WFP Rwanda Country Brief
December 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 December 2021 Rwanda hosts 127,112 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
143.107 mt of food assistance distributed
USD 702,256.27 cash-based transfers made
USD 11.7 million six months (January 2022- June 2022) net funding requirements, representing 52 percent of total requirements.
192,413 people assisted in December 2021

Operational Updates
Refugee Assistance:
- In December, WFP reached 113,475 people with food and nutrition assistance, including 55,778 Congolese refugees in Kiziba, Kigeme, Mugombwa and Nyabiheke refugee camps, 50,099 Burundian and Congolese refugees hosted in Mahama camp, 300 returnees hosted in Kijote transit center as well as 26 Burundian asylum seekers hosted in Nyanza transit center. WFP provided school meals to 38,495 children in schools within refugee camps, including 7,271 children from the host communities around camps attending the same schools as refugee children.
- WFP provided reduced general food assistance rations in line with the new targeting approach. Refugees classified as highly vulnerable (85.66 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 (7.21 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.

Resilient Livelihoods:
- In December, WFP through the resilient livelihoods programme provided cash-based transfers (CBT) worth USD 18,890 to 3,745 participants for their participation in the rehabilitation of marshland and terracing.

Social Protection:
- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government convened a high-level policy forum on shock-responsive social protection. The forum brought together Government actors and development partners to discuss priority actions to enhance policy coherence and collaboration across sectors contributing to shock-responsive and climate-sensitive social protection.

Home-Grown School Feeding:
- Through the Home-Grown School Feeding programme, WFP provided daily meals to 75,194 primary students in 108 schools in four of the most vulnerable districts.

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Photo caption: Honourable Minister of Emergency Management, KAYISIRE Marie Solange, speaking at the forum on shock responsive social protection on 9 December. Photo: UNICEF/Habib Kanoba

Population: 12.1 million
2020 Human Development Index: 160 out of 189
Income Level: Lower
Chronic malnutrition: 33 percent of children between 6-59

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**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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>250.6 m</td>
<td>107.4 m</td>
<td>11.7 m</td>
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**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:**

- **WFP provided technical and financial support to the Rwanda Biomedical Centre to conduct a national nutrition, food security and vulnerability survey among people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Rwanda in November-December 2021. Findings showed that only 54 percent of PLHIV had acceptable food consumption in their households, thus increasing their risk of malnutrition. The study also indicated the co-existence of under and overnutrition among PLHIV aged 20 years and above, with 18 percent being underweight and 21 percent being either overweight or obese. These findings will help the Government to strengthen the nutrition component of the national HIV response towards improving nutrition and health outcomes of PLHIV.**

**Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:**

- **WFP conducted a Post-Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS) training of trainers for 29 (25 men and 4 women) cooperating partners (CPs) equipping them with skills to handle their harvest particularly for maize and Irish potatoes. Through the cascade training model, the 29 trained CPs further trained 600 lead farmers across the country. Lead farmers will train approximately 30,000 smallholder farmers ahead of the 2022A (February-April) harvest season.**

**Monitoring**

- **WFP’s monthly food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated that the average price of the food basket in December 2021 was four percent higher (8,319 RWF/USD 8.02) compared to November 2021 (7,977 RWF/USD 7.69) and three percent less than in December 2020. Maize prices seasonally increased by ten percent on average, while bean prices decreased by around ten percent, as traders release existing stocks in time for the new seasonal harvest.**

**Challenges**

- **WFP requires USD 11.7 million for the next six months (January-June 2022) representing 52 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 10.6 million is required to restore full food rations to refugees, in line with the new targeting mechanism where WFP provides general food assistance based on vulnerability status.**

- **WFP needs USD 1.4 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 0.379 million to continue nutrition capacity strengthening activities and support the Government’s stunning prevention efforts.**

**Success Story**

Learn more [here](#) about the policy forum on shock-responsive social protection convened in December 2021 by the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) in partnership with WFP, UNICEF, FAO, with participation from other Ministries and partners.

**Donors:** BMZ, Canada, INTPA, ECHO, France, GFFO, Japan, KOICA, MasterCard, New Zealand, NORAD, Sweden, Switzerland, UN Common