WFP Rwanda
Country Brief June 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 30 June 2022 Rwanda hosts 127,340 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 June 2022, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 124,798 people under strategic outcome 1, including 116,921 refugees, 200 Rwandan returnees, 546 asylum seekers, and 7,131 Rwandan children from the host communities around the camps attending the same schools with 28,060 refugee children. A total of USD 599,852 cash-based transfers (CBT) was made to refugees in five camps to allow them 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 programme provided CBT worth USD 74,786 to 3,897 participants in June 2022 as renumeration for their participation in marshland and terracing rehabilitation.

• A steering committee meeting with Rutsiro District office was held on 23 June to share the Sustainable Market Alliance and Assets creation for Resilient Communities and Gender Transformation (SMART) project updates and discuss more coherent collaboration in implementing SMART project. A field visit to Bitenga marshland followed the meeting to monitor the irrigation system. WFP implements project in close collaboration with the local administration.

School Feeding Programme:

• In June 2022, WFP continued to provide meals to 106,639 students in 136 schools across seven districts. WFP also continued to work with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Trade and Industry as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Source to analyse the National School Feeding Programme Survey, National Market Assessment and Fuel-Efficient Study data which were collected in June 2022. Reports for these three assessments will be finalized in August and September.

• A WFP delegation from HQ and RBN, led by Carmen Burbano (Director of School Feeding) and Mutinta Hambayi (Head of School Based Programmes, Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa - RBN), visited Rwanda to discuss future priorities for the school feeding programme in the country.

In Numbers

291.4 mt of food assistance distributed
USD 599,852 cash-based transfers (CBT) made
USD 6 million six months (July - Dec 2022) net funding requirements, representing 25 percent of total requirements.

235,334 people assisted in June 2022

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Photo caption: Carmen BURBANO School Based Programmes Director assisting chefs to prepare nutritious whole grain maize meal in Rukuri primary school-Kigali.
Photo: WFP/JohnPaul SESONGA
**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>
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<tr>
<td>250.6 m</td>
<td>123.5 m</td>
<td>6 m</td>
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**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 and partners implementing HIV programmes in refugee camps conducted psychosocial retreats in all the refugee camps, reaching 250 refugees (169 females and 61 males). The target groups were people living with HIV (PLHIV) and Health professionals providing HIV services. The aim of the retreat was to sensitize refugees living with HIV against internalized stigma.

**Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:**

- A team from WFP Rwanda was one of eight teams selected to participate in the WFP Innovation Accelerator Bootcamp. The project, 'Rebug 2 Debug', harnesses the Black Soldier Fly Larvae (BSFL) to bio-convert heavily aflatoxin-infected maize into two commercial products: high nitrogen fertilizer and animal feeds. The weeklong bootcamp consisted of team coaching, expert mentor sessions, and business plan development and ended with a global pitch event on 30 June.
- WFP Rwanda participated in the Regional Innovation Workshop in Kampala, Uganda to strengthen the regional innovation network, share knowledge and best practices, and discuss joint priorities with the East Africa innovation Hub, the RBN, Country Offices, and innovation and knowledge accelerator (INKA).

**Monitoring**

- WFP’s monthly food price monitoring indicated that the average price of the food basket in June 2022 increased by 11.5 percent compared to May 2022 (9,243 RFW) and was 54 percent higher compared to June 2021 (6,698 RFW). The increased cost of the food basket is attributed to rising fuel and transportation costs across the country.
- Due to food price increase in June 2022, the WFP transfer value for the highly vulnerable group (RFW 7,000/USD 6.89) was 32 percent lower than the average food basket cost, while the transfer value for the moderately vulnerable group (RFW 3,500/USD 3.44) was 66 percent less than the average cost of the food basket. WFP continues to monitor food prices around refugee camps to be able to mitigate any resource shortfall within refugee operation.

**Challenges**

- WFP requires USD 6 million for the next six months (July – December 2022) representing 25 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 4.8 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 home-grown school feeding (HGSF) 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 required to meet the technical assistance commitments to the Government on strengthening the national social protection system for enhanced shock response.
- In addition, WFP needs USD 660,500 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.