



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Rwanda Country Brief June 2024

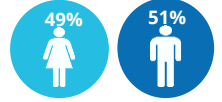
## In Numbers

**148,712 people** reached in June 2024

**USD 720,311** cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

**USD 13.4 million** six months (July – December 2024) net funding requirements, representing 58 percent of total requirements

**301.15 MT** of food distributed



## 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 30 June 2024, Rwanda hosted 134,272 refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) 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 future.



Population: **13.2 million**

2022 Human Development Index: 161 out of 193

Income Level: **Lower**

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

## Operational Updates

### Refugee operation and emergency assistance:

- WFP provided USD 713,345 in cash-based transfers to 116,544 individuals, including 110,394 refugees, 6,000 asylum seekers and 150 Rwandan returnees. This enabled the recipients to purchase food of their choice and meet their basic needs. Schools hosting refugees received USD 6,966 for school feeding contributions and 221.12 MT of food commodities that were distributed as hot meals to asylum seekers under nutrition and school feeding programmes. Additionally, 1,816 individuals benefited from Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) for Nutrition interventions.
- Insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has led to the displacement of individuals fleeing to Rwanda. As of end June 2024, 14,449 asylum seekers from DRC had sought refuge in Rwanda, as well as 200 new arrivals from Sudan and 198 from Burundi. Unregistered individuals receive in-kind food assistance, whereas registered individuals receive cash transfers.
- On 20 June, WFP joined partners for the national celebration of World Refugee Day at the Mugombwa refugee camp in Gisagara district. Visitors, including from the European Commission's Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) as one of WFP's key funding partners, witnessed the community's strong resilience and entrepreneurial efforts to improve their livelihoods.
- WFP provided storage support of over 960 MT of maize, beans, and rice for national food reserves as part of emergency preparedness. Pallets were also supplied, and food safety and quality checks were conducted in collaboration with the Government to ensure the food received meet proper food standards.

### Resilient Livelihoods:

- In June, the successful “Sustainable Market Alliance and Assets Creation for Resilient Communities and Gender Transformation” (SMART) project ended. The final activities included a smallholder farmer training in Karongi, Kayonza, and Huye on asset valorization, maintenance and sustainability, cooperative management and governance, action planning, financial management, and Rwanda's new cooperative law.
- As co-chair alongside SNV, WFP supported the Regenerative and Conservation Agriculture Coalition (RCA) to host a multi-stakeholder technical workshop. Participants from over 20 organizations, including Government, UN, academia, and farmer groups, discussed climate-smart agriculture practices. The workshop generated recommendations for future collaboration.
- WFP trained and graduated 49 government agronomists and cooperating partners' agents in conservation agriculture (CA), who will support over 6,000 farmers in Kayonza, Karongi, Nyamagabe, and Nyaruguru districts. These agents will work closely with Farmer Field School facilitators and farmers to scale up CA practices.

Contact info: Sarah COLBOURNE (sarah.colbourne@wfp.org)

Country Director: Andrea Bagnoli

Photo caption: Amos Anias, a Congolese refugee and mushroom farmer in Kigeme camp, proudly displays his freshly harvested mushrooms. He was inspired by the Social and Behavior Change Communication initiative supported by WFP. Photo: WFP/John Paul Sesonga

### Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
304.3m	192.5m	13.4m

#### 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:** Canada, EU (ECHO and INTPA), France, Gates Foundation, Germany (BMZ and GFFO), Ireland, 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:

- WFP provided daily nutritious meals to 30,000 students in 32 schools across three supported districts (Kayonza, Burera and Gasabo) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and district authorities.
- WFP, World Vision, and Gardens for Health International monitored 108 schools in Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Karongi, and Rutsiro districts to ensure their continued smooth transition to the National School Feeding Programme. Initial lessons learned will guide ongoing monitoring next school year.
- In June, a high-level delegation from the WFP Uganda Country Office visited WFP-supported schools as well as national-supported schools. They met representatives from the Ministries of Education and Agriculture to learn about Rwanda's school feeding programme, and further exchange of best practices is planned between the two countries.

## Nutrition:

- In preparation for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Global gathering in Kigali from 25-28 November 2024, key stakeholders welcomed Assistant Secretary-General Afshan Khan on 14th June 2024. She met with representatives from UN Nutrition, the Development Partners SUN Network, and the SUN Business Network to discuss advancing the nutrition agenda and coordinating efforts for the event.

## Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:

- WFP registered and profiled 1,000 Farmer Service Centers (97 percent youth) for the Shora Neza project. Thirteen market players were mapped for future linkages, and eleven business-to-business (B2B) sessions were held allowing participants to market their products and services. A gender analysis informed programme adjustments for young female participants.
- By the end of June, the [IGNITE Food Systems Challenge 3.0](#) had received 112 applications. This phase focused on refugee inclusion and invited private sector micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to propose innovative ideas for supporting and serving refugees sustainably.

## Monitoring

- In June 2024, the average cost of the monthly food basket in refugee camps was RWF 8,948, a 6.1 percent increase compared to May 2024 (8,434 RWF), and 35 percent lower compared to June 2023. The increase is associated with a 21 percent increase in the average price of dry beans. UNHCR and WFP's Joint Post-Distribution Monitoring in May 2023 shows a decline in acceptable food consumption scores from 62 percent in April 2022 to 51 percent. Economic insufficiency rose to 88 percent from 64 percent in April 2022, leading to increased reliance on coping strategies.

## Challenges

- WFP requires a total of USD 13.4 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (July-December 2024), representing 58 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Ninety-seven percent of our requirement is for Strategic Outcome 1, which covers cash assistance to targeted refugees in Rwanda based on their vulnerability status, as well as to support new asylum seekers and Rwandan returnees.