



World Food Programme

WFP Rwanda Country Brief

August 2025



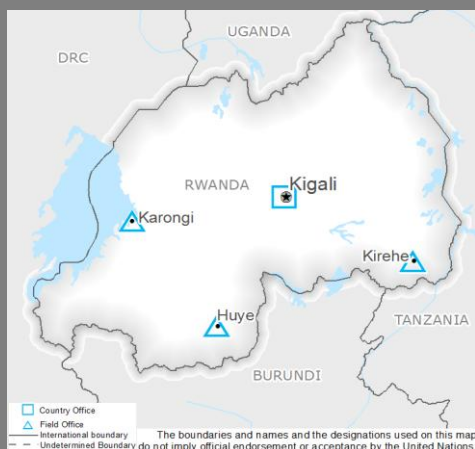
SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Operational Context

Rwanda has made progress over the last few decades, demonstrating significant economic growth. This is evidenced by significant Government's dedication 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, Rwanda is the second most densely populated country in Africa. To become a middle-income country by 2035 and a high-income country by 2050, Rwanda continues its 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 33 percent (2019-20 Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey) with regional disparities. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy, with 69 percent of households engaged in subsistence farming, e.g. crop production or animal husbandry. Irregular rainfall, floods, drought, 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 August 2025, Rwanda hosted 137,232 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

113,960 people reached in August 2025

USD 389,793 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

USD 14.5 million net funding requirements for six
months (September 2025 – February 2026)

138.23 mt of food distributed

Strategic Updates

- As a [pathfinder country](#) of the [Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection](#), Rwanda has been selected to receive funding from the SDG Fund, to accelerate progress towards social protection outcomes and create decent and productive employment. With this funding, WFP will collaborate with the World Bank and UNICEF to support the Government's agenda to advance jobs and social protection.
- Due to funding shortfalls, WFP has reduced refugee cash rations for food to 50 percent of entitlements since April 2025, leading to increased complaints from refugees and negative coping strategies including adults skipping meals to prioritize children and taking on debt. With current funding, WFP will be able to continue its cash assistance until March 2026. USD 13.3 million is urgently required to continue humanitarian food and nutrition assistance for refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees for the next 6 months.
- In August 2025, WFP Rwanda signed an agreement with the National Union of Disability Organisations in Rwanda (NUDOR), an Organization for Persons with Disabilities (OPD). This partnership aims to strengthen the capacity of WFP staff and cooperating partners to design and implement disability-inclusive food security and nutrition programmes.
- WFP, UNICEF, and WHO, in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, handed over more than 630 units of cold chain equipment to the Ministry of Health, to strengthen Rwanda's public health emergency response capacity. The equipment will ensure safe storage and distribution of vaccines and essential medicines, improving timely access for communities during future health emergencies.

Operational updates

Food Assistance & Refugee Self-Reliance

- Insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since November 2022 has led to displacement due to conflict. As of end-August 2025, Rwanda had received a total of 17,042 asylum seekers and approximately 3,532 returnees from the DRC. WFP and the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) are providing cash and in-kind support to meet their food and nutrition needs.
- In August, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 106,968 people, including 101,736 refugees, 4,700 asylum seekers, and 532 returnees. Additionally, WFP assisted 6,992 individuals through Social and Behaviour Change for Nutrition (SBC-N) and livelihood projects to boost their self-reliance. WFP disbursed USD 389,793 to provide refugees with 50 percent cash rations, empowering refugees to purchase the foods of their choice.

Disaster Risk Management

- WFP and MINEMA successfully conducted a week-long workshop focused on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for improved disaster risk reduction. This brought together over 20 participants from key institutions, including MINEMA, Meteo Rwanda, Ministry of ICT, Rwanda Space Agency, and MINAGRI, fostering cross-sectoral collaboration and innovation.

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Photo caption: WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UN RC, Africa CDC together with RMS and RBC participated in the handover ceremony of 600 units of cold chain equipment to the Ministry of Health, to strengthen Rwanda's public health emergency response capacity. Photo: UNRCO/Muhire Astride

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
312 m	213 m	14.5 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.

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).

- Under the ECHO-funded Great Lakes Anticipatory Action project, WFP, FAO, IFRC and government stakeholders developed an inter-cluster coordination plan for drought and flood anticipatory action. The plan which covers health, WASH, accountability to affected populations, and food and nutrition, will guide timely, synchronized activation of anticipatory action, and define roles and responsibilities across sectors

Human Capital Development

- WFP and National Child Development Agency (NCDA) as part of mobilizing the private sector support for nutrition through the SUN Business Network (SBN) held a capacity building workshop for businesses in Rwanda. Bringing together over 40 private sector actors, Government and UN agencies, the session highlighted how the private sector can work with the Government to reduce stunting to 15 percent by 2029 through the optimization of nutritious foods value chains and making them safe, accessible and affordable for all.
- WFP in collaboration with the Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA), trained agricultural cooperatives in Kayanza, Burera, and Gasabo districts on governance and financial management. This aimed to strengthen cooperatives' business orientation and overall performance to become reliable suppliers for the National School Feeding Programme.

Promotion of Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems

- WFP has partnered with Food for the Hungry (FH) and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) to scale up Conservation Agriculture (CA) in Rwanda, aiming to reach over 25,000 farmers by 2027. The project focuses on enhancing food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and climate resilience through a CA+ approach and will be implemented in Burera, Gasabo, Kayanza, Ngororero, Nyamasheke, and Gisagara districts.
- Under the [SheCan](#) project, WFP enhanced access to finance for approximately 250 youth Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) through targeted interventions, including capacity building in financial and digital literacy. In August alone, the groups mobilized savings of RWF 41,541,160 (USD 28,645.7) enabling members to access 3,919 loans, 73 percent of which went to women, demonstrating enhanced female participation in financial activities.

Monitoring

- In August 2025, the average monthly cost of the food basket was 13,188 RWF, a slight increase from July 2025 (12,906 RWF) and a 31 percent increase from August 2024. The monthly increase is linked to an increase in the price of grain maize, while the annual increase reflects sustained price increases due to reduced food supplies of key staple commodities compared to the previous year. For instance, in August 2025, the price of beans increased by 9 percent, and the price of maize grain increased by 51 percent compared to August 2024.

Challenges

- WFP requires a total of USD 14.5 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (September 2025 - February 2026), representing 57 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Out of this, USD 13.3 million is urgently needed to ensure the continuation of vital food assistance for targeted refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees. Also, critical initiatives such as support for refugee self-reliance and livelihoods remain underfunded, highlighting the need for additional support.