



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Rwanda Country Brief November 2022

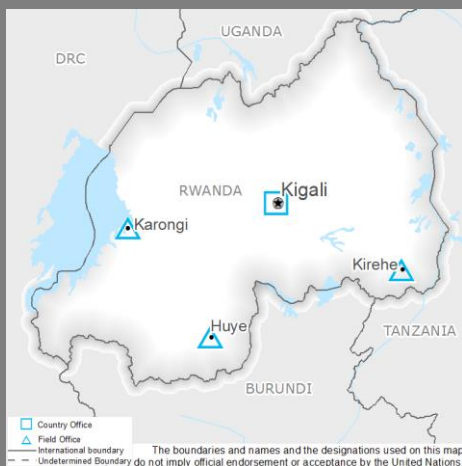


Operational Context

A small, landlocked country with a population of 13.7 million people growing at 2.5 percent annually, Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa. In the past three decades, 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 involved in small-scale farming. Irregular 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 October 2022 Rwanda hosts 126,916 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: **13.7 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **165 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic malnutrition: **33 percent** of children between **6-59 months**

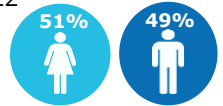
In Numbers

582,926 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 628,376 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

USD 15.9 million six months (December 2022 – May 2023) net funding requirements, representing 56 percent of total requirements

230,630 people assisted in November 2022



Operational Updates

Refugee Assistance:

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 114,080 people in November 2022, including 106,144 refugees, 600 Rwandan returnees, and 233 asylum seekers. 7,103 refugee and host community children attending the same schools received school meals. WFP also distributed cash-based transfers amounting to USD 628,376 to refugees in the five camps, allowing them to purchase food of their choice.
- In line with the National School Feeding Programme, WFP transferred a total of USD 3,434 to nine schools in the form of cash to support refugee parents' contributions for 11,340 students from the Nyabiheke, Kigeme, and Mugombwa camps.
- Due to funding constraints, WFP continued to provide reduced rations of RWF 7,000 to refugees classified as highly vulnerable (87 percent of all refugees) and RWF 3,500 to moderately vulnerable (6 percent of all refugees). These rations correspond to only 54 percent and 23 percent, respectively, of the current value of the food basket (RWF 15,150). Additional funding would enable WFP to restore full rations and adjust transfer values to the actual food basket cost.

School Feeding Programme:

- In November 2022, WFP provided meals to 116,550 students (up from 116,051 in October) from 140 schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and district authorities. School meals continue to act as a pull factor for children to return to school in Rwanda.
- WFP continued working with the Ministries of Education and Finance and Economic Planning to develop a National School Feeding Financing Strategy. The Ministry of Education has committed to establishing a Trust Fund to ensure the long-term funding of the National School Feeding Program.
- In November, schools used RWF 48,767,244 transferred by WFP through the cash-to-schools programme for the purchase and provision of fresh foods and animal-source protein twice a week. This greatly improved the nutritional value of the meal, providing much-needed vitamins and minerals to schoolchildren.

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Photo caption: Participants at the global launch meeting for WFP's new partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, on 'Strengthening Food Systems to Promote Increased Value Chain Employment Opportunities for Youth'. ©WFP/Sarah COLBOURNE

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
278.3 m	148.3 m	15.9 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.

Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:

- Rwanda hosted the global launch meeting for WFP's new partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, on 'Strengthening Food Systems to Promote Increased Value Chain Employment Opportunities for Youth.' The global gathering included teams from the eight implementing countries, the WFP regional bureau and headquarters, the Mastercard Foundation, and key partners such as the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). This was the first in-person meeting to engage around programme objectives, ensure strategic alignment, and collectively discuss next steps.

Monitoring

- WFP's monthly food price monitoring in and around refugee camps indicated that the average price of the food basket in November 2022 (RWF 15,150) had increased by 1.6 percent compared to October 2022 and was 92 percent higher compared to November 2021. The food basket cost increased by 5 and 4 percent in Mugombwa and Kiziba camps, respectively, while it increased by 1.3 and 0.5 percent in Kigeme and Nyabiheke camps and decreased by 3.8 percent in Mahama camp. The increased cost of the food basket is attributed to rising fuel and transportation costs across the country and reduced stock of season B harvest.

Challenges

- WFP requires USD 15.9 million for the next six months (December 2022 – May 2023), representing 56 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 13.9 million is required to restore full food rations to refugees, in line with a targeting mechanism where WFP provides support based on vulnerability status.
- 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 near schools, as a part of the Government's national school feeding programme.
- WFP is facing a shortfall of USD 400,000 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 385,000 to continue nutrition capacity strengthening activities and support the Government's stunting prevention efforts.

Donors: EU (ECHO and INTPA), France, Germany (BMZ and GFFO), Japan, Republic of Korea, Mastercard Foundation, New Zealand, Norway, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Sweden, Switzerland, UN Common Funds and Agencies, USA (USAID BHA and USDA).