020.
- **Social Protection:** In consultation with the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC), WFP together with UNICEF and FAO modified certain planned activities under the joint programme on “Accelerating Integrated Policy interventions to Promote Social Protection in Rwanda”. Discussions included new COVID-19 social protection needs, channelling additional resources to community-level activities for resilience, and graduation from poverty. WFP’s community-based participatory planning (CBPP) exercise conducted in July 2020 informed the selection of activities based on community consultations. Activities are planned to start in the last quarter of 2020 throughout 2021 and will be implemented in Karongi, Burera, Nyamagabe, Kirehe, and Rutsiro districts.
- **Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF):** WFP provided technical support towards the creation of the Ministry of Education’s (MINEDUC) new School Feeding Unit, through the development of terms of reference for the new positions. Further, WFP facilitated a workshop with key government stakeholders to review and endorse the new School Feeding Operational Guidelines.
- **Nutrition:** WFP supported the National Early Childhood Development Programme (NECDP) along with One UN nutrition agencies, the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and other partners, to finalize the scale-up of the “Smart Simplicity stunting free village model” in 42 new villages.

Contact info: Emily Fredenberg (emilyjean.fredenberg@wfp.org)

Country Director: Edith Heines

Photo caption: A community healthcare worker (CHW) using the child scorecard, a guiding tool of the “Smart Simplicity stunting free village model”. Photo: WFP/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	66.0 m	19 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.

- Tools rolled out include the mother and child scorecard enabling individualized child tracking, empowering caregivers, community healthcare workers and community leaders to provide tailored interventions to address malnutrition among young children, particularly stunting. NECDP is leading the national scale-up of the "Smart Simplicity stunting free village model" starting the roll-out with 13 new districts in September 2020.

- **Nutrition (Cont'd):** WFP provided technical and financial support to the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) to revise the "National Nutrition Guidelines for People Living with HIV" which incorporates a chapter dedicated to adolescents with HIV. These guidelines are planned to be disseminated in the last quarter of 2020.

- **Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:** Yara, a Norwegian fertilizer company and Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) private sector partner donated 2,500 mt of fertilizer to the government, to be distributed to vulnerable smallholder farmers affected by COVID-19. WFP is providing warehousing support for the donated fertilizer. Sixty-five percent of the fertilizer has already been received in-country, and distribution to farmers and their cooperatives has commenced.
- WFP is conducting a mapping of all animal resources post-harvest handling and storage facilities in the country, in support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI)'s revision of the post-harvest and agro-processing strategy, planned to be finalized by the end of 2020.

Monitoring

- **Outcome Monitoring:** Results from a June 2020 remote nutrition survey conducted by WFP in and around refugee camps indicated a decline in the coverage of nutrition and health interventions particularly vitamin A supplementation, which fell below the SPHERE target of ≥ 90 percent. This decline was primarily due to the postponement of the national biannual Maternal and Child Health week due to the pandemic. Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition indicators such as exclusive breastfeeding rates also declined to 70 percent in 2020 compared with 93 percent in 2019. Complementary feeding indicators largely declined including timely introduction of solid, semi-solid and soft foods. Breastfeeding rates at 1 year and 2 years improved.
- **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 August 2020 was 1 percent higher than in July 2020 and 2 percent below the WFP transfer amount. Prices in August 2020 were still 5 percent higher than August 2019 and 51 percent higher than August 2018. The price for dry beans increased across camps and maize grain prices generally declined, while prices for other key staples such as local maize flour and imported rice remained stable.

Challenges

- **Funding Situation:** WFP requires US\$ 19 million for the next six months (September 2020-February 2021) to be able to implement planned activities. Of this, US\$ 11.7 million is urgently required during this period to ensure continued humanitarian food and nutrition assistance to refugees. ***Should additional funding not be received for November 2020 onward, WFP will be forced to impose ration reductions on general food assistance for all refugees.***

Success Story

- Learn more about the scale-up of the "Smart Simplicity stunting free village model", and how WFP and partners are supporting the government to tackle malnutrition [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.