

# WFP Rwanda Country Brief

## August 2024



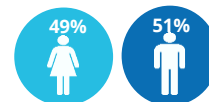
### In Numbers

**119,937 people** reached in August 2024

**USD 703,877** cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

**USD 15.9 million** six months (September 2024 – February 2025) net funding requirements, representing 65 percent of total annual requirements

**180.74 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 31 August 2024, Rwanda hosted 135,077 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.



### Operational Updates

#### Refugee operation:

- In August 2024, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to a total of 119,937 individuals, including 110,593 refugees, 6,600 unregistered asylum seekers, and 140 Rwandan returnees who received their three-month food assistance through the Cash Based Transfer (CBT) modality implemented since April 2024.
- Cash-based transfers totalled USD 703,877, enabling targeted refugees and returnees to purchase food of their choice. Furthermore, 180.74 metric tons of food commodities were distributed to unregistered asylum seekers and households enrolled in nutrition programmes, and 2,604 people benefited from Social and Behavior Change Communication for Nutrition (SBCC-N) activities.
- Since November 2022, insecurity in eastern DRC has led to increased displacement of people. As of the end of August 2024, a total of 15,873 asylum seekers had arrived in Rwanda from DRC. Unregistered individuals receive in-kind food assistance, while registered individuals are provided with cash transfers.

#### Climate resilience:

- WFP together with MINEMA are working to pilot artificial intelligence and machine learning for effective disaster risk management in Rwanda. The new project will encompass a landscape assessment, capacity strengthening, strategy development, and piloting.
- WFP convened the 3rd Regenerative and Conservation Agriculture Coalition Steering Committee meeting, to review progress on the annual action plan and strategize for the September to December 2024 period.

#### School Feeding:

- WFP together with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and the Ministry of Local Government hosted a review session for the national school feeding procurement, which started in the 2023/2024 academic year with districts purchasing long shelf-life foods from local markets. Representatives from all 30 districts participated and discussed lessons learned challenges in year one, and the way forward for the new school year (2024/2025).
- WFP and MINEDUC co-chaired the quarterly School Feeding Technical Working Group meeting. The meeting focused on the revised draft of the School Feeding Operational Guidelines, seeking feedback from partners before its finalization and publication in September.

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

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**Photo caption:** WFP with MINEMA and other public and private sector partners gathered in Musanze for a four-day training on emergency telecommunications preparedness. Photo: WFP/Aristide Gatera

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
304.3m	192.5m	15.9m

**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).

- MINEDUC launched the #DusangireLunch campaign, which allows mobile money contributions to the National School Feeding Programme. This is the implementation of a recommendation from the School Feeding Financing Strategy developed in partnership with MINEDUC, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, and WFP.

**Food Systems:**

- The first portfolio guarantee agreement with the local microfinance institution Urwego Bank was signed under the WFP Rwanda Bridge blended finance facility, which is implemented by WFP in collaboration with UNCDF. Through this agreement, Urwego Bank will disburse funds to small businesses in the Shora Neza project.
- The Mastercard Foundation's Integrated Finance team visited Rwanda from August 19 to 23, 2024. During their visit, they toured a model Farmer Service Center (FSC) in Bugesera area that grows green beans and chili on a commercial scale. The Foundation team appreciated Shora Neza project's tailored support, which includes market connections and access to funding, allowing the farmer to expand operations, create jobs and income prospects for other youth in the area.
- The IGNITE Food Systems Challenge 3.0 was launched in May 2024 with a focus on refugee livelihoods. WFP, Impact Hub Kigali, and Inkomoko conducted a bootcamp for 13 selected ventures in August. The bootcamp also featured a visit to Nyabiheke refugee camp to help participants gain insight into opportunities and challenges in the refugee context. The due diligence phase is completed, and the ventures are expected to submit proposals by early September.

**Monitoring**

- In August 2024, the average cost of the monthly food basket was RWF 9,522, a 5.3 percent increase compared to July 2024 (RWF 9,522), and 27 percent less compared to August 2023. The increase is associated with a 7.5 percent increase in the average price of all food basket commodities.

**Challenges**

- WFP requires a total of USD 15.9 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (September 2024 – February 2025), representing 65 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.