



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Rwanda Country Brief

## June 2025

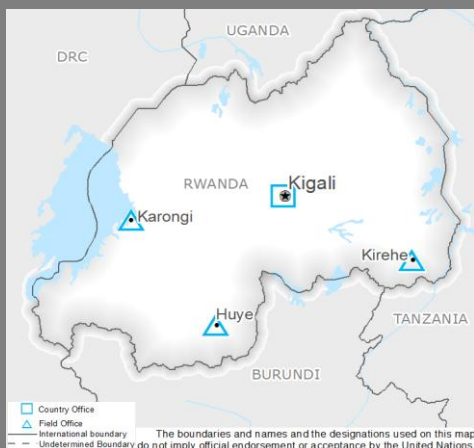


### Operational Context

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 diversify the economy, enhancing industrialization, and developing human capital.

However, 27.4 percent of the population live below the poverty line and 17 percent are food insecure. Levels of stunting among young children remain high at 29.7 percent (2024 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis) 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 30 June 2025, Rwanda hosted 136,713 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**

2025 Human Development Index: 159 out of 193

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic malnutrition: **30 percent** of children between 6-59 months

### In Numbers

**156,462 people** reached in June 2025



**USD 423,615** cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

**USD 13.3 million** six months (July – Dec. 2025) net funding requirements

**252.15 MT** of food distributed

### Strategic Updates

- Due to funding shortfalls, WFP has reduced refugee cash rations for food to 50 percent, leading to increased complaints from refugees and worsening coping strategies like debts and adults skipping meals to prioritize children.
- If no additional funding is secured, WFP will be forced to completely stop its cash-based transfers (CBT) assistance in September 2025. WFP urgently requires **USD 10 million** to ensure continued humanitarian food and nutrition assistance through December 2025.
- Following the dissemination of the summary findings from the 2024 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) in April, the full report is now available [here](#).
- The decision on the Rwanda 2025-2029 Country Strategic Plan (CSP) was postponed from the June annual session of the WFP Executive Board to its next session in November 2025, along with Ethiopia's CSP. The additional time will allow for alignment with WFP's forthcoming four-year Strategic Plan, which will provide overall guidance for CSPs across the organization.

### Operational updates

#### Food Assistance & Refugee Self-Reliance

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 124,224 people in June, including refugees, asylum seekers, host community children, and returnees. Additionally, 635 individuals engaged in Social and Behaviour Change for Nutrition (SBC-N) and livelihood projects to boost self-reliance.
- WFP disbursed USD 416,732 to provide refugees with 50 percent rations via cash-based transfers, enabling food choice. Schools hosting refugee children received USD 6,883 to cover parent contributions for school meals, supporting attendance and nutrition.
- Rwanda has also seen a sudden influx of returnees from DRC, receiving approximately 2,500 between April and July 2025, more than triple the previous average of 350 per month. While WFP had planned to assist 3,600 returnees this year, UNHCR now projects 10,000 more to arrive. WFP and the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) are providing cash and in-kind support to aid their reintegration, while pre-positioning food and strengthening coordination mechanisms, e.g. for nutrition screening and referrals.

#### Disaster Risk Management

- WFP, in collaboration with MINEMA, conducted a Training-of-Trainers exercise on Functional Simulation Exercises (FSX) aimed at strengthening local capacities on emergency preparedness and ensuring effective knowledge transfer among key stakeholders involved in disaster risk management. Fifty participants from 15 government and partner organizations participated and are expected to facilitate the roll out the FSX across all 30 districts, laying a strong foundation for the dissemination of skills and knowledge.

#### Human Capital Development

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and district authorities, WFP provided daily nutritious school meals to 32,238 children across 32 schools in the three supported districts of Kayanza, Burera, and Gasabo.

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**Photo caption:** Dan HAKIZIMANA, one of WFP supported young Agri-innovators showcasing AGRIMARK Ltd products at the 2025 Rwanda Agri-show. AGRIMARK is a hub that empowers farmers with inputs, extension services, and market linkages. Photo: WFP/Raissa Iradukunda

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
312 m	205 m	13.3 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, Denmark, EU (ECHO and INTPA), Finland, France, Gates Foundation, Germany (BMZ and GFFO), Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Mastercard Foundation, Netherlands New Zealand, Norway, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Switzerland, UN Common Funds and Agencies, USA (USAID and USDA).

- WFP, in collaboration with MINEDUC and the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC), convened a National Procurement Consultation Meeting to review the progress and challenges of the centralized school feeding procurement in June 2025. This aimed at providing recommendations for the next academic year (2025/2026) and the expansion of centralized procurement to include additional food commodities such as beans and maize flour. The consultation brought together representatives from all 30 districts, as well as from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Rwanda Education Board, and other key stakeholders.
- Together with MINEDUC as the chair, WFP co-chaired the School Feeding Quarterly Technical Working Group in which the Terms of Reference for the newly established Clean cooking task force were reviewed and validated. Chaired by MINEDUC and co-chaired by WFP, the task force will support initiatives that promote clean cooking solutions in schools and coordinate efforts to phase out the use of biomass in school.
- WFP participated in the second nutrition technical working group (TWG) meeting in June 2025. The meeting focused on accelerating the implementation of planned activities to ensure the achievement of set targets. During the session, WFP presented its newly developed Nutrition Strategy for 2025–2029, which was well received and commended by TWG members for its strategic direction and alignment with national nutrition priorities.

Promotion of Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems

- Under the joint UN programme on Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JPRWEE) which targets women with high levels of poverty, food and nutrition insecurity, WFP seeks to enhance their livelihoods, rights and resilience. As part of these efforts, WFP provided high iron beans seeds to approximately 370 rural women in Nyaruguru to support household nutrition. Furthermore, a 10-hectare solar-powered irrigation system was installed in Gisagara, and a 5 mt cold room is being set up in Ngoma to support post-harvest management and reduce food loss.
- The first portfolio guarantee agreement under the WFP Rwanda BRIDGE blended finance facility implemented in collaboration with UNCDF and Urwego Bank was fully utilized by the end of June 2025. Through this agreement, Urwego Bank disbursed approximately USD 670,000 to 93 Farmer Service Centers (FSCs) and two small businesses participating in the Shora Neza project. These investments have already shown promising early impact, enabling the creation of over 1,000 jobs and generating more than 3,200 income opportunities.

Monitoring

- In June 2025, the average monthly cost of the food basket was RWF 12,995, representing a 4 percent increase from May (RWF 12,451) and a 45 percent increase compared to June 2024. The monthly increase is attributed to a 9 percent rise in maize grain prices, while the annual increase reflects continued food price inflation, mainly due to reduced food production compared to 2024. Prices generally remain significantly higher than in the same period last year, with prices of key commodities including beans and maize increasing by an average of 63 percent.

Challenges

- WFP requires a total of USD 13.3 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (July - Dec. 2025), representing 58 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Out of this, USD 10 million are urgently needed to ensure continuation of vital food assistance for targeted refugees, asylum seekers and returnees. Also, critical initiatives like support for refugee self-reliance and social protection remain severely underfunded, highlighting the need for additional support.