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 28 February 2022, Rwanda hosts 127,269 refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. Ninety-two percent of refugees live in camps and majority 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:

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 114,153 people in February 2022, including 106,357 camp-based refugees, 300 Rwandan returnees, and 23 Burundian asylum seekers accommodated in Nyanza Transit Centre. WFP provided school meals to 33,166 children in schools within and around refugee camps, including 7,473 children from the surrounding host communities, attending the same schools with refugee children.
- WFP continued to provide reduced general food assistance to camp-based refugees due to funding constraints prioritizing refugees classified as highly vulnerable (85.81 percent of all refugees) and provided them food rations equivalent to 92 percent of the food basket instead of the 100 percent recommended. Refugees classified as moderately vulnerable (7.11 percent of refugees) received 46 percent of their food basket entitlement instead of the 50 percent ration.

Resilient Livelihoods:

- WFP through the resilient livelihoods programme provided cash-based transfers (CBT) worth USD 45,010 to 2,795 participants in February 2022 for their participation in marshland and terracing rehabilitation.
- Smallholder farmers harvested 877 mt of Irish potatoes worth USD 150,000 from 34 hectares of rehabilitated land in Bitenga marshland in Rutsiro district (Western province), benefiting 881 vulnerable smallholder farmers (446 female and 435 male). This contributed to food security and resilience to shocks as food production in this area increased significantly from less than 3 mt per hectare to over 25 mt.

Social Protection:

- WFP continued to support the Government through the Ministry of Emergency Management in developing National Disaster Preparedness plans. The plan will contribute to the country’s sectoral interventions to anticipate any crisis and ensure effective collaboration and coordination.
- In April, a meeting of government entities, UN agencies, and districts will be held to validate the draft National Disaster Preparedness Plan.

School Feeding programme:

- WFP continued to support home-grown school feeding in Rwanda and reached 74,323 primary school students in 108 schools with 216.8 mt of food commodities to students in all schools.
- WFP supported the Ministry of Education in a one-week campaign for the African Day of School Feeding 2022, sensitising stakeholders nationwide on the importance of school feeding.
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>250.6 m</td>
<td>113.9 m</td>
<td>8.9 m</td>
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</tbody>
</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 populations.

WFP and The Rockefeller Foundation boost national school feeding programme. Read more about this [here](#).

Nutrition & HIV:

- WFP supported Rwanda Biomedical Centre to sensitize almost 10,000 school children (5,087 females) in primary and secondary schools in eight rural schools under the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme on positive life skills to prevent HIV infection. According to the 2019-2020 Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey, adolescents in rural areas have limited knowledge about HIV prevention. WFP plans to expand this activity to other schools to increase awareness and knowledge about HIV prevention among this group.

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:

- WFP through the Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) facilitated smallholder farmers cooperatives 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 is directly purchased from smallholder farmers contributing to the local economy.
- WFP in collaboration with Impact Hub Kigali and the IGNITE regional innovation hub launched the IGNITE food systems challenge. This initiative seeks to fund innovative ideas from businesses and cooperatives to support sustainable food systems in Rwanda. Selected innovators will pitch their ideas in March 2022 to compete for additional investments and seed-funding. The IGNITE funding will support them to further scale-up as well as enrol them into an entrepreneurship support programme.

Monitoring

- WFP’s monthly food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated that the average price of the food basket in February 2022 was 11 percent lower than in January 2022 (7,966 RWF/USD7.80) and 1 percent higher than in February 2021. Maize prices decreased by 32 percent on average due the ongoing harvest for season 2022A while beans prices increased by 5 percent, owing to reduced beans stocks from last harvest (December 2021-January 2022). Prices for cooking oil, salt and rice increased by 5 percent compared to the same time last year (2021), likely due to the current general high prices for imported commodities.

Challenges

- WFP requires USD 8.9 million for the next six months (March - August 2022) representing 37 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 7.5 million is required to restore full general food assistance to refugees, in line with the new targeting mechanism based on their 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 424,500 to continue nutrition capacity strengthening activities and support the Government’s stunting prevention efforts.

**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.