



# WFP Rwanda Country Brief November 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, as of October 2020, Rwanda hosts 147,099 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**

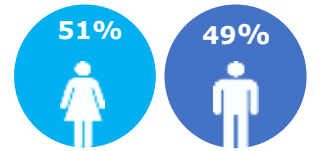
## In Numbers

**247.5 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 1,036,120** cash-based transfers

**USD 18 m** six months net funding requirements, representing 73 percent of total requirements for the next six months (December 2020 - May 2021).

**142,139 people** assisted in November 2020



## Operational Updates

### Assistance to refugees:

In November, WFP reached 136,136 people with food assistance, including 75,471 Congolese refugees, 60,089 Burundian refugees, and 76 returnees hosted in Kijote transit center.

The voluntary repatriation for Burundian refugees continued: as of November 2020, 6,253 refugees were repatriated. WFP continued to support repatriating refugees with hot meals in transit centers before departure and with high energy biscuits to support them on the journey to their home country.

WFP continues to provide food and nutrition assistance to all camp based refugees while ensuring all COVID-19 preventive and control measures are respected. Since the outbreak in March 2020, 319 COVID-19 positive cases among the refugee population were confirmed, of whom 297 patients were discharged and 1 death was recorded.

**School Feeding:** Schools reopened for upper primary grades in November and school feeding activities resumed: in November, WFP provided school meals to 28,905 children, including 13,335 refugee children and 6,003 from the host community attending the same school as refugee children.

**Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF):** WFP’s HGSF programme resumed daily school meal activities for 35,423 children following the reopening of schools for upper primary grades in November 2020. Schools remained closed for lower primary school, thus WFP provided take-home rations to approximately 46,500 children in lower primary grades in all 107 HGSF supported schools to continue supporting them amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Nutrition:** The Smart Simplicity “Stunting-free village model”, led by the National Child Development Agency and carried out by local governments at the district level, is currently being scaled up nationwide. The model was introduced in Rwanda through WFP in partnership with the Boston Consulting Group in late 2019, and has become a national priority, considered pivotal in the government’s stunting reduction efforts. The nationwide scale-up is planned to be completed by August 2021.

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**Photo caption:** Jacqueline, a participant trained through the joint UN programme on “Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment”. Photo: WFP/Daniel Kibsgaard

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 250.6 m                    | 69.3 m                           | 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 &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.

## Nutrition support for People Living with HIV (PLHIV):

WFP contributed to the development of the new Rwanda nutrition guidelines for the care and support for PLHIV and accompanying counselling cards. The materials were approved by the Rwanda Biomedical Center and Ministry of Health and will contribute to improving the quality of the national Nutrition Assessment Counselling and Support (NACS) programme, particularly for the counselling of PLHIV. A dissemination workshop will take place in the coming months and WFP will support throughout the process.

## Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:

WFP continued crop monitoring and smallholder farmer support activities. Farmers continue to implement pest control activities including spraying and hand-picking to limit the impact of fall armyworm, as per WFP and Government advice and training.

## Monitoring

## Market monitoring inside and around refugee camps:

Regular food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicates that average prices for a basic food basket in November 2020 stabilized in comparison with October 2020.

The price of dry beans decreased across camps by an average of 5 percent compared to October 2020, as fresh harvests became available. However, vegetable oil prices increased by an average of 9 percent across camps compared to October 2020, while salt and maize grain prices stabilized.

## Success Story

As part of the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence', WFP together with FAO, IFAD, and UN Women through the joint programme on "Rural Women's Economic Empowerment" are providing women in rural areas of Rwanda with the tools to lift themselves and their families out of extreme poverty and addressing the root causes of gender-based violence. [For more information please visit: Empowering Women in Rural Rwanda.](#)

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