



World Food Programme

WFP Rwanda Country Brief

July 2023

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

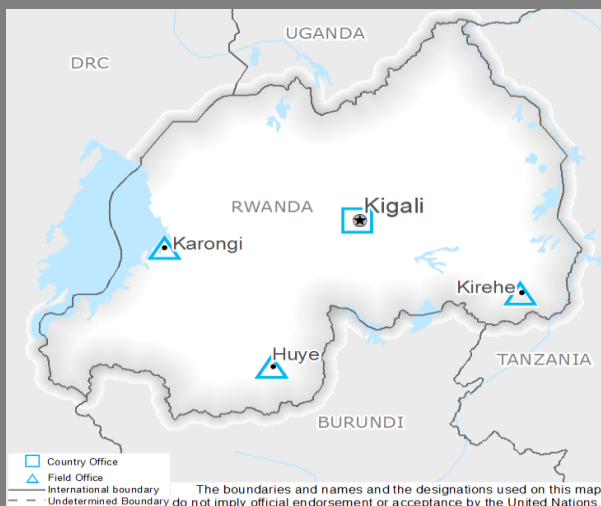


Operational Context

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 July 2023 Rwanda hosted 133,628 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

390 MT of food distributed

USD 889,204 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

USD 21 million six months (Aug 2023-Jan 2024) net funding required representing 64 percent of total requirements

242,657 people assisted in July 2023



Operational Updates

Refugee operations:

- WFP is facing a funding gap and **urgently requires USD 11.5 million** to continue cash-based transfers, food and nutrition assistance to camp-based refugees, asylum seekers and returnees. If no new funding is received, WFP will be forced to halt these operations from October 2023, leaving affected populations short of their nutritional requirements.
- In July, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 124,044 people, including 104,839 refugees, 10,499 asylum seekers, 8,456 host community children, and 250 Rwandan returnees. This included USD 886,315 of cash-based transfers (CBT), allowing eligible refugees to purchase food of their choice, and cash to schools for the parent contribution. Refugee and host community children attending the same schools in Kiziba and Mahama ECD received school meals.
- Through social and behavior change communication activities to promote positive health and nutrition behaviors, WFP through Plan International provided goats to community health workers from villages around the Kiziba refugee camp as an incentive, recognition, and additional support for their efforts in promoting nutrition and health-related messages within the host community.
- Since November 2022, insecurity in eastern DRC has been displacing an increasing number of people due to armed violence in the area. By end-July 2023, 10,478 asylum seekers had arrived in Rwanda from DRC. In total 10,499 asylum seekers were assisted in July including 10,478 asylum seekers from DRC and 21 Burundians accommodated in Nyanza.

Emergency Response:

- In collaboration with Ministry of Emergency Management, WFP continued preparing the distribution of CBT from August. Efforts in July focused on beneficiary targeting and facilitating contracting arrangements.

Resilient Livelihoods:

- WFP provided 1,433 people (55 percent female) with cascade trainings on Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS). This has led to behavior change within households where they reported a decrease in family conflicts, more balanced roles and responsibilities between husbands and wives, equal decision making on family assets, and equal access to property ownership. WFP commits to raising awareness and capacity building on gender transformative action amongst its beneficiaries, which is an underlying cause of food insecurity.
- 82 cooperative members (39 percent female) participated in communal works to clean water canals of the irrigation system for season C and were advised on how to supply agricultural inputs. WFP supports smallholder farmers to increase their agricultural productivity by providing technical support on good agricultural practices.

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Photo caption: Farmers are sorting high-iron beans to ensure their quality and uniformity before packaging and delivery. Photo: Rulindo Evelynne

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
278.3 m	149.7 m	21 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: Resilience 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), JAWFP, Republic of Korea, Mastercard Foundation, New Zealand, Norway, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Sweden, Switzerland, UN Common Funds and Agencies, USA (USAID and USDA).

School Feeding:

- To improve the quality of the National School Feeding Programme, WFP builds the capacity of stakeholders at national and local level ahead of the transition of 75 percent of WFP-supported schools into the national programme after the current school year.
- In July, together with the Ministry of Education and partners, WFP continued to provide school feeding trainings, this time at school level with a focus on cooks, storekeepers, and school feeding committees.
- WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Education and district authorities to provide daily nutritious school meals to around 118,000 students across 140 schools. This aims improve their health and nutrition, while also decreasing school absenteeism.
- Cash transfers to WFP-supported schools enabled the provision of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as animal protein such as dried fish, enhancing the nutritional value of the meal and provided much-needed nutrients to school children. These are served to students three times per week.

Nutrition and HIV:

- WFP led psychosocial retreats for People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in all five refugee camps to increase access to the Nutrition Assessment Counselling and Support (NACS) programme.

Smallholder farmer support:

- Compelling results from Conservation Agriculture (CA) demo plots of season B-2023 in Kirehe district proved that CA is worthwhile to address climate change effects. From different crops grown, the total production of 2.575 mt for conventional practices was obtained against 3.945 mt for CA practices, that is a yield/productivity increase of 53 percent.

Monitoring:

- The average cost of the monthly food basket per person in July was 13,404 RWF, a 2.5 percent decrease overall from June 2023 (13,749 RWF). While in Mugombwa and Kiziba the cost increased by 4.6 and 6.8 percent respectively, it decreased by 14.9 and 9.9 percent in Nyabiheke and Mahama respectively, while it remained stable in the Kigeme refugee camp.
- The observed decrease of the food basket is attributed to the general decrease of food prices across refugee camps. Apart from salt and maize for which prices slightly increased by 4 and 1 percent respectively, prices of other commodities of the food basket decreased overall. This results from available stocks from harvests of the 2023 B season.

Challenges:

- WFP requires a total of USD 21 million for the next six months (August 2023–January 2024), representing 64 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Of this, USD 19 million would allow to restore full food cash rations to targeted refugees in Rwanda based on their vulnerability status, as well as to support new asylum seekers and Rwandan returnees. **USD 11.5 million is urgently required to enable the continuation of the current reduced rations until the end of the year.**
- WFP also needs USD 1.2 million in complementary funding for the year 2023 for providing nutritious meals in WFP-supported schools and to strengthen 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 320,775 to continue nutrition capacity strengthening and support stunting prevention.