



World Food Programme

WFP Rwanda Country Brief September 2025



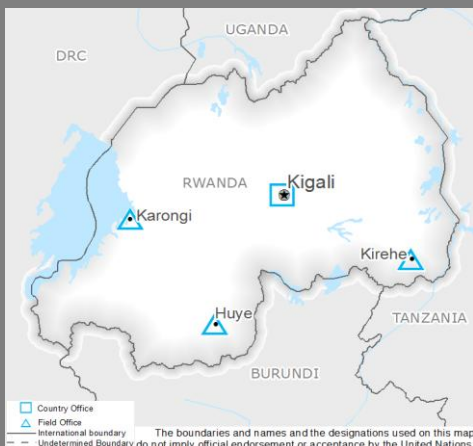
SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Operational Context

Rwanda has made significant progress over the last few decades, demonstrating 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 30 September 2025, Rwanda hosted 137,435 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**

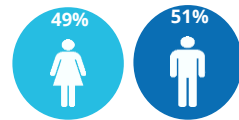
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Photo caption: WFP and Koica signed a grant arrangement worth USD 1.2 million to support sustainable agriculture and youth employment in Rwanda's Gatsibo District. WFP/Raissa Iradukunda

In Numbers

182,412 people reached in September 2025



USD 409,382 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

USD 8.9 million net funding requirements for six months
(October 2025 – March 2026)

277 mt of food distributed

Operational updates

Food Assistance & Refugee Self-Reliance

- In September, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 116,523 individuals, including 103,417 refugees and 3,775 asylum seekers, 8,331 children who are students from the host community and around 1,000 Rwandan returnees also received their three-month take-home food assistance through the cash-based transfers (CBT). WFP disbursed USD 402,808 through CBT, with a reduced ration of 50 percent, enabling refugees and returnees to purchase foods of their choice.
- WFP distributed USD 6,574 through CBT to schools hosting refugees for school feeding contribution. A total of 144 metric tons of food commodities were either served or distributed to new asylum seekers and households enrolled in nutrition interventions. Additionally, approximately 4,834 individuals benefitted from Social and Behavior Change for Nutrition (SBC-N) interventions.
- Ongoing insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since November 2022 has triggered conflict-related displacement. By the end of September 2025, Rwanda had received 17,042 asylum seekers. To address their food and nutrition needs, WFP and the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) are providing both cash and in-kind support.

Disaster Risk Management

- In partnership with MINEMA and the Anticipatory Action Consortium, WFP supported the rollout of Functional Simulation Exercise (SMEX) activities in Karongi and Nyanza districts. These rollouts follow a Training of Trainers workshop held in June and mark a significant step in the national plan to extend SMEX to all districts. The initiative strengthens local-level emergency preparedness and response mechanisms by equipping district teams with practical simulation tools and coordination skills.
- From 1–4 September, Rwanda hosted the in-country workshop for the Global Shield against Climate Risks, with WFP leading key sessions on Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI) and on climate insurance instruments and mechanisms. Participants identified priority support areas, including disaster risk financing and preparedness capacities, particularly shock responsive social protection. The government is preparing a prioritized list of required support to submit to the Global Shield Secretariat.

Human Capital Development

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and district authorities, WFP provided daily nutritious meals to 61,058 students (30,538 boys and 30,520 girls) across 72 schools, boosting health and learning in five districts (Kayanza, Burera, Gasabo, Ngororero and Nyamasheke).
- WFP facilitated the Ministry of Education's participation in the [2nd Global Summit of the School Meals Coalition](#) (September 18-19, Brazil). The Minister of State for Education, Claudette Irere, presented Rwanda's experience on a panel title on "School Meals and Sustainable Food Systems." Furthermore, the Rwandan

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
350.3 m	218.9 m	8.9 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.

Ministry of Education signed an agreement with the Brazilian Ministry of Education to strengthen bilateral cooperation in education, research, and skills exchange.

- WFP extended its school feeding partnership agreement with the Government of Rwanda through 2029 under a multipartite agreement signed by the ministries of Education, Agriculture, Local Government, and Trade and Industry. This extension ensures complementarity and synergy across the education, agriculture, and social protection to strengthen the National School Feeding Programme.

Promotion of Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems

- WFP and Republic of Korea launched a USD 1.2 million new project to support sustainable agriculture and youth employment in Gatsibo District. This KOICA-funded project will be implemented through a tripartite partnership led by the Rwanda Agriculture Board under the Ministry of Agriculture. The WFP will empower approximately 400 vulnerable youth and women with market driven vocational training, entrepreneurial coaching, and facilitate access to financial and market services, and improve food systems to indirectly benefit 4,000 people.
- WFP, in collaboration with Equity Bank, delivered a business planning and loan-management training to savings groups across 27 cooperatives. As a result, 23 cooperatives have begun the process of applying for loans to start or expand entrepreneurial ventures. This intervention strengthens financial inclusion, enhances cooperative capacity to access credit, and catalyzes local enterprise growth linked to livelihoods and value-chain development.

Monitoring

- In September 2025, the average cost of the food basket was 13,898 RWF, a 5 percent increase from August 2025 (13,118 RWF) and 26 percent higher than in September 2024. The monthly increase was driven primarily by higher prices for dry beans and maize grain, while the annual increase reflects continued price increases linked to lower food production year-on-year. Except in Mugombwa the food basket cost rose by 13 percent in Kiziba, 7 percent in Nyabiheke, 6 percent in Mahama, and 1 percent in Kigeme.

Challenges

- WFP requires a total of USD 8.9 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (October 2025 – March 2026), representing 37 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Out of this, USD 8.3 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.

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).