



WFP Rwanda Country Brief

May 2023

World Food Programme

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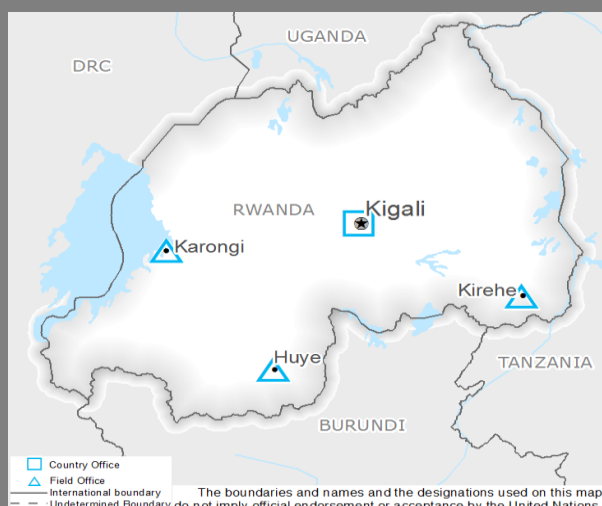


Operational Context

A small, landlocked country with a population of 13.2 million people growing at 2.3 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 69 percent of households engaged in crop production or animal husbandry. 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 May 2023 Rwanda hosted 133,062 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: **13.2 million**

2021 Human Development Index:
165 out of 191

Income Level: **Lower**

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

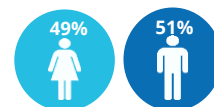
In Numbers

233.885 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 931,096.50 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

USD 29.3 million six months (June – November 2023) net funding requirements, representing 76 percent of total requirements

241,150 people assisted in May 2023



Operational Updates

Refugee Assistance:

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 122,240 people, including 105,708 refugees, 7,826 asylum seekers, 8,456 host community children, and 250 Rwandan returnees. This included USD 948,031 of cash-based transfers, allowing eligible refugees to buy food of their choice, as well as cash to schools for the parent contribution. Refugee and host community children attending the same schools in Kiziba camp and at the Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre in Mahama camp received school meals.
- Since November 2022, insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been displacing an increasing number of people due to armed violence in the area. By end-May, 7,661 asylum seekers had arrived in Rwanda. WFP is providing in-kind food and nutrition assistance to them.

Emergency Response:

- Prolonged and heavy rains in the Northern and Western Provinces on the nights of 2 and 3 May 2023, resulted in landslides and floods in ten districts, damaging houses and causing internal displacement. WFP supported the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management with an initial 10 Mobile Storage Units and provided food and nutrition assistance to over 5,000 internally displaced people.

School Feeding:

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and districts, WFP provided daily healthy school meals to 118,146 students in 140 schools. This aims to improve children's concentration in school, health, and nutrition, and reduce school absenteeism.
- Cash-based transfers to WFP-supported schools enabled the provision of fortified rice, beans, and fortified wholegrain maize meal three days per week. According to school reports, cash-based transfers greatly enhance the nutritional value of the meal because schools purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, and animal-source protein, such as dried fish thus providing school children with much-needed nutrients.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, is piloting a quantitative mapping of food commodity needs from schools at the district level in Nyamagabe. This will be compared against the available supply of food in the district, and the results will inform the Government and other partners on best practices and challenges that need to be addressed to ensure successful implementation of the National School Feeding Programme, with a focus on linkages to local producers.

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Photo caption: Bazikamwe Egide, a Burundian refugee cultivating vegetables and other crops around the camp. Photo: WFP/Aristide GATERA

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 278.3 m | 144.3 m | 29.3 m |

SDG target 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.

SDG target 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: *Résilience Building*

Activities:

- Support the design, implementation, and scale up of national food security and nutrition sensitive social protection programmes.

SDG target 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.

SDG target 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.

SDG target 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.

Donors: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, 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).

Resilient livelihoods:

- Following the heavy rains and landslides, WFP conducted an assessment to determine the extent of damage of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) project in Karongi, Rutsiro, and Nyaruguru.
- WFP distributed small livestock to 108 beneficiaries (45 female) in Kayonza, Nyamagabe, and Nyaruguru to increase their income and livelihood. 70 beneficiaries (31 female) received rainwater harvest tanks in support of small-scale household irrigation.
- WFP conducted refresher trainings for 74 trainers of trainers (39 female) in Rusenge, Kaduha, and Rwankuba sectors to promote gender-transformative decision-making at the household level and gender awareness in the communities.

Social Protection:

- WFP and the Local Administrative Development Entities Agency (LODA) disseminated the findings and recommendations of the diagnostic report of the national social protection Complaints Management System (CMS). An operating manual to guide the system modifications has been completed and will inform the remaining scope of work for a functional CMS to be achieved.

Smallholder farmer market access support:

- The primary agriculture season for 2023 is drawing to a close. Between January and May 2023, farmer organizations that receive support from WFP have successfully sold approximately 15,000 metric tons of maize, beans, rice, and Irish potatoes to formal buyers generating over USD 7 million in revenue.

Monitoring:

- The average cost of the food basket was RWF 13,178 in May, representing a 5.1 percent decrease from April 2023 (RWF 13,882), and a 43 percent increase compared to May 2022. The food basket cost decreased across all camps. The observed decrease is linked to the decreased food commodity prices such as of beans and maize grain, which fell by 12 percent and 6 percent, respectively, compared to April 2023. This could be related to the availability of food stocks from the ongoing season 2023B harvest, which began in May 2023.

Challenges:

- WFP requires **USD 29.3 million** for the next six months (May–November 2023), representing **76 percent** of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, **USD 23.3 million** is required to restore full food rations to refugees hosted in Rwanda, in line with a targeting mechanism where WFP provides support based on vulnerability status, as well as to support new asylum seekers and Rwandan returnees.
- WFP also requires **USD 1.9 million** to assist 18,854 local Rwandans affected by the heavy rain in western and northern provinces with 1 month of in-kind food commodities and 2 months of cash-based transfer.
- WFP also needs **USD 1.2 million** in complementary funding for the year 2023 for the home-grown school feeding programme to procure locally produced fresh foods sourced from markets near schools, in line with the 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 576,606** to continue nutrition capacity strengthening activities and support the Government's stunting prevention efforts.