



World Food Programme

WFP Rwanda Country Brief October 2025



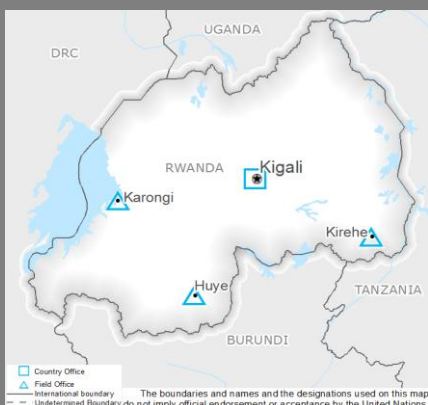
SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Operational Context

Rwanda has made significant progress over the last few decades, demonstrating the 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, landslides, 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 October 2025, Rwanda hosted 135,000 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 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

180,939 people reached in October 2025



USD 461,148 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

USD 10.4 million net funding requirements for six months (November 2025 – April 2026)

350.09 MT of food distributed

Strategic Updates

- At the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme ([CAADP Partnership Platform](#)), WFP and the Government of Rwanda co-hosted a side-event showcasing examples of youth entrepreneurs creating solutions to reduce post-harvest losses. The side-event contributed to discussions on the implementation of the [Kampala Declaration](#).
- On 6 October, in partnership with Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), WFP supported validation of Rwanda's Disaster Risk Financing Strategy. The strategy expands the country's access to pre-arranged financing instruments for preparedness, anticipatory action, relief and recovery, enabling faster, more effective responses to natural hazards. It also seeks to establish a national reserve fund capitalized from fiscus among other sources to ensure quick disbursement of resources for early action and timely recovery.

Operational Updates

Food Assistance & Refugee Self-Reliance

- In October, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 118,998 individuals, including 105,264 refugees, 3,750 asylum seekers, 8,115 children who are students from the host community and around 784 Rwandan returnees who also received their three-month take-home food assistance through CBT. WFP disbursed USD 452,859 through cash-based transfers, with a reduced ration of 50 percent, empowering refugees and returnees to purchase foods of their choice.
- USD 8,289 was distributed to schools hosting refugees for school feeding contribution. A total of 136.99 metric tons of food commodities were either served or distributed to new asylum seekers and households enrolled in nutrition interventions. Additionally, approximately 1,085 individuals benefitted from Social and Behavior Change interventions for Nutrition (SBC-N).
- Insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since November 2022 has led to displacement. As of end-October 2025, Rwanda had received a total of 15,083 asylum seekers. WFP is providing cash and in-kind support to meet their food and nutrition needs.

Disaster Risk Management

- In partnership with MINEMA, Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) and Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA), WFP supported the review and update of District Disaster Management Plans (DDPM) for the Western Province. The revisions incorporate recent changes in the disaster risk landscape and shift the emphasis from reactive response to proactive risk-reduction measures. The initiative also ensures that DDPMs are part of the District Development Strategy thereby ensuring funding and sustainability of activities ensuring a more resilient society.
- In partnership with MINEMA and the anticipatory action consortium, WFP hosted an EU donor visit to review progress on the EU-funded project implemented in Rwanda and the DRC. The donor expressed high satisfaction with the project's implementation status and encouraged the consortium to share lessons learned on integrating anticipatory action into government policy and sub-national strategies across other countries.

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Photo caption: participants of the CAADP event during the official opening ceremony. Photo: Minagri

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2025)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
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350.3 m 218.9 m 10.4 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).

Human Capital Development

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and district authorities, WFP provided daily nutritious meals to 61,941 students (30,909 boys and 31,032 girls) across 72 schools in Kayonza, Burera, Gasabo, Ngororero, and Nyamasheke districts during October 2025.
- WFP, in collaboration with MINEDUC and MINALOC, recruited 19 new School Feeding Programme Specialists bringing the total to 26 specialists now supporting 28 districts. A national workshop trained 85 participants, including the new specialists and district education inspectors on food safety, procurement, and data management. These trainees will conduct follow-up trainings in schools and sectors nationwide in November 2025.

Promotion of Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems

- Under the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE), three poultry model farms stocking 3,500 layers were launched on International Rural Women's Day to boost women's incomes and improve household nutrition. At the same event, two new selling points were opened to serve more than 2,000 community members and to strengthen rural women's working conditions and market access.
- From 13–17 October, WFP and implementing partner World Relief Rwanda celebrated the contributions of rural women to food security and community resilience. The [SheCan](#) initiative, part of the Shora Neza project's access-to-finance pillar, is empowering young women through improved access to finance and agricultural support. Since March 2025, 250 Village Savings and Loan Associations have been formed, with 80 percent female membership, helping women secure better harvests and greater economic opportunity.
- The Rwanda Country Office onboarded Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (RWAMREC) as a cooperating partner to strengthen gender-transformative approaches in the [Shora Neza Project](#). A co-creation workshop launched efforts to empower young women and promote men-engaged models that drive behavioural change at household and community levels.

Monitoring

- In October 2025 the average monthly cost of the food basket was 13,912 RWF, remaining stable compared with September 2025 (13,898 RWF) but 14 percent higher than in October 2024. The overall stability between September and October reflects a decrease in dry-bean prices while maize grain prices increased.

Challenges

- WFP requires a total of USD 10.4 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (November 2025-April 2026), representing 43 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Out of this, USD 9.5 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.