



World Food Programme

WFP Rwanda Country Brief, September 2021

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 30 September 2021 Rwanda hosts 127,163 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.



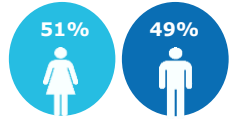
In Numbers

352.8 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 864,913 cash-based transfers made

USD 9.1 million six months (October 2021-March 2022) net funding requirements, representing 36.3 percent of total requirements.

179,512 people assisted in September 2021



Operational Updates

Refugee Assistance:

- In September, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 113,952 people, including 64,888 Congolese refugees, 40,183 Burundians refugees, 495 Rwandan returnees hosted in Kijote transit center and 11 Burundian asylum seekers accommodated in Nyanza transit center. WFP provided school meals to 38,850 children in schools within refugee camps, including 8,375 children from the host communities around camps attending the same schools as refugee children.
- WFP continued to provide reduced general food assistance rations through cash-based transfers (CBT) due to funding constraints. Refugees classified as highly vulnerable (85.06 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 (7.29 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 ration.
- In order to improve living conditions of the refugees, as well as mitigate the environmental impact and 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. Gihembe refugee camp is expected to fully close by October 2021.

Social Protection:

- As a part of the Joint Programme on Social Protection, WFP in partnership with UNICEF, FAO and World Relief, completed different training sessions on village savings and loans associations in five districts. The training aimed to enhance access to finance to poor and vulnerable households and promote a culture of saving. Thus far the programme has established 120 village savings and loans associations.

Resilient livelihoods:

- Through the resilient livelihoods programme, WFP provided CBT to 26,635 people in five districts for their participation in different activities: a total of 442 hectares of land was rehabilitated, including marshlands and terracing. Vulnerable and female-headed households were given priority to participate in the works.

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: Cansilde, a Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE) cooperative member in Nyaruguru district displaying her chicks. Photo: ©WFP/JohnPaul SESONGA

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
250.6 m	103 m	9.1 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 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.

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

Home Grown School Feeding:

- WFP provided daily school meals to 38,925 lower primary students in 108 schools.
- The Global School Meal Coalition was officially launched at the September Global Food Systems Summit. The Coalition is led by the Government of France and Finland, with support from WFP. The Government of Rwanda is a member of the Coalition. The Coalition brings together governments, UN agencies, civil society, the private sector and academia to ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive a healthy meal every day in school by 2030.

Nutrition & HIV:

- WFP conducted advocacy and sensitization sessions among leaders and partners in all the six refugee camps of the Country, as part of efforts to address HIV-related stigma and discrimination. This activity is a follow-up of the 2020 HIV stigma and discrimination index survey, whose results showed higher levels of stigma in refugees than among host communities. The sessions provided a platform to discuss the findings of the survey, increase awareness on HIV stigma and discrimination and propose solutions to address these issues.

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:

- A total of 42,928 smallholder farmers supported by WFP received training on good agriculture practices effective land preparation, applying the right seeds and appropriate use of fertilizers and nutrition.
- Through a partnership with the bureau of humanitarian assistance, WFP was selected to facilitate an entrepreneur support programme for early-stage food system innovators. The programme will select Rwandan entrepreneurs to strengthen innovations in the Rwandan food systems in early 2022.

Monitoring

- WFP's monthly food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated that the average price of the basic food basket in September was five percent higher (RWF 7,168 / USD 7.18) compared to August (RWF 6,794 / USD 6.84) and 10 percent less than September 2020. The transfer value for highly vulnerable refugees (RWF 7,000/ USD 7.01) was 2 percent less than the cost of the food basket, and 51 percent less for moderately vulnerable refugees (RWF 3,500 / USD 3.50).

Challenges

- WFP requires USD 9.1 million for the next six months (October 2021-March 2022) representing 36.3 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 6.8 million is required to reinstate full humanitarian food and nutrition assistance to refugees, in line with the new targeting mechanism providing support based on vulnerability status.
- WFP needs USD 2 million in complementary funding for the Home-Grown School Feeding programme to be able to rollout the locally produced fresh foods component (food is sourced from markets nearby schools in 2022), as a part of the Government's national school feeding model. WFP also requires USD 400,000 to continue providing technical assistance to the Government to support shock-responsive social protection in 2022. In addition, WFP needs USD 721,000 to continue nutrition capacity strengthening activities and support the Government's stunting prevention efforts.

Success Story

Learn more [here](#) about how rural women in Rwanda are being empowered through resilient livelihoods thanks to WFP's support.