

In Numbers

160,008 people reached in September 2024



USD 710,262 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

USD 8.2 million six months (October 2024 – March 2025) net funding requirements, representing 33 percent of total annual requirements

279.951 MT of food distributed



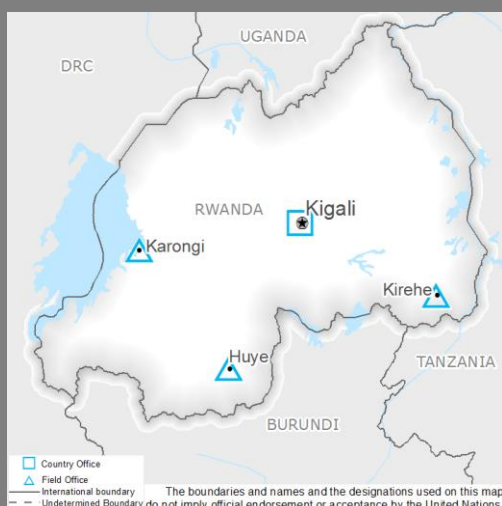
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

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 30 September 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.



Strategic Updates

- WFP is finalizing the design of its next country strategic plan (CSP 2025-2029), to be aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2025-2029) and the National Strategy for Transformation (NST2). WFP will continue to contribute to Rwanda’s efforts to become a middle-income country by 2035, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Vision 2050.
- WFP, as a key partner of the Government of Rwanda to advance the food systems transformation agenda, participated in the Africa Food Systems Forum hosted in Kigali from 2 to 6 September 2024. WFP contributed through discussions on home-grown school meals, climate adaptation, food systems and nutrition as well as advocacy across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
- South to South learning:** The Joint UN Programme on Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment (JPRWEE) implemented by WFP, UN Women, FAO and IFAD hosted a visit from the Tanzania team with government officials in Rwanda to exchange on good practices and challenges.
- On 27 September 2024, the Ministry of Health confirmed an outbreak of the Marburg virus disease. As of end September, there have been 26 confirmed cases, with eight deaths reported. WFP is actively monitoring the situation and ready to provide support based on Government request.

Operational Updates

Refugee operation:

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to a total of 128,223 people, including 111,232 refugees and registered asylum seekers, 7,950 unregistered asylum seekers, 6,927 host community children attending the same schools as refugee children, and 200 Rwandan returnees who received three months of take-home food assistance in the form of cash transfers. Furthermore, 1,914 individuals including refugees and host community members benefitted from nutrition and social behaviour communication interventions.
- Cash based transfers totalled USD 705,165, enabling targeted refugees and returnees to purchase food of their choice. WFP disbursed USD 5,097 as school feeding contribution to schools that host refugees, as well as 211.843 metric tons of food commodities were distributed to asylum seekers and households enrolled in nutrition programmes.
- Since November 2022, insecurity in eastern DRC has led to the displacement of an increasing number of individuals. By the end of September 2024, 15,873 asylum seekers from the DRC had sought refuge in Rwanda. In addition, approximately 300 Sudanese and 320 Burundian asylum seekers have arrived in Rwanda since June 2024.

Climate Resilience:

- On 26 September 2024, WFP hosted the bi-annual Regenerative and Conservation Agriculture Coalition Working Group meeting, with participation from 16 organizations including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and academia. Participants discussed progress to support, and the development of a workplan for the next six months following the successful advocacy for the inclusion of conservation agriculture into the new national Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation (PSTAS).

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: Petronille, a member of the WFP-supported cooperative COPCERU under the Farm-to-Market Alliance, proudly showcases her maize harvest. Photo: WFP/John Paul Sesonga

Disaster Risk Management:

- FAO, IFRC and WFP supported the Ministry of Emergency to organize a workshop to determine thresholds for anticipatory action when extreme weather events are forecasted and inform the development of landslides and flooding protocol.

Nutrition:

- WFP in collaboration with the Rwanda Biomedical Centre conducted positive life skills sessions aimed at empowering adolescents with essential HIV prevention knowledge. Sessions were held in Nyagatare and Kayonza districts, reaching 5,830 adolescents (2,748 girls and 3,082 boys) from eight schools.
- WFP collaborated with Ngororero and Rutsiro districts on a nutrition campaign to promote home-grown solutions towards eradicating stunting. Over 19,000 people were reached with nutrition messages, 5,000 kitchen gardens established, and a mass screening of children under the age of five was carried out.

School Feeding:

- The 2024/2025 school year started in September, and WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and district authorities to provide daily nutritious meals to 31,000 students in 32 schools across the districts of Kayonza, Burera and Gasabo.
- WFP supported MINEDUC in the development and dissemination of messages for a nationwide Food Safety and Quality awareness campaign, emphasizing hygiene practices in kitchens, storerooms, and cooks' personal hygiene. These messages were disseminated on Rwanda national TV and Radio at the beginning of September to coincide with the beginning of the school year.
- The Government of Rwanda is piloting centralized procurement of rice in the current school term, procuring all rice required for schools nationally. WFP is supporting to document the process to inform the next term and possible future centralization of school food commodity procurement.

Food Systems:

- WFP collaborated with Radiant Insurance to provide coaching sessions to young people farmer service center (FSC) agents to become insurance agents for crops and livestock, contributing to the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme. In September, five sessions were held, reaching over 400 FSCs to foster income generation and increase access to subsidized insurance services.
- WFP hosted a field mission including Innovation Norway and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to observe the progress of the SheCan pilot project, a blended finance initiative aimed at promoting inclusive economic opportunities for smallholder farmers and micro-entrepreneurs. This mission sets a strong foundation for the SheCan scale-up to refugee settings.
- WFP, UN Women, FAO and IFAD organized a joint training on results-based reporting to improve interagency collaboration and quality implementation for the JPRWEE.

Monitoring

- In September, the average cost of the monthly food basket was RWF 10,987, up 9.5 percent from August 2024 (RWF 10,030) and 22 percent lower than September 2023. The increase is associated with a 10 percent increase in the average price of all food basket commodities, most notably a 12 percent increase in dry bean prices.

Challenges

- WFP requires a total of USD 8.2 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (October 2024 – March 2025), representing 33 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.

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
304.3m	192.5m	8.2m

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).