



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Rwanda Country Brief May 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 May 2022 Rwanda hosts 127,369 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

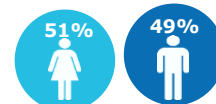
In Numbers

302.772 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 601,964 cash-based transfers (CBT) made

USD 6.3 million six months (June –Nov 2022) net funding requirements, representing 26 percent of total requirements.

225,741 people assisted in May 2022



Operational Updates

Refugee Assistance:

- In May, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 116,764 people, including 106,189 refugees, 400 Rwandan returnees, 3,044 Asylum seekers in transit centers, and 7,131 children from the host communities around the camps attending the same schools with 28,187 refugee children. A total of USD 601,964 transferred to refugees in camps allowed them to purchase food of their choice.
- WFP continued to provide reduced rations due to funding constraints. Refugees classified as highly vulnerable (86 percent of all refugees) received a food ration equivalent to 92 percent of the food basket (RWF 7,000) instead of the 100 percent recommended, while refugees classified as moderately vulnerable (7 percent of refugees) received a food ration of 46 percent of the food basket (RWF 3,500) instead of the 50 percent recommended ration.

Resilient Livelihoods:

- WFP through the resilient livelihoods (Food Assistance for Assets) programme provided cash-based transfers (CBT) worth USD 70,429 to 3,920 participants for their participation in marshland and terracing rehabilitation.
- As of May, 920 hectares of land including radical/progressive terraces and marshland have been rehabilitated since the land rehabilitation started in January 2021.

School Feeding Programme:

- In May, WFP provided meals to 105,063 students in 136 schools.
- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Education conducted a National School Feeding Programme Survey across the country to assess best practices and challenges in school feeding. The report, which is due in June 2022, will contribute to updating the school feeding policy and developing a new school feeding financing strategy.
- WFP also supported the data collection on how schools can incorporate the use of fuel-efficient cooking fuels such as briquettes and cooking gas “Liquefied Petroleum Gas” (LPG). The report is to be disseminated in July 2022.

Nutrition & HIV:

- The Country Office (CO) hosted the Friends of Nutrition Group, members of the WFP’s Executive Board (EB) from 25-28 May 2022. The group’s goal was to understand topical nutrition issues and highlight them to the EB membership.

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Photo caption: Ahmaren KARIM, WFP Deputy Country Director, with Japan’s Ambassador and Mayor of Kirehe District, serving food to refugees in Mahama camp during the handover ceremony of Japan contribution to the refugee operation in Rwanda.

Photo: WFP/JohnPaul SESONGA

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
250.6 m	123.5 m	6.3 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.

- The CO showcased WFP's nutrition support to the Government, including support to the national stunting prevention programme and Government's flagship stunting reduction programming at the community level referred to as the "stunting-free village" model. Furthermore, the CO demonstrated nutrition integration efforts, particularly its school-based programme as well as efforts to improve the nutrition of vulnerable refugee households. During the mission, the need for multi-year funding to support the Government in addressing the high level of stunting was highlighted.

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:

- The main harvest season (season A) is nearly over. WFP-supported farmer organizations have sold approximately 14,000 mt of maize, beans, and Irish potatoes to formal buyers, generating more than USD 4.5 million in revenue.

Monitoring

- WFP's monthly food price monitoring indicated the average price of the food basket in May 2022 RWF 9,243/USD 8.99 increased by 5 percent compared to April 2022 (RWF 7,773/USD 7.65) and is 40 percent higher compared to the same time in 2021. The cost of the food basket remained high in May 2022 due to rising fuel and transportation costs.
- In May 2022, the cost of the food basket RWF 9,243/USD 8.99 was 24 percent higher than the WFP transfer value for the highly vulnerable group (RWF 7,000/USD 6.89). The cost of the food basket for the moderately vulnerable group was 62 percent higher than the WFP transfer value (RWF 3,500/USD 3.44). Food price increases reduce refugees' purchasing power, making them more vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition at the household level.

Challenges

- WFP requires USD 6.3 million for the next six months (June – November 2022) representing 26 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 4.9 million is required to restore full food rations to refugees, in line with the new targeting mechanism where WFP provides support based on refugee vulnerability status.
- In 2022, WFP needs USD 1.2 million in complementary funding for the Home-Grown School Feeding 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.
- In addition, WFP needs USD 643,000 to continue nutrition capacity strengthening activities and support the Government's stunting prevention efforts.

Cash offers greater choice for refugees in Rwanda

"I miss my home, but I do not feel that it is safe enough to go back. Peace, food and security are my main priorities."

<https://rwanda.un.org/en/184447-cash-offers-greater-choice-refugees-rwanda>

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