



# WFP Rwanda Country Brief, November 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

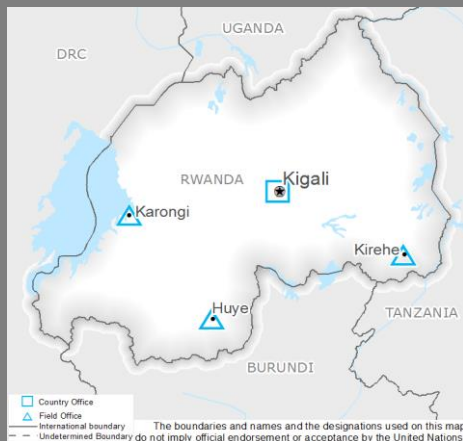


## Operational Context

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 November 2021 Rwanda hosts 126,988 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:** Marie-Agnes is one of 2,000 farmers in 19 cooperatives in Rwanda supported by the Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment Programme. Photo: WFP/JohnPaul Sesonga

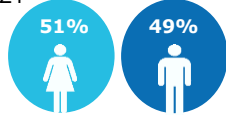
## In Numbers

**143.107 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 702,256** cash-based transfers made

**USD 10.5 million** six months (December 2021-May 2022) net funding requirements, representing 44 percent of total requirements.

**194,996 people** assisted in November 2021



## Operational Updates

### Refugee Assistance:

- In November WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 113,500 people, including 61,500 Congolese refugees, 43,726 Burundians, 300 Rwandan refugees returning to Rwanda mainly from Democratic Republic of the Congo and 26 asylum seekers accommodated in Nyanza transit Centre. WFP also provided school meals to 36,607 children in schools in and around refugee camps, including 7,649 children from the host communities attending the same schools as refugee children.
- WFP continued to provide reduced general food assistance rations in line with the new targeting approach. Refugees classified as highly vulnerable (85.4 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 (7.2 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 ration size.
- Since August 2020, 29,206 Burundian refugees have voluntarily repatriated back to Burundi. In November, WFP continued to support repatriating refugees with the provision of hot meals at transit centres before departure and distribution of high energy biscuits (HEBs) to support the journey to their home country.

### Resilient livelihoods:

- Through the resilient livelihoods programme, in November WFP provided cash-based transfers (CBT) to 6,900 people in five districts for their participation in the rehabilitation of marshland and terracing. The project has thus far rehabilitated 538 hectares of land.

### Home-Grown School Feeding:

- In November, WFP provided daily meals to 74,596 primary students in 108 schools in four districts. Additionally, as per the new requirements mandated by the recently approved School Feeding Operational Guidelines, WFP has worked closely with the programme’s four district governments, to ensure that School Feeding Committees are established in all schools, sectors and districts, in addition to School Tender Committees in all schools.

### Nutrition & HIV:

- WFP as part of its efforts to ensure nutrition and food safety to support public health, chaired the Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses Technical Committee under the Rwanda Standards Board to review the “Guideline on application of microbiological criteria for foodstuffs”.

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>250.6 m</b>	<b>104.6 m</b>	<b>10.5 m</b>

### 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 populations.

**Nutrition & HIV (cont.):** The national standard is planned to be replaced by relevant international standards in line with the principles of standardization across the country.

- WFP and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre conducted a series of social and behaviour change communication activities in seven schools located in the Western and Southern provinces to enhance integration of HIV-related key messaging in the school system. WFP reached and equipped over 5,200 school children with positive life skills to prevent HIV infection. WFP also disseminated posters to schools for continued sensitization.

### Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:

- WFP and partners launched "Aflasight", an innovative 'pilot evaluation' using the Lumovision technology sorting machine that is able to identify and remove individual kernels of maize affected by aflatoxins. The pilot is planned for one year, during which evaluations will be carried out to identify areas for improvement and possible up-scaling.
- Aiming to improve nutritional outcomes at the community level, WFP in partnership with local communities, FAO, IFAD and UNWOMEN through the Joint initiative for rural women economic empowerment (JP-RWEE) conducted nutrition awareness workshops to over 100 participants across three districts.

### Monitoring

- WFP's monthly food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated that the average price in November 2021 was five percent higher (7,977 RWF/USD 7.70) compared to October 2021 (7,588 RWF/USD 7.33) and eight percent (less than in November 2020). Maize prices seasonably increased by eleven percent on average, while bean prices stabilized, awaiting upcoming seasonal harvests by December.

### Challenges

- WFP requires USD 10.5 million for the next six months (December 2021-May 2022) representing 44 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 9.7 million is required to restore full food ration to refugees, in line with the new targeting mechanism where support is provided based on vulnerability status.
- WFP needs USD 1.5 million in complementary funding for the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme to procure locally produced fresh foods 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 655,000 to continue nutrition capacity strengthening activities and support the Government's stunting prevention efforts.

### Success Story

Learn more [here](#) how WFP, FAO, IFAD and UNWOMEN are empowering rural women in agriculture for sustainable food security and poverty reduction through the Joint initiative for rural women economic empowerment (JP-RWEE).

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