



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Rwanda Country Brief September 2020



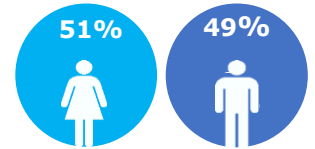
In Numbers

439.360 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 941,405 cash-based transfers

US\$ 16.2 m six months net funding requirements, representing 61.2 percent of total requirements for the next six months (October 2020 - March 2021).

137,552 people assisted
in September 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 September 2020 Rwanda hosts 147,889 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



Operational Updates

- Refugee Assistance:** WFP reached 137,552 people with food assistance in September, including 75,254 Congolese refugees, 62,282 Burundian refugees, and 16 returnees. School feeding activities in camps were not implemented as schools remain closed due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Following the Government's easing of COVID-19 movement restrictions, total lockdown measures that had been put in place in Kigeme camp since late July were lifted. Movements restrictions in and around refugee camps continue to be enforced and refugees returning to camps are hosted in designated quarantine sites for observation. Refugees are allowed to re-enter respective refugee camps after confirmation of negative COVID-19 test. WFP continues to provide food assistance to over 500 refugees in designated quarantine sites situated in and around refugee camps.
- The voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees continued in September with two additional convoys that departed on 10 and 24 September 2020. From 27 August until end of September 2020, over 1,500 Burundian refugees had repatriated. According to UNHCR's planning figures, 8,000 Burundian refugees are planned to voluntarily repatriate by end December 2020, and an additional 40,000 by the end of 2021.
- Social Protection:** WFP officially started the Sustainable Market Alliance and Assets creation for Resilient Communities and Gender Transformation (SMART) project. The three-and-a-half-year initiative will focus on developing climate-resilient community assets such as land terraces, rehabilitated marshland, and improved small-scale irrigation systems. These will build community resilience to natural shocks such as drought, flooding, and landslides. To complement this, farmers will be provided with agricultural inputs, training, and support to better access markets in order to generate sustainable improvements in livelihoods and food security. Over 180,000 people will benefit from the project in five districts. WFP will implement the SMART project in partnership with Good Neighbours International and Duhamic-Adri.

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: Refugee child in Mahama camp having dinner, awaiting transfer with his family before voluntarily repatriating back to Burundi. Photo: UNHCR/Nadine Bukuru

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
250.6 m	66.5 m	16.2 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.

- **Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF):** Following the approval of a new phase of funding from the United States Department of Agriculture's McGovern-Dole programme, WFP will continue implementing the Home-Grown School Feeding programme through the end of 2025. This new funding will allow WFP to expand the programme to pre-primary students, to cover an additional 28 schools in 3 new districts in 2021; bringing the total number of WFP supported schools to 135. As a result, an additional 28,700 school going children will benefit from the programme, contributing to their improved nutrition and education outcomes.

- According to the 25 September 2020 Cabinet meeting resolutions, schools are expected to resume with a gradual reopening in November based on the levels of education. WFP is planning accordingly to ensure the HGSF programme is operational as soon as schools reopen.

- **Nutrition:** WFP is a member of the Rwanda Standards Board Technical Committees on "Cereals, pulses, legumes" (RSB/TC 003) and "Milk and milk products" (RSB/TC004). In this, WFP has supported the drafting of various codes of practice and standards including codes of practice on "Prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cereals" and "Prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts". The draft standards and codes of practice will provide guidance to actors in the food industry to ensure improvements in food safety and quality. The standards have been advertised for public review. WFP will be part of the final review scheduled in October 2020 to incorporate comments from the public review as well as editing of six standards on milk and milk products.

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 September 2020 was 7 percent higher than in August 2020 and 5 higher than the WFP transfer amount. Prices in September 2020 were also 5 percent higher than in September 2019 and 59 percent higher than in September 2018. Maize grain prices increased by approximately 10 percent across all camps, while prices for other key staples such as local maize flour and imported rice remained stable.

Challenges

- **Funding Situation:** WFP requires US\$ 16.2 million for the next six months (October 2020- March 2021) to be able to implement planned activities. Of this, US\$ 10.6 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.***