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 January 2021 Rwanda hosts 127,012 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.

Operational Updates

Refugee Assistance:

- In January, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 112,807 people, including 105,873 camp-based refugees, 300 Rwandan returnees, and 26 Burundian asylum seekers accommodated in Nyanza Transit Centre. WFP provided school meals to 33,679 children in schools within and around refugee camps, including 6,608 children from the host communities attending the same schools with refuge children.

- WFP continued to provide reduced food rations to camp-based refugees due to funding constraints, prioritizing refugees classified as highly vulnerable (85.66 percent of all refugees), and provided food rations equivalent to 92 percent of the entitled 100 percent food basket (RWF 7,000). Refugees classified as moderately vulnerable (7.02 of refugees) received 46 percent of their food basket entitlement (RWF 3,500) instead of the 50 percent recommended ration.

Resilient Livelihoods:

- In January, WFP continued to support resilient livelihoods programme activities and provided cash-based transfers (CBT) worth USD 45,047 to 11,450 participants for their participation in the rehabilitation of marshlands and terracing.

Social Protection:

- In January, WFP signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Government through the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA) to strengthen the collaboration and continue providing technical assistance to enhance the national social protection system and shock responsive social protection activities across the country.

Home-grown School programme:

- WFP continued supporting home-grown school feeding in Rwanda and reached 74,323 primary school students in 108 schools with nutritious meals in four districts in the country.

Nutrition & HIV:

- WFP undertook preparatory work to conduct positive life skills sessions on HIV prevention in eight schools supported through WFP’s Home-Grown School Feeding Programme located in the southern and western provinces as part of efforts to strengthen HIV prevention through schools. Activities will be carried in February 2022 jointly with the Rwanda Biomedical Centre and will seek to address inadequate knowledge on HIV prevention among adolescents mainly in rural areas.

In Numbers

134,282 mt of food assistance distributed
USD 703,968.35 cash-based transfers made
USD 9.2 million six months (Feb-July 2022) net funding requirements, representing 40 percent of total requirements.

198,580 people assisted in January 2022

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

**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.

**Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:**
- Through WFP's Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA), smallholder farmer cooperatives were facilitated to sign contracts with formal buyers for the supply of more than 13,000 mt of maize, with an estimated value of USD 3 million. Maize deliveries to buyers are expected to start in February 2022.
- WFP in collaboration with Impact Hub Kigali and the IGNITE regional innovation hub launched the ‘IGNITE food system challenge’ seeking to fund innovative ideas from businesses and cooperatives to support sustainable food systems in Rwanda. Selected innovators will pitch their ideas in March 2022 for additional investments and seed-funding to further scale-up and will also be enrolled in a 6-month entrepreneurship support programme to access expertise.

**Monitoring**

**Activities:**
- WFP's monthly food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated that the average price of the food basket in January 2022 was four percent less (RWF 7,966 /USD 7.66) compared to December 2021 (RWF 8,320 /USD 8.00) and three percent less than in January 2021. Maize and beans prices seasonally decreased by 5 and 7 percent on average mainly due to the ongoing harvest for season 2022A that started in mid-December 2021. Prices for rice increased by around 5 percent compared to previous months and cooking oil prices increased by 1 percent while maize flour prices reduced by 1 percent and salt prices decreased by 2 percent.

**Challenges**

**Activities:**
- WFP requires USD 9.2 million for the next six months (February - July 2022) representing 40 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 8 million is required to restore full food ration to refugees, in line with the new targeting mechanism where WFP provides 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 409,000 to continue nutrition capacity strengthening activities and support the Government’s stunting prevention efforts.

**Share the Meal Campaign**

WFP’s 2022 organic planting cycle has started; 22,000 hectares are already under cultivation and 28,000 hectares have been prepared for the next cycle, primarily by smallholder farmers. In February, WFP will distribute more than 2.4 million smallholder packages and provide technical assistance to farmers to improve their yields and sales. The programme aims to cover 20,000 smallholder farmers and value chain actors this year.

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