WFP Rwanda Country Brief
August 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 August 2022, Rwanda hosts 127,326 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.

In Numbers

- **326 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **USD 607,636** cash-based transfers (CBT) made
- **USD 8 million** six months (September 2022 – February 2023) net funding requirements, representing 32 percent of total requirements.
- **106,971 people** assisted in August 2022

Operational Updates

Refugee Assistance:
- In August 2022, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 106,971 people including 106,559 refugees, 200 Rwandan returnees, and 212 asylum seekers. WFP provided USD 607,636 in CBT to refugees across the five camps in Rwanda to allow them to purchase food from the markets in and around the camps.
- Due to funding constraints, WFP continued to provide reduced food rations to refugee households. Refugees classified as highly vulnerable (87 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. Should additional funding be received, WFP will be able to increase the food basket to the recommended levels.

Resilient Livelihoods:
- Following the completion of marshland and terracing rehabilitation under the resilient livelihoods programme in August 2022, WFP distributed approximately 320 tons of lime to 336 farmers (F:137; M:199). This input distribution seeks to assist them in preparing for the next agricultural season (December 2022 – March 2023) and valorising the rehabilitated land.

School Feeding Programme:
- The Rwandan Government hosted the Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) summit from August 6-9, 2022. Mrs. Jeannette Kagame, Rwanda’s first lady, delivered a session on increasing sustainable access to better diets and nutrition. WFP participated in this and other events and discussed the role of school feeding in promoting enhanced nutrition and food systems transformation in Rwanda.
- WFP supported a School Feeding Technical Working Group (TWG) retreat in August 2022 in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to develop a joint school feeding action plan. The TWG members also reviewed and validated the content for a nationwide school feeding management training starting in October.

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Photo caption: Chantal Umunyana poses for a photo with tree tomato fruits in Ngoma District, Eastern Rwanda. WFP supports rural women to grow fruits and vegetable for own consumption and market sale. Photo: WFP/JohnPaul Sesonga
**Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:**
- WFP and cooperating partners started Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) training targeting over 1,100 cooperative leaders and lead farmers. These will subsequently train approximately 46,500 fellow farmers across the country using the cascade training model.

**Monitoring**
- WFP’s monthly food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated that the average price of the food basket in August 2022 increased by 4 percent compared to July 2022 and was 75 percent higher compared to August 2021. The increased cost of the food basket is attributed to rising fuel and transportation costs across the country.
- Due to the food price increase in August 2022, the WFP transfer value for the highly vulnerable group of refugees (RWF 7,000/USD 6.89) was 41 percent lower than the average food basket cost, while the transfer value for the moderately vulnerable group (RWF 3,500/USD 3.44) was 71 percent lower than the average cost of the food basket.

**Challenges**
- WFP requires USD 8 million for the next six months (September 2022 – February 2023), representing 32 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 6.6 million is required to restore full food rations to refugees, in line with the new targeting mechanism where WFP provides general food assistance 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 in 2022 for strengthening the national social protection system, required to meet the technical assistance commitments to the Government for enhanced shock response.
- In addition, WFP needs USD 588,000 to continue nutrition capacity strengthening activities and support the Government’s stunting prevention efforts.

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