

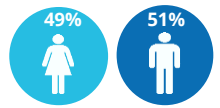


# WFP Rwanda Country Brief January 2025

World Food Programme



SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## In Numbers

**160,043 people** reached

**USD 704,460** cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

**USD 12.2 million** six months (Feb. 2025 – Jul. 2025) net funding requirements

**266.803 mt** of food distributed

## Operational updates

### Emergency preparedness and response

- In January, ongoing insecurity in eastern DRC forced hundreds to seek refuge in Rwanda. In response, WFP helped partners deliver immediate food assistance to 4,315 displaced people and facilitated the evacuation of over 3,700 UN staff and their families through Rwanda.
- While the situation remains volatile, WFP supported the pre-positioning of food commodities through its logistical corridor to ensure continuity of humanitarian assistance in North & South Kivu, as well as for a potential influx of up to 20,000 people into Rwanda.
- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of ICT and MINEMA, hosted an Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) workshop, supported by WFP's Global ETC team. The workshop led to the development of Rwanda's first Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for emergency telecommunications readiness and response.

### Refugee operation

- To address immediate food and nutrition needs, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 127,747 individuals, including 113,451 refugees and registered asylum seekers, 5,631 unregistered asylum seekers, 8,379 host community children attending the same schools as refugee children, and 286 Rwandan returnees who received three months of take-home food assistance in the form of cash transfers.
- WFP distributed a total of USD 704,460 enabling targeted refugees and returnees to purchase food of their choice. Furthermore, WFP provided USD 7,082 as school feeding contribution to schools that host refugees, and 178 mt of food commodities to asylum seekers and households enrolled in nutrition programmes. Additionally, around 10,334 individuals benefitted from Social and Behaviour Change Communication for Nutrition (SBCC-N) interventions.

### Nutrition

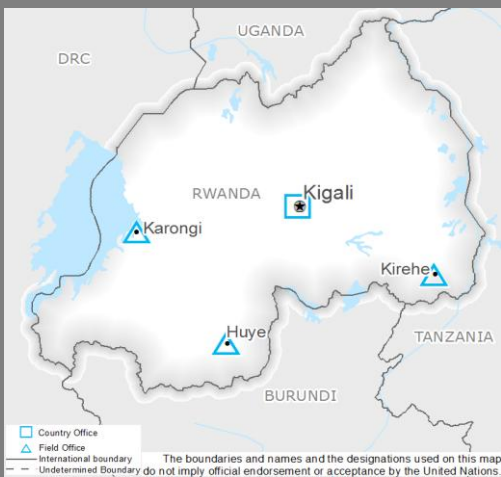
- WFP supported the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) in supervising nutrition assessment and counseling for HIV patients in 159 health facilities. Over 30 hospital-based nutritionists and RBC staff facilitated on-the-job capacity building to enhance and sustain HIV nutrition services.
- WFP and Sight and Life, as Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network (SBN) Rwanda conveners, supported NCDA in organizing a January 2025 executive committee meeting to plan 2025 activities. A technical session followed to review and pre-validate the plan before submission to the National Food, Nutrition, and WASH Technical Working Group for validation.
- As part of efforts to expand and strengthen partnerships, WFP met with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) to explore potential areas of collaboration, including providing technical assistance to the SBN to mobilize private sector support for nutrition and supporting the government in implementing key policies such as [NST2](#), [PSTA5](#), [Nutrition and Family Promotion](#), and others.

## 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 high at 30 percent (2024 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability and Nutrition Analysis Survey) with regional disparities. 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 January 2025, Rwanda hosted 135,151 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: <b>13.2 million</b> | 2022 Human Development Index: 161 out of 193                            |
| Income Level: <b>Lower</b>      | Chronic malnutrition: <b>33 percent</b> of children between 6-59 months |

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**Photo caption:** From 27-30 January, WFP and the Global ETC jointly supported the first national ICT Cluster meeting in Kigali to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Emergency Telecommunications (ETC) preparedness and response, TOR, and a workplan. Photo: WFP/Raissa Iradukunda

### Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>312 m</b>               | <b>205 m</b>                     | <b>12.2 m</b>                               |

#### 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), Finland, France, Gates Foundation, Germany (BMZ and GFFO), Ireland, Japan, 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

- In January 2025, WFP provided daily nutritious meals to 32,296 students in 32 schools across 3 supported districts (Kayonza, Burera and Gasabo) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and district authorities. These meals enhance learning, improve nutrition, and boost school attendance.
- WFP and MINEDUC organized a workshop to upgrade the School Data Management System (SDMS) with new indicators. This will allow schools to share procurement needs with the districts, manage commodity stocks, and monitor both cash and in-kind parent contributions by improving information sharing and accountability. Participants developed a plan for the next steps, which included piloting the upgraded SDMS and training end users.

## Food Systems

- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) hosted a consultative workshop for the Rome-Based UN Agencies' (RBA) joint programme to decrease post-harvest losses in Nyagatare district. The collaborative effort, supported under the joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund for food systems window, aims to improve food security, boost food availability, and promote sustainable agriculture practices.
- WFP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) hosted a workshop on financial inclusion tools and partnerships for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and farmers. The WFP-UNCDF Rwanda Bridge, a lending facility, helps financial institutions mitigate risk by offering credit guarantees, enabling MSMEs in key food value chains to access affordable financing, create jobs, and strengthen food security.
- WFP and the Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) hosted two workshops, one regional (East Africa Community) and one national, to review and validate fortification standards. The workshops, which brought together government, academia, non-governmental organizations, and business sector participants from Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Somalia, sought to review and harmonize nutrition and foods for special dietary standards across countries.
- WFP expanded its partnerships by signing a Field Level Agreement (FLA) with Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers (SNV) under the Farm to Market Alliance programme to support cooperatives and farmer service centers in strengthening market linkages and food value chains. This aligns with the Government's food systems objectives under the PSTA5.

## Monitoring

- In January, the average cost of the monthly food basket was RWF 13,113, a slight decrease compared to December 2024 (13,491 RWF), but 42 percent more than in January 2024. The monthly decline is attributable to the drop in bean prices caused by the availability of beans from the season 2025 A production. The food basket cost reduced by 4, 5 and 10 percent respectively in Kigeme, Mugombwa and Nyabiheke camps, whereas it increased by 2 and 3 percent in Kiziba and Mahama camps. The annual increase in food prices is likely due to food price inflation and currency depreciation, but also higher agricultural production last year.

## Challenges

- WFP requires a total of USD 12.2 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (Feb. 2025-Jul. 2025), representing 48 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. While some of the key activities are relatively well-funded, critical initiatives like support for refugee self-reliance and social protection remain severely underfunded, highlighting the need for additional support.