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WFP Rwanda Country Brief

December 2025



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 27 percent (2025 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 December 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: Group photo of WFP staff and partners marking the successful conclusion of the CSP training/workshop. WFP/Pearl Karungi

In Numbers

187,506 people reached in December 2025



USD 475,531 cash-based transfers (CBT) distributed

USD 16.7 million net funding requirements for the next six months (January 2026 – June 2026)

267 MT of food distributed

Strategic Updates

- WFP, together with joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JPRWEE) partners [IFAD](#), [FAO](#) and [UN Women](#), hosted a High-Level Policy Dialogue that convened 150 stakeholders from government, financial institutions, NGOs, academia and the private sector. The dialogue identified policy gaps and put forward recommendations to promote gender responsive agricultural systems, engage men and boys to challenge gender norms, and strengthen data systems for monitoring and accountability, among other priorities.
- WFP Rwanda, with support from the [ESARO office](#), hosted a Cooperating Partners and Risk Management workshop to review partnerships, harmonize procedures, and strengthen staff and partner capacity ahead of the Country Strategic Plan 2026–2029. The workshop convened about 50 NGO partners and prioritized practical capacity building, standardized processes, and improved partnership coherence to reduce implementation risks and enhance program delivery at scale.

Operational Updates

Food Assistance & Refugee Self-Reliance

- In December, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 124,956 people: 108,992 refugees, 6,066 asylum seekers, 8,398 host community children attending the same schools as refugee children, and 1,500 Rwandan returnees. Returnees received three months of take-home food assistance through cash-based transfers (CBT). WFP disbursed USD 475,531 via CBT at a reduced ration of 50 percent, enabling refugees and returnees to purchase food of their choice. An additional USD 7,005 was disbursed to schools hosting refugee children in support to parent's contributions. About 153.56 metric tons of food commodities were served or distributed to asylum seekers and households participating in nutrition interventions.
- Insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has led to influx of 1,000 asylum seekers in December 2025. Since 2022, Rwanda had received a total of 17,107 asylum seekers. WFP provided hot meals to meet their food and nutrition needs.
- In line with corporate cash assurance guidance, WFP Rwanda completed its first annual verification exercise in December 2025. The exercise confirmed refugees' presence, identity, and ownership of payment instruments, ensuring that cash-based transfers reach their intended beneficiaries. This verification exercise will be conducted on an annual basis.

Disaster Risk Management

- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA), the Rwanda Red Cross, and FAO Rwanda, conducted a Functional Simulation Exercise (SMEX) in Rwamagana district. Building on the Training of Trainers held in June 2025, the SMEX represented a key step in the national plan to roll out simulation exercises across all districts. The exercise strengthened local emergency preparedness by equipping district teams with practical simulation tools, clarifying coordination roles, and rehearsing multi-agency procedures to improve response effectiveness.

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	16.7m

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, Cyprus, 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).

- Rwanda hosted a regional workshop on Strengthening Early Warning for Anticipatory Action (AA) that brought together national meteorological agencies from Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya, alongside IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), Oxford University and WFP. Jointly funded by Denmark and Google.org, the initiative focuses on integrating AI and machine-learning techniques into weather and climate forecasting and on translating those improved forecasting products into timely triggers for anticipatory action.

Human Capital Development

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and district authorities, WFP provided daily nutritious meals to 61,058 students (30,538 boys and 30,520 girls) across 72 schools across five districts in December 2025.
- WFP, in collaboration with MINEDUC and the Ministry of Local Government, scaled a National Training of Trainers (ToT) on Food Safety, Procurement, and Data Management into a nationwide initiative. The ToT in November engaged 85 participants and was subsequently rolled out to 12,000 school staff across all 30 districts. The training covered hygiene, nutritious meal preparation, food stock management, and procurement methods, equipping school staff with the skills needed to deliver safe and healthy meals to schoolchildren.
- WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and the Rwanda Agriculture Board to train 273 site-based extension agents and district agronomists to operationalize Food Basket Sites (FoBaSi). Delivered in Rwamagana, Huye, Karongi, and Musanze, the training strengthened participants' ability to implement agronomic initiatives, promote crop-insurance uptake, and link production to centralized markets such as the School Feeding Programme. Sessions also identified critical gaps; harmonized reporting tools, IT equipment, and standardized extension and communication materials which will be addressed to unlock FoBaSi's full potential to boost productivity, improve coordination, and raise farmer incomes nationwide.

Promotion of Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems

- WFP, under the JP RWEE, launched the installation of a 5-ton hybrid cold room in Ngoma District to reduce post-harvest losses and improve storage of perishable goods for women farmers participating in the project.
- WFP, through partner [RWAMREC](#) under the ShoraNeza project, delivered a Training of Trainers (ToT) for 100 community facilitators to advance efforts to challenge gender and social norms and promote inclusive economic participation. The sessions focused on practical facilitation techniques, using role plays and hands-on exercises to build confidence and ensure facilitators can effectively lead community sessions and drive behaviour change.

Monitoring

- In December 2025, the average monthly cost of the food basket was 14,027 RWF, up from 13,772 RWF in November 2025 and 4 percent higher than December 2024. The average price of dry beans dropped by 5 percent following the start of season 2026 A harvests, while maize grain prices rose by 5 percent on average across all camps. Prices are expected to ease as the 2026A harvest continues, although overall production is likely to be lower due to the season's poor performance.

Challenges

- WFP requires a total of USD 16.7 million to sustain its operations for the next six months (January 2026- June 2026), representing 65 percent of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Out of this, USD 14.5 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.