



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Rwanda Country Brief, July 2021



Operational Context

A small, landlocked country with a population of 12.9 million people growing at 2.31 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 (33 percent according to the 2019-2020 Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey). 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 31 July 2021 Rwanda hosts 127,609 refugees and asylum-seekers, 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**

2020 Human Development Index: **160 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic malnutrition: **33 percent** of children between **6-59 months**

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Photo caption: Ange, refugee mother in Kigeme camp feeding her child nutritious porridge received through WFP food and nutrition assistance. Photo: ©WFP/Arete/ Fredrik Lerneryd

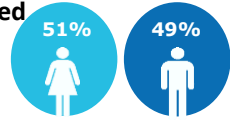
In Numbers

108,365 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 706,224 cash-based transfers made

USD 7.4 million six months (August 2021- January 2022) net funding requirements, representing 34 percent of total requirements.

139,067 people assisted people assisted in July



Operational Updates

Refugee Assistance:

- In July, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 107,143 people, including 64,979 Congolese refugees, 41,802 Burundian refugees as well as 362 returnees hosted at Kijote transit center.
- WFP continued to provide reduced rations due to funding constraints. Refugees classified as highly vulnerable (82 percent of all refugees) received a food ration equivalent to 92 percent of the food basket instead of the 100 percent recommended, while refugees classified as moderately vulnerable (nine percent of refugees) received a food ration of 46 percent of the food basket instead of the 50 percent recommended ration. Should additional funding be received, WFP will be able to increase the food basket to the recommended percentage accordingly.
- Voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees continued. Since January, 27,796 Burundian refugees have voluntarily repatriated. WFP continues to support repatriating refugees with hot meals in transit centers before departure and with high energy biscuits to support the journey to their home country.
- In an effort to improve refugee living conditions as well as mitigate environmental degradation in and around Kigeme and Gihembe refugee camps, the Government of Rwanda continued relocating Congolese refugees from the two camps to Mahama refugee camp. As of 31 July, 8,618 Congolese refugees had been relocated to Mahama camp since October 2020.

COVID-19 updates:

- In July, 1,117 COVID-19 positive cases were confirmed among the refugee population, 690 patients were discharged, seven deaths were recorded while 420 cases were still active.
- In the last week of June, the Government implemented strict measures such as closure of public and private schools across the country, inter-district movements restrictions and movement restrictions in and outside refugee camps to curb the spread of COVID-19. Currently, WFP is providing food and nutrition assistance to around 124 refugee Covid-19 patients hosted at Nyamagabe District isolation center.

Resilient livelihoods:

- Through its food assistance for assets (FFA) programme, WFP provided cash-based transfers (CBT) to 24,365 people for their participation in the rehabilitation of marshland and terracing. This activity is carried out under the Sustainable Market Alliance and Assets Creation for Resilient Communication and Gender Transformation (SMART) project, which is on-going in five districts.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
250.6 m	101.1 m	7.4 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has 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 #: 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.

Social Protection and Disaster Risk Management:

- As part of its capacity strengthening support to the Government to expand national social protection and food security programmes, as well as systems to enhance resilience to shocks, WFP is collaborating with the Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA) to review and update the national Disaster Risk Management Policy. Once finalized, the policy will further strengthen the national policy frameworks for managing disasters and provide further guidance on shock-responsive social protection response across sectors.

Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF):

- Although Rwanda implemented once again COVID-19 related restrictions, students in the final year of primary and secondary were still able to take their national examinations. During these restrictions, students in the final year of primary and secondary were still able to take their national examinations. During this exam period, WFP provided daily meals to 7,559 students (53 percent female and 47 percent male).
- The Government of Rwanda, as a member of the Global School Meal Coalition, participated in the Food Systems Pre-Summit which took place on 26-28 July. The Minister of Education delivered a session on Rwanda's aspirations and goals for school feeding activities, including the recent decision to scale up school feeding to all pre-primary, primary, and secondary school students, and how Rwanda will leverage the Coalition's network to achieve its goals. WFP provided technical assistance to the Government in drafting country commitments and endorsement of the declaration in preparation for the Pre-Summit.

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:

- As the 2021 B harvest season proceeded, WFP continued to work with cooperating partners to prepare for the next agricultural season besides increasing the number of WFP supported farmer organisations and recruiting new buyers.

Monitoring

- WFP's monthly food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated that the average price of the basic food basket in July was slightly less (6,667 RWF/ USD 6.62) compared to June (6,698 RWF/ USD 6.65) and ten times less than in July 2019. Prices remained stable, thanks to the availability of produces from the 2021 B season harvest.

Challenges

- WFP requires a total of USD 7.4 million for the next six months (August 2021-January 2022) representing 34 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 4.7 million is required to reinstate full humanitarian food and nutrition assistance to refugees, bearing in mind the new targeting mechanism.

Donors: Canada, EEC INTPA, ECHO, GFFO, Japan, KOICA, MasterCard, New Zealand, NORAD, Sweden, Switzerland, UN Common Funds and Agencies (excluding UN CERF), USAID, & USDA.