



WFP Rwanda Country Brief

February 2025

World Food Programme



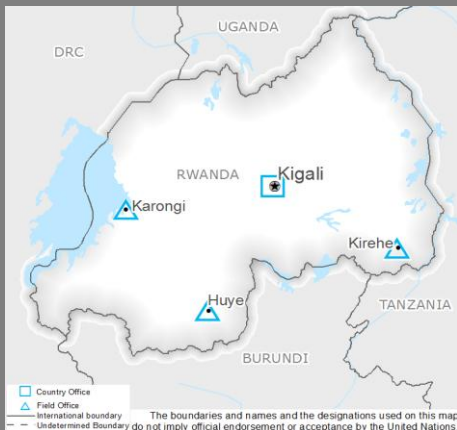
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Operational Context

Rwanda has made significant progress over the last few decades, demonstrating the Government's dedication to economic growth. This is evidenced by significant achievements in poverty reduction, gender equality, environmental sustainability, education, and public health, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. With a population of 13.2 million people expanding at 2.3 percent annually and an ambition to become a middle-income country by 2035 and a high-income country by 2050, Rwanda continues efforts to diversifying the economy, enhancing industrialization, and developing human capital.

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 29.7 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.

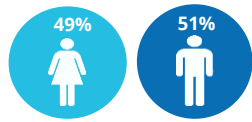
Moreover, according to UNHCR data, as of 28 February 2025, Rwanda hosted 135,590 refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi. Many refugees have been in the country for decades and rely almost completely on WFP food assistance. The "forgotten crises" 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

162,705 people reached in February 2025



USD 708,740 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

USD 13 million six months (March – August 2025) net funding requirements

258.321 MT of food distributed

Strategic Updates

- WFP and the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) facilitated a south-south learning exchange and study tour for 15 representatives from Malaysia to Rwanda to share experiences in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). This visit follows a similar one from Rwanda to Malaysia in 2023, which resulted in a long-term technical and south-south cooperation engagement in DRRM between both countries, with WFP acting as facilitator and partner.
- WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) met as Rome-Based UN Agencies (RBAs) to discuss and review collaboration opportunities in support of the Government's priorities outlined in the National Strategy for Transformation ([NST2, 2024-2029](#)). WFP took over as RBA Chair in 2025 from IFAD in 2024.
- In collaboration with MINEMA and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP hosted a strategic workshop to review the 2025–2029 Refugee Sustainable Graduation Strategy of the Government of Rwanda. The workshop brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including national and international organizations, and discussions focused on advancing the self-reliance agenda and identifying practical pathways toward the durable graduation of refugees over the next five years.

Operational updates

Refugee operation

- In February, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 130,484 individuals, including 116,025 refugees and registered asylum seekers, 5,580 unregistered asylum seekers, 8,379 host community children attending the same schools as refugee children, and 500 Rwandan returnees who received three months of take-home food assistance in the form of cash transfers.
- WFP distributed a total of USD 701,740 enabling targeted refugees and returnees to purchase food of their choice. Additionally, WFP provided USD 7,000 as school feeding contribution to schools that host refugees, and 173 MT of food commodities to asylum seekers and households enrolled in nutrition programmes. A total of 10,334 individuals benefited from self-reliance and Social and Behaviour Change Communication for Nutrition (SBCC-N) interventions.
- Insecurity is displacing an increasing number of individuals. As of February, 15,873 Congolese asylum seekers, along with a small group of Sudanese, have sought refuge in Rwanda.

School Feeding

- WFP provided daily nutritious meals to over 32,000 students in 32 schools across Kayonza, Burera and Gasabo in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and district authorities. This aims to improve school attendance rates among the school children.
- WFP facilitated a National School Feeding Steering Committee meeting, chaired by MINEDUC and co-chaired by WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI). Discussions focused on the recently approved School Feeding and Financing Strategies, as well as a call for additional support from development partners, for innovative financing options like the [Dusangire Lunch](#) initiative, and for promoting clean cooking in schools.

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Photo caption: WFP through the South-South Triangular Cooperation facilitated a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) peer-to-peer learning exchange and study tour for Malaysia and Rwanda representatives to discuss experiences in their countries and ways to strengthen collaboration. Photo: WFP/Raissa Iradukunda

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
312 m	205 m	13 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.

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).

Climate Resilience

- WFP supported MINEMA to conduct a multi-hazard hotspot assessment in 18 districts ahead of the rainy season (March-April-May). The results of this assessment will help to strengthen anticipatory actions, focusing on the identified landslide and flood hotspots in the northwestern part of Rwanda and in the City of Kigali.

Social Protection

- To enhance the impact of social protection efforts, WFP supported the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA) in expanding shock-responsive social protection interventions in two districts (Nyabihu and Nyamagabe). As of February, 8,342 households in both districts had benefited from climate-sensitive public works, while about 150 local government staff joined capacity building sessions.

Nutrition

- As part of efforts to address malnutrition and promote healthy diets in Rwanda, WFP presented the planned nutrition activities: Modelling and Mapping the risk of Inadequate Micronutrient Intake (MIMI) and the nutrition analytics software ENHANCE to the Nutrition and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Technical Working Group, which includes the Government and other development partners. This sparked interest, which triggered a mapping exercise to identify the key stakeholders who will help inform and define the policy objectives.

Food Systems

- In February 2025, WFP in collaboration with the Government and farmer representatives from Gatsibo district held a closing ceremony for the KOICA-funded Sustainable Agricultural Productivity and Market linkage (SAPMP) project. The ceremony highlighted the impact of capacity building and market linkages for smallholder farmers and officially handed over the project to the Government.
- As part of efforts to scale up conservation agriculture, WFP conducted conservation agriculture refresher trainings for 86 Government extension agents including agronomists and farmers in Kayonza, Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Karongi and Rutsiro districts.
- WFP in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture (MINAGRI) and Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), the Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA) and other partners reviewed the progress of the Accelerating Progress Towards Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Rwanda (JPRWEE) project at a national steering committee on 13, February 2025.

Monitoring

- In February, the average monthly food basket cost was RWF 11,923, a 9 percent drop compared to January 2025 (13,113 RWF) but 52 percent higher compared to February 2024. The monthly decline is attributable to the drop in maize grain prices caused by the availability of maize from the season 2025 A production. The food basket cost reduced by 3 to 8 percent in Kigeme, Kiziba and Nyabiheke camps, and by 13 and 14 percent in Mahama and Mugombwa camps.

Challenges

- WFP requires a total of USD 13 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (March - August 2025), representing 52 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Out of this, USD 6.3 million are urgently needed to maintain the current 75 percent cash rations for refugees. Also, critical initiatives like support for refugee self-reliance and social protection remain severely underfunded, highlighting the need for additional support.