



WFP RWANDA

COUNTRY BRIEF
OCTOBER 2026



185,528 people assisted in Sept 2026
(52% female)



300 mt food distributed in Sept 2026



USD 521,734 cash transferred in Aug 2026



USD 12.2M required in the next six months (Oct 2026 – Mar 2027)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP requires USD 12.2 million to sustain planned operations over the next six months, representing 52 percent of total requirements for planned activities. Of this amount, USD 6.2 million is urgently needed to maintain food assistance for refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees.
- At the Africa Food Systems Forum in Kigali, WFP showcased how investments in food systems can expand opportunities for young people and women. Participants in the Mastercard Foundation-supported Shora Neza programme contributed to exhibitions and panel discussions. WFP also delivered a keynote address at a Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment side event and moderated a discussion at the Rwanda Pavilion.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- In September 2026, the average cost of the food basket increased by 3 percent compared with August 2026 and by 7 percent compared with September 2025. Although recent harvests supported domestic food availability, these gains did not translate into sustained price relief, as food inflation and elevated fuel and transport costs continued to place pressure on markets. The rising cost of the basket further constrained refugee households' purchasing power, particularly given the persistent gap between assistance levels and the cost of meeting minimum food needs.
- With above-average rainfall anticipated during the September–December season because of El Niño, WFP and Government partners intensified contingency planning for floods and landslides. Priorities included defining emergency transfer values and in-kind baskets, strengthening early-warning and telecommunications readiness, and testing coordination arrangements through simulation exercises. Rwanda is expected to be highly affected by both drought and floods.
- While Rwanda remains without confirmed Ebola cases, WFP continues to support

Reporting Period: September 2026

Photo Caption: Participants of WFP's Shora Neza programme supported by the Mastercard Foundation and WFP staff at the Africa Food Systems Forum. Photo credit: WFP/Pearl Karungi

Government-led readiness through logistics, storage, and coordination support.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Refugee Response: General Food Assistance & Self-Reliance Pathways

- In September 2026, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 117,261 refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees. Due to funding shortfalls, assistance remained at 50 percent of planned entitlements, which is insufficient to meet families' minimum food and nutrition needs. Highly vulnerable refugees received RWF 6,800 (USD 4.65) per month, moderately vulnerable refugees received RWF 3,400 (USD 2.33), and 214 Rwandan returnee households received reduced cash assistance of 1.5 months of the full entitlements (instead of 3 months) upon departure from transit centres to facilitate their integration into their home districts. Asylum seekers and returnees received in-kind food assistance during their stay at transit centres.
- As part of the EU-supported refugee self-reliance project, WFP, in collaboration with UNHCR and MINEMA, completed the data collection for the socio-economic profiling across Rwanda's five refugee camps, to generate a comprehensive household-level evidence base on refugees' livelihoods, vulnerabilities and capacities. Data analysis is currently progressing, following which the national validation workshop will take place and the drafting of the report. The profiling will strengthen evidence-based targeting and provide a baseline for tailoring assistance and tracking households progress towards self-reliance and sustainable graduation under Rwanda's Refugee Sustainable Graduation Strategy.

Human Capital Development

- WFP supported Rwanda's preparations for the School Meals Coalition Ministerial Meeting, where the Government will showcase its Home-Grown School Feeding model as a global example of how school meals can improve

education outcomes, strengthen nutrition, support local food systems and contribute to rural economic development.

- WFP and national partners advanced efforts to professionalize school feeding implementation through the development of a certification framework for school cooks and storekeepers. The initiative aims to strengthen food quality, safety, accountability and the long-term sustainability of the national school feeding programme.
- WFP contributed to national clean-cooking priorities by preparing for upcoming pilots of institutional electric cooking solutions in schools and providing technical inputs to the update of Rwanda's National Clean Cooking Strategy.

Climate, Disaster Preparedness and Shock-Responsive Social Protection

- WFP is supporting MINEMA and other Government institutions to develop an emergency minimum expenditure basket and proposed transfer value for a potential flood response. Work also progressed on defining an in-kind assistance basket to inform emergency planning.
- WFP continued supporting hydrological data collection and weather and climate services to strengthen drought monitoring, disaster preparedness and anticipatory action. An inter-cluster simulation exercise tested the operational integration of Rwanda's flood and drought anticipatory action frameworks ahead of possible El Niño impacts.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

- During the Africa Food Systems Forum in Kigali (1-5 September), WFP highlighted Rwanda's experience in linking food systems development with youth employment, women's economic empowerment and private sector engagement. Through the Shora Neza programme, supported by the Mastercard Foundation, young entrepreneurs and programme participants directly engaged with policymakers, investors and development partners, demonstrating how targeted

investments can support pathways to dignified work and economic inclusion. See [here](#) and [here](#).

- The Government approved and published a WFP-supported conservation agriculture manual, providing farmers and extension services with practical guidance to improve productivity, strengthen resilience to climate variability and promote sustainable land management practices.
- WFP also supported a nationwide awareness campaign on agricultural insurance and El Niño preparedness, helping 1,700 lead farmers better understand climate risks and available risk-management tools, as well as communicate these risks in their communities. The initiative is expected to strengthen household resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate-related losses.

Nutrition Integration

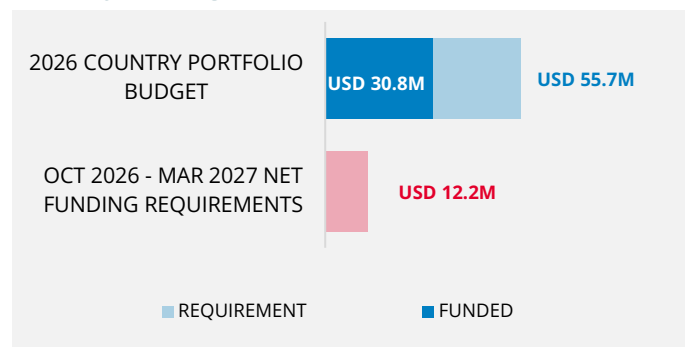
- With WFP support, Rwanda validated its National Social and Behaviour Change Strategy for Integrated Early Childhood Development, Nutrition, WASH and Child Protection (2026-2030), establishing a stronger policy framework for improving nutrition practices and promoting coordinated action across sectors. The strategy is expected to support more effective prevention of malnutrition and contribute to national efforts to reduce stunting and improve dietary outcomes.
- WFP and national partners agreed to launch the Fill the Nutrient Gap Plus analysis in late 2026. The analysis will provide evidence to inform nutrition-sensitive policies and programmes, helping Government and partners better target investments to address nutrient deficiencies and improve access to healthy diets.

Supply Chain and Logistics

- As co-lead of the Government's supply-chain coordination pillar for Ebola preparedness, WFP maintained inter-agency coordination and arranged emergency storage and provided telecommunications equipment to the Ministry of ICT to reinforce national readiness.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2026-2029)



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, Switzerland, UN Common Funds and Agencies, USA (State Department and USDA)

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