



### 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 2024, Rwanda hosted 134,769 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**

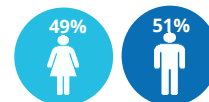
### In Numbers

**149,911 people** reached in July 2024

**USD 713,917** cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

**USD 13.1 million** six months (August 2024 – January 2025) net funding requirements, representing 55 percent of total annual requirements

**176 MT** of food distributed



### Operational Updates

#### Refugee operation:

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 119,874 individuals. This includes 110,593 refugees, 190 Rwandan returnees, 10,271 refugee and host community children attending the same schools, as well as 6,000 unregistered asylum seekers. A total of USD 704,949 and 166 MT of food commodities were distributed. Furthermore, 3,091 people benefited from Social and Behaviour Change Communication Nutrition (SBCC-N) interventions.
- Since November 2022, conflict and insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has led to increased displacement. By end July 2024, more than 15,000 asylum seekers from the DRC had moved into Rwanda. Unregistered individuals receive in-kind food assistance, whereas registered individuals receive cash-based transfers.
- The number of asylum seekers arriving from Sudan and Burundi has increased since the second quarter of this year. As of end July 2024, over 200 Sudanese and about 240 Burundians had arrived in Rwanda. The number of Sudanese arrivals is likely to increase given the constantly changing situation and arrival trend seen in recent months.

#### Resilient Livelihoods:

- WFP distributed agricultural equipment and livestock to cooperatives and farmers in Rutsiro, Kayonza, Nyaruguru, and Nyamagabe districts under the SMART project. This effort aimed at boosting household income, increasing agricultural production, and generating organic fertilizer to enhance soil fertility and support crop production for conservation agriculture practices.
- On 26 July 2024, WFP hosted a closing ceremony for the KOICA-funded SMART project, which was implemented from June 2020 to June 2024. The event, held in Rutsiro, brought together different stakeholders including Rwanda’s Minister of Local Government, the Governor of Western Province, and representatives from KOICA. The participants celebrated the project’s contributions to sustainable development and community resilience.

#### Nutrition:

- WFP finalized the formative research to inform the development of a Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategy for good nutrition behaviours, focusing on households with school-aged children, in WFP-supported schools and communities. The strategy and tools are currently in development.

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
304.3m	192.5m	13.1m

**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 over 30,000 students in 32 schools across three supported districts (Kayanza, Burera, and Gasabo) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and district authorities.
- WFP provided financial support to pilot a centralized cooking model for enhancing efficiency and food safety in the National School Feeding Programme. Solid Africa, a social enterprise with an industrial kitchen, collaborated with the Ministry of Education to implement the pilot, which provided meals to one school in Gasabo district for 20 days. Lessons learnt are being collected to guide a potential scale-up in urban areas and refining of the model.
- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Education organized a 5-day workshop to update School Feeding Operational Guidelines to align with the new procurement modality of the National School Feeding Programme, enhance food safety and quality, and update meal costs from the original costing done in 2019.

### Smallholder Agricultural Market Support:

- WFP is collaborating with UNCDF to implement the WFP Rwanda Bridge, a blended finance instrument. In July 2024, the first portfolio guarantee agreement was signed with Urwego Bank, a local microfinance institution, to disburse loans to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in food value chains, hence creating job and income opportunities for young Rwandan women and men.
- The [IGNITE Food Systems Challenge 3.0](#) was launched in May 2024 with a focus on refugee livelihoods. WFP, Impact Hub Kigali, and Inkomoko shortlisted 13 ventures to attend the bootcamp in August, after which six of these ventures will advance to the final stage. The six finalists will be awarded with up to USD 25,000 in grant funding and tailored technical support from industry experts to support their venture and potential scale up.

### Monitoring

- In July 2024, the average cost of the monthly food basket was RWF 9,522, a 6.4 percent increase compared to June 2024 (RWF 8,948), and 29 percent less compared to July 2023. The increase is associated with a 9 percent increase in the average price of dry beans.

### Challenges

- WFP requires a total of USD 13.1 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (August 2024 - January 2025), representing 55 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.