



WFP Rwanda

COUNTRY BRIEF
March 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In February, WFP reached 175,209 people through the provision of **310 MT** of food and **USD 448,306** million cash-based transfers distributed.
- Despite humanitarian needs in Rwanda remaining high in 2026, WFP continued to implement 50 percent ration reductions for all targeted refugees, Rwandan returnees and asylum seekers.
- WFP requires a total of **USD 15.7million** to sustain its operations for the next six months (March- August 2026), representing **63 percent** of the total funding requirement for planned activities. Out of this, **USD 13.0 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.

IN NUMBERS



175,209 people assisted in February 2026



51%
Male



49%
Female



310 mt food distributed



USD 448,035.64 cash transferred



USD 15.7 M (March–August 2026) net funding requirements

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Preliminary monitoring results from December 2025 revealed concerning deterioration in food security and economic resilience among refugees since the April 2025 ration cuts. This is likely due to reduced rations and rising market prices, which together have sharply eroded households' ability to meet basic needs and forced widespread adoption of negative coping strategies. Key findings include:
 - WFP's monitoring shows a sharp deterioration in vulnerability levels, with the level of "highly vulnerable" individuals increasing from 40 percent in mid-2024 to 76 percent in December 2025. Over 68 percent of refugees now rely on consumption-based coping strategies, such as reducing meal size or frequency.
 - Average Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) worsened from 13.7 to 19.1 percent, reflecting a broad decline in food security.
 - Half of refugees adopt livelihood coping strategies to survive, up from 37.9 percent in July 2024 to 51.4 percent in December 2025.
 - Severe malnutrition rates for children under five have increased from 2.5 percent in 2021 to 4.6 percent in December 2025.
- In February, WFP and the Ministry of Youth (MoYA) signed an agreement to strengthen institutional capacity, equip youth with practical skills, expand access to resources, and promote inclusive engagement. The agreement supports MoYA's Youth Employment Mainstreaming in the Agriculture Sector initiative and aligns with WFP's mandate to strengthen food systems and create sustainable employment opportunities for youth.

Photo Caption & Credit: Africa Day of School Feeding National Celebration in Rusizi District. WFP/Pearl Karungi

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

General Food Assistance & Refugee self-reliance

- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 112,668 people including 107,256 refugees, 4,612 asylum seekers, and 800 Rwandan returnees. Returnees received three months of take-home food assistance through cash-based transfers (CBT). Due to funding shortfalls, highly vulnerable refugees continued to receive RWF 6,200 per month, while moderately vulnerable refugees received RWF 2,800 per month, covering only 50 percent of their entitlements.
- Insecurity in eastern DRC has driven increased displacement across the region. Between November 2022 and February 2026, 15,329 asylum seekers from the DRC sought refuge in Rwanda. Asylum seekers receive kind food assistance in transit centre while awaiting transfer to camp, after which they transition to cash transfers.

Disaster Risk Management

- In February, WFP, the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management, and FAO supported drought simulation exercises (SMEX) in Kirehe and Nyagatare districts. District and sector disaster management committees participated to strengthen preparedness and integrate anticipatory action into preparedness and response planning. These exercises improved local readiness to detect and respond to drought shocks, tested coordination and early-warning protocols, and generated practical lessons to scale anticipatory actions.

Human Capital Development

- In February, Rwanda participated in the Africa Day of School Feeding continental celebration in Gaborone, Botswana. The Minister of State for Education, Hon. Claudette IRERE, highlighted Rwanda's progress in school feeding, outlined plans, and announced that Rwanda will host the School Meals Coalition Ministerial Task Force meeting in October 2026.
- WFP, in collaboration with the World Bank, begun consultations with the Government of Rwanda to support a government-led Healthy Systems Approach for Better Education Results (Healthy SABER) exercise. Healthy SABER is a standardized self-assessment methodology that enables governments to evaluate school health and nutrition policies and programmes against international benchmarks.

Promotion of Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems

- The Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JPRWEE) Steering Committee Meeting

brought together the four PUNOs, government representatives, and other key partners. The meeting reviewed implementation progress and acknowledged early results from Phase II interventions.

- In February, WFP began engaging government officials and partners on discussions to harmonize conservation agriculture manuals and materials. This initiative aims to create a consistent, shared approach for government institutions and partner organizations.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Monitoring

- In February 2026, the average monthly cost of the food basket was 13,427 RWF, slightly lower than 13,772 RWF in January and 13 percent higher than in February 2025. The modest month on month decline is attributed to the harvest of season 2026 A. The price of dry beans remained stable, while the price of maize grain decreased by 5 percent following the season 2026 A harvests. Prices are likely to ease further in the coming months as household stocks remain elevated, but the persistent gap between cash transfer values and the actual cost of the food basket will limit any meaningful improvement in refugees' purchasing power.

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 (State Government Department and USDA).