



World Food Programme

WFP Rwanda Country Brief November 2025



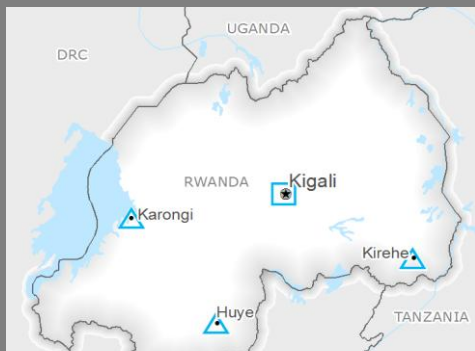
SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

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 November 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**

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Photo caption: WFP, EU and UNHCR signed an agreement to launch the three-year "Refugee Socio-Economic Graduation & Livelihood Opportunities in Rwanda" project, supporting 3,200 refugee families and 800 host community families to strengthen self-reliance in meeting basic needs.

In Numbers

186,679 people reached in November 2025



USD 470,852 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

USD 13 million net funding requirements for the next six months (December 2025 – May 2026)

328 mt of food distributed

Strategic Updates

- The WFP Rwanda 2026–2029 Country Strategic Plan (CSP) was approved by the WFP Executive Board on 19 November 2025. Aligned with Rwanda's Second National Strategy for Transformation (NST2), the CSP builds on the achievements and lessons learned from the 2019–2024 plan. It outlines WFP's continued collaboration with the Government of Rwanda to strengthen resilient and inclusive food systems, promote human capital development, and provide support to the most vulnerable populations.
- The [official signing ceremony for the EU-funded Refugee Self-Reliance Project](#) was held at the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) on 19 November with WFP and UNHCR, marking the formal launch of a joint initiative to support refugees and host communities in graduating toward self-reliance. Over the next three years, the project will target 3,200 refugee families and 800 host community families, enabling them to strengthen their capacity to meet basic needs and build sustainable livelihoods.

Operational Updates

Food Assistance & Refugee Self-Reliance

- In November, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 124,198 people. This included 108,859 refugees, 5,650 asylum seekers, 8,389 host community children enrolled in school, and 1,300 Rwandan returnees who received three months of take-home food assistance through cash-based transfers (CBT). WFP disbursed USD 470,852 via CBT at a reduced ration of 50 percent, enabling refugees and returnees to purchase food of their choice. In addition, 171.44 metric tons of food commodities were served or distributed to new asylum seekers and households participating in nutrition interventions.
- Insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since November 2022 has led to displacement. As of the end of November 2025, Rwanda had received a total of 17,107 asylum seekers. WFP is providing cash and in-kind support to meet their food and nutrition needs.

Disaster Risk Management

- In partnership with the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management, the Ministry of Local Government, and the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency, WFP supported the review and update of District Disaster Management Plans (DDMPs) in the Southern and Eastern Provinces. The updates reflect important changes in the disaster risk management landscape and emphasize proactive rather than reactive measures. By integrating DDMPs into the District Development Strategy, the initiative ensures both funding and sustainability of activities, contributing to a more resilient society. The review also aimed to align the DDMPs with Rwanda's Second National Strategy for Transformation (NST2) and other recently adopted national strategies.

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 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, 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 partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Local Government, WFP supported a national training focused on procurement, food safety and quality (FSQ), and the use of the School Data Management System (SDMS). Delivered through a training-of-trainers approach, the cascading model will reach more than 14,000 headteachers, storekeepers, and cooks across all schools. The training is designed to ensure that schools can receive, prepare, and serve safe, high-quality, and nutritious meals to protect children’s health and promote their well-being. Additionally, the training will strengthen schools’ capacity to use SDMS to manage food stocks, track procurement, and report on parental contributions more effectively.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and district authorities, WFP provided daily nutritious meals to over 60,000 students across 72 schools in Kayanza, Burera, Gasabo, Ngororero and Nyamasheke districts.

Promotion of Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems

- Under the Shora Neza project which strengthening agricultural value chains while generating employment opportunities for youth, a Gender Co-Creation Workshop was successfully conducted with cooperating partners. The workshop provided a platform to align approaches on gender-related work, helping partners avoid duplication and strengthen coordination. It also established a framework for measuring impact more effectively, ensuring that gender interventions are coherent, and results driven.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Kuehne Foundation, held a two-day co-creation workshop on Post-Harvest Management (PHM) to develop the WFP Country Office strategy in alignment with the national PHM strategy. The workshop brought together WFP and Foundation staff alongside a wide range of stakeholders, including government institutions, UN agencies, and cooperating partners to review existing information on PHM and jointly define the way forward.

Monitoring

- The average monthly cost of the food basket in November was 13,772 RWF, which remained stable compared with October 2025 (13,912 RWF) and 2 percent higher than in November 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 13 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (December 2025- May 2026), representing 51 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Out of this, USD 11.7 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.