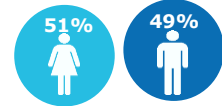




World Food Programme

WFP Rwanda Country Brief

April 2022



In Numbers

229.25 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 711,825 cash-based transfers (CBT) made

USD 6.1 million six months (May – Oct 2022) net funding requirements, representing 24 percent of total requirements.

237,167 people assisted in April 2022

Operational Updates

Refugee Assistance:

- In April 2022, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 111,839 people, including 106,939 refugees, 300 Rwandan returnees hosted in transit centres, 17 Burundian asylum seekers and 4,583 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), providing them with 92 percent of the rations against their entitlement of 100 percent. Refugees classified as moderately vulnerable (7 percent of all refugees) received 46 percent of their food basket entitlement instead of the 50 percent recommended.

Resilient Livelihoods:

- Through the resilient livelihoods programme, WFP provided CBT USD 72,271 to 4,246 participants in April 2022 for their participation in marshland and terracing rehabilitation. As a result, maize harvest increased from 4.2 mt to 6.2 mt per hectare in Agatobwe marshland southern in Rwanda.
- WFP also conducted capacity strengthening activities targeting smallholder farmers, helping them increase production through improving farming skills and learning about agricultural technologies.

Nutrition & HIV:

- WFP received USD 72,000 from the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) to support the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) to conduct HIV-related activities on HIV-sensitive social protection, HIV prevention among school children and addressing stigma and discrimination among refugees.
- WFP and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) co-lead the HIV-sensitive social protection pillar under the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) Division of Labour. WFP Rwanda Country Office, through the Regional Bureau has established strategic partnership with ILO at the regional level to contribute to a successful HIV-sensitive social protection assessment. The findings will be discussed in the planned 2023 policy dialogues with relevant Government entities and other stakeholders. The assessment aims to support the Government on its advocacy efforts.



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 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 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) data, as of 30 April 2022, 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.



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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Photo caption: Schools reopened for the third and last school term of the academic year 2022. WFP continued to provide daily school meals to nearly 9,880 pre-primary and 96,759 primary students in 136 schools across 7 districts with high level of poverty and food insecurity. Photo: WFP/Emily Fredenburg

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
250.6 m	123 m	6.1 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.

School Feeding programme:

- In April, schools reopened for the third and last school term of the academic year. During this period, WFP provided daily school meals to approximately 9,880 pre-primary and 96,759 primary students in 136 schools across 7 districts within its Home-Grown School Feeding (HGFS) Programme.
- WFP and Sight and Life, an international non-governmental organization, have been supporting the National Child Development Agency (NCDA) to prepare for the launch of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network (SBN) in Rwanda. SBN seeks to strengthen private sector participation to enhance nutrition. The launch event is planned for early June 2022.

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:

- With WFP's support in developing local food value chain, smallholder farmer organisations sold around 12,100 mt of maize and beans valued USD 3.8 million to local buyers.
- WFP is piloting a digital initiative known as "Farm 2 Go application" collecting demographic and aggregate data at the individual farmer level. The application enhances the visibility of the individual farmer at local level and ultimately optimizes operational decision-making through information sharing.

Monitoring

- WFP's monthly food price monitoring indicated the average price of the food basket in April 2022 increased by 13 percent compared to March 2022 (RWF 7,773) and higher by 34 percent compared to the same time in 2021. The continued rise in the food basket cost is attributed to general food inflation, reduced stocks of grains from season A (September – January) 2022 harvests, and increased fuel prices, which resulted in high transportation costs.
- WFP transfer value for the highly vulnerable group (RWF 7,000) was 20 percent less than the cost of the food basket while the transfer value for the moderately vulnerable group (RWF 3,500) was 60 percent less than the cost of the food basket.

Challenges

- WFP requires USD 6.1 million for the next six months (May –October 2022) representing 24 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 4.6 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.
- In 2022, WFP needs USD 1.2 million in complementary funding for the HGFS programme to procure locally produced fresh foods sourced from markets nearby schools, as a part of the Government's national school feeding model. WFP is facing a shortfall of USD 400,000 in the provision of technical assistance to the Government to support shock-responsive social protection in 2022, and requires USD 343,000 to fill the gap in CBT, agroforestry, and support to smallholder farmers.
- In addition, WFP needs USD 627,000 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.