



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Rwanda Country Brief March 2022



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 against the Tutsi, 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 March 2022 Rwanda hosts 127,585 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: **12.9 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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Country Director: Edith HEINES

Photo caption: Edith HEINES, WFP Representative and Country Director awarding ZEAN LTD as one of six winners at the IGNITE Food Systems Challenge. The winner aims to reducing post-harvest losses by processing bananas into banana chips and maize into maize flours.
Photo: Impact Hub

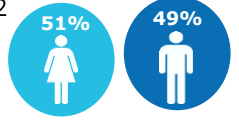
In Numbers

134.109 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 715,019 cash-based transfers made

USD 4.6 million six months (April-Sept 2022) net funding requirements, representing 19 percent of total requirements.

184,947 people assisted in March 2022



Operational Updates

Refugee Assistance:

- In March 2022, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 112,620 people, including 106,095 refugees, 200 Rwandan returnees hosted in transit centres, 19 Burundian asylum seekers and 6,306 children from the host communities attending same schools as refugee children.
- WFP continued to provide reduced general food assistance rations to camp-based refugees due to funding constraints, prioritizing refugees classified as highly vulnerable (86 percent of all refugees) and provided food ration equivalent to 92 percent of the food basket entitlements instead of the 100 percent recommended. Refugees classified as moderately vulnerable (7 percent of refugees) received 46 percent of their food basket entitlement instead of the 50 percent recommended.

Resilient Livelihoods:

- WFP through the resilient livelihoods programme provided cash-based transfers (CBT) worth USD 74,989 to 3,981 participants in March 2022 for their participation in marshland and terracing rehabilitation.
- The mobile creches at Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) sites received 109 children under 3 years old while their mothers worked in FFA sites. Professional caretakers and volunteers were responsible for looking after the children and providing them nutritious food in the mobile creches. The introduction of mobile creches resulted in increased female participation at all FFA sites.

Social Protection:

- A joint monitoring field mission was carried out by WFP, UNICEF and FAO, to review the progress in the UN Joint Programme on Social Protection implementation. The visit covered project activities in the districts of Nyamagabe, Karongi, Rutsiro, and Burera. The project activities are on track and local government officials commended the work being done and proposed scaling up of activities to reach more beneficiaries.

School Feeding programme:

- WFP expanded the Home-Grown School Feeding programme to 28 new schools in Gasabo, Kayanza and Burera districts. WFP is currently providing daily school meals to 9,880 pre-primary and 96,759 primary students in 136 schools across 7 districts. WFP also supported the Ministry of Education, to convene the quarterly School Feeding Technical Working Group which recommended a school feeding data collection survey and more support in school feeding capacity building.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
250.6 m	122.8 m	4.6 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 populations.

Nutrition & HIV:

- WFP continued its support to the Government on improving nutrition and HIV data quality for timely decision making by participating in nutrition and HIV workshops to deliberate with health care professionals on addressing these challenges.
- WFP also continues to support the use of the Rwanda Nutrition Guidelines for Care and Support of PLHIV to improve nutrition service delivery for PLHIV. These guidelines were developed with WFP's technical and financial assistance. WFP will support the Government to develop flow charts to provide an easy overview of the national nutrition assessment, counselling and support programme to health care professionals.

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:

- WFP in collaboration with Impact Hub Kigali and the IGNITE regional innovation hub launched the "IGNITE food system challenge". Based on good project ideas that could be scaled up in national food systems, WFP granted six winning teams up to USD 50,000 in equity-free funding. The winners are provided a six-month acceleration support and training from the Impact Hub Kigali, and also connected to WFP's strong network of partners across the country.

Monitoring

- WFP's monthly food price monitoring indicated the average price of the food basket in March 2022 increased by 10 percent compared to February 2022 (7,094 RWF) and higher by 16 percent compared to the same time in 2021. The food basket cost increase was due to a combination of factors including a decrease in food stocks from the season 2022A harvest, a general price hike on the market and the increase in transportation cost due to the increase in fuel prices. The food basket cost increased by 5 and 19 percent across refugee camps, except for Kigeme where the food basket cost decreased 2 percent. The transfer value for the highly vulnerable (7,000 RWF) was 10 percent less than the cost of the basket, while the transfer value for the moderately vulnerable (3,500 RWF) was 55 percent less.

Challenges

- WFP requires USD 4.6 million for the next six months (April - September 2022) representing 19 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 3.2 million is required to restore full food rations to refugees, in line with the new targeting mechanism where WFP provides support 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 597,000 to continue nutrition capacity strengthening activities and support the Government's stunting prevention efforts.

Rwanda: WFP and The Rockefeller Foundation boost national school meals programme

<https://www.wfp.org/stories/rwanda-wfp-and-rockefeller-foundation-boost-national-school-meals-programme>

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