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Photo caption: Asteria, a participant of WFP’s resilient livelihoods programme displays her freshly harvested potatoes on land terraced by the programme. Photo: ©WFP/JohnPaul SESONGA

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 August 2021 Rwanda hosts 127,382 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.

In Numbers
- 137,923 mt of food assistance distributed
- USD 740,933 cash-based transfers made
- USD 8.6 million six months (September 2021-February 2022) net funding requirements, representing 39 percent of total requirements.
- 194,741 people assisted in August

Operational Updates

Refugee Assistance:
- In August, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 121,384 people, including 69,279 DR Congolese refugees, 46,645 Burundian refugees and 300 returnees hosted at Kijote transit center. WFP provided school meals to 23,320 children in schools within the refugee camps, including 5,160 children from the host communities around camps attending the same schools as refugee children.
- 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 sustainable funding be received, WFP will be able to increase the food basket to the recommended percentage accordingly.
- In August, WFP provided one-off rations to refugees classified as least vulnerable, who are no longer targeted for WFP general food assistance, in order to support them mitigate the impacts of the July COVID-19 lockdown measures on their livelihoods.
- Since January, 28,936 Burundian refugees have voluntarily repatriated. WFP continues to support repatriating refugees with the provision of hot meals at transit centers before departure and the distribution of high energy biscuits (HEBs) 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 DR Congolese refugees from the two camps to Mahama refugee camp. Gihembe refugee camp is expected to fully close by December 2021.

• Resilient livelihoods: Through the resilient livelihoods programme, WFP provided cash-based transfers (CBT) to 26,660 people in five districts for their participation in the rehabilitation of marshland and terracing. The project has thus far rehabilitated 357 hectares of land, and the communities will now receive training, agricultural inputs and support to form cooperatives and access markets for their production.
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>250.6m</td>
<td>103m</td>
<td>8.6m</td>
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</table>

**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 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.

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**Home Grown School Feeding**:

- In August, WFP provided daily school meals to 46,697 lower primary students in 108 schools.
- WFP also supported the Ministry of Education to disseminate the School Feeding Operational Guidelines countrywide. Schools now have detailed guidance to support the implementation of the National School Feeding Programme. The dissemination exercise was conducted with district and sector staff, and school leaders in all the 30 districts of the Country.

**Nutrition**:

- WFP supported Rwanda’s National Child Development Agency (NCDA) to train over 250 nutritionists and data managers from health centres and district hospitals on a new monitoring and evaluation solution to better monitor the nutritional status of children under 5 years old, as part of efforts to reduce high levels of stunting.

**Smallholder Agricultural Market Support**:

- WFP conducted a Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) and nutrition training to farmer organizations supported by WFP, targeting approximately 45,000 farmers across the country to prepare them for the next planting season. The exercise will continue until the planting period begins in the last quarter of 2021.

**Monitoring**

- WFP’s monthly food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated that the average price of the basic food basket in August was higher (6,794 RWF/ USD 6.71) compared to July (6,677 RWF/ USD 6.60) and 9 times less than in August 2020. Maize and bean prices slightly increased in line with seasonality.

**Challenges**

- WFP requires a total of USD 8.6 million for the next six months (September 2021-February 2022) representing 39 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 5.1 million is required to reinstate full humanitarian food and nutrition assistance to refugees, bearing in mind the new targeting mechanism providing support based on vulnerability status. In addition, WFP needs USD 721,000 to continue nutrition capacity strengthening activities for the Government’s stunting prevention efforts.

**Success Story**

Learn more [here](#) about how smallholder farmers in Rwanda have expanded into commercial markets thanks to WFP’s support.

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