



WFP Rwanda Country Brief November 2024

World Food Programme



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

In Numbers

172,363 people reached in November 2024



USD 722,891 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

USD 9.5 million six months (Dec. 2024 – May 2025) net funding requirements

296.17 mt of food distributed

Strategic Updates

- WFP Rwanda hosted the WFP Executive Board visit from 25-29 November 2024. The visit showcased WFP's contributions to Rwanda's Vision 2050 and the National Strategy for Transformation (NST2). Through a range of integrated programmes, WFP demonstrated its efforts in both humanitarian and development initiatives, including refugee operations, school feeding programmes, support for smallholder farmers, and innovative approaches to strengthening national capacity.
- On 7 November, the Ministry of Emergency Management, with support from WFP, hosted Rwanda's national Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) conference. The event highlighted significant achievements in DRRM and introduced a new project funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office. It also featured other DRRM Anticipatory Action initiatives under the theme: "Understanding the Root Causes of Disaster Risks in Rwanda: From Policies to Proactive Action."

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 November 2024, Rwanda hosted 134,733 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.



Refugee operation:

- To address immediate food and nutrition needs, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 130,121 people, including 114,010 refugees and registered asylum seekers, 7,470 unregistered asylum seekers, 8,404 host community children attending the same schools as refugee children, and 237 Rwandan returnees who received three months of take-home food assistance in the form of cash transfers.
- WFP also distributed a total of USD 715,286 enabling targeted refugees and returnees to purchase food of their choice. Furthermore, WFP distributed USD 7,605 as school feeding contribution to schools that host refugees and 201.5 mt of food commodities to asylum seekers and households enrolled in nutrition programmes. Additionally, around 10,293 individuals benefitted from Social and Behaviour Change Communication for Nutrition (SBCC-N) interventions.
- Since November 2022, insecurity in eastern DRC has led to the displacement of an increasing number of individuals. As of November 2024, 15,985 Congolese asylum seekers, along with a small group of Sudanese, have sought refuge in Rwanda.

Climate Resilience

- From 18-20 November, WFP participated in the Climate Smart Agriculture Investment Plan consultative workshop, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda Green Fund, and the International Finance Corporation, to develop a strategic framework for enhancing climate resilience in agriculture.

Nutrition

- WFP participated in the National Food, Nutrition, and WASH Technical Working Group meeting, chaired by the National Child Development Agency (NCDA), to discuss ongoing programs addressing stunting in Rwanda. The NCDA announced plans to develop a national action plan for stunting prevention in 2025, in collaboration with key stakeholders.

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

Contact info: Sarah COLBOURNE (sarah.colbourne@wfp.org)
Country Director: Andrea Bagnoli
Photo caption: The WFP Executive Board delegation with the Rwanda Country Office team during their visit to witness the transformative impact of WFP's work in Rwanda. Photo: WFP/Arete/Mussa Uwitonze

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
304.3 m	192.5 m	9.5 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.

School Feeding

- In November, WFP provided daily nutritious meals to over 31,000 students in 32 schools across three supported districts (Kayonza, Burera, and Gasabo) in collaboration with MINEDUC and district authorities. The school meals programme aims to improve school attendance rates among the school children.
- WFP supported four government delegates to participate in a one-week study tour to Brazil to explore how the National School Feeding Programme (NSFP) is implemented. The tour provided valuable knowledge on enhancing the sustainability of NSFP financing, strengthening procurement linkages with smallholder farmers, and improving coordination among key stakeholders. During the visit, the delegates also engaged with WFP's Centre of Excellence against Hunger, laying the groundwork for future South-South collaboration.
- WFP joined Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM) and the Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) to mark World Standards Day by participating in the national food safety and quality campaign, highlighting the importance of food safety in the school feeding program supply chain. During the ceremony, WFP was awarded Partner of the Year in recognition of its significant contribution to standardization by assuring food safety and quality in school feeding programs.

Food Systems

- WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) to train 150 farmers in Kayonza on post-harvest handling, in support of the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme. This will facilitate them to be linked with local millers, to reduce costs for farmers and schools.
- WFP in partnership with Mastercard Foundation signed an agreement with Equity Bank to offer microloans to Shoraneza Project participants including young entrepreneurs, especially women, working in food value chains. This will strengthen food systems providing financial resources to boost local food production.

Monitoring

- In November, the average cost of the monthly food basket was RWF 13,498, up 10.6 percent from October 2024 (RWF 12,199) and 8 percent higher than November 2023. The monthly increase is associated with a price increase ranging between 3 and 18 percent for dry beans, maize grain, and cooking oil.

Challenges

- WFP requires a total of USD 9.5 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (December 2024-May 2025), representing 37 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. While some of the key activities are relatively well-funded, critical initiatives like self-reliance and social protection remain severely underfunded, highlighting the need for additional support.

Donors: Canada, EU (ECHO and INTPA), Finland, 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).