

WFP Rwanda Country Brief

Highlights

- WFP's main priority is to provide food assistance to refugees and vulnerable host communities, and to build national capacity to design and manage home-grown hunger solutions.
- The refugee operation is currently experiencing significant funding shortfalls which may lead to interruptions in the provision of food assistance.
- A new phase of the prevention of stunting programme under the Country Programme was not initiated at the beginning of the year because of funding shortfalls.

WFP Assistance

| Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation | Total Requirements (in USD) | Total Received (in USD) | 6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)* |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| PRRO 200744 (Jan 2015 - Dec 2017) | 89.7 m | 51.8m (58%) | 9.4 m (62%) |

*September 2017-February 2018

| Common Country Programme (CCP) | Total Requirements (in USD) | Total Received (in USD) | 6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)* |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| CCP-200539 (Jul 2013-Jun 2018) | 52 m | 44 m (85%) | - |

*September 2017-February 2018

The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) targets Burundian and Congolese refugees, former Rwandan refugees returning home and children from the host communities attending the same schools as refugee children in and around refugee camps.

Refugees living in the camps in Rwanda entirely depend on assistance to meet their food needs, as they have limited access to livelihood activities.

WFP's assistance is provided through in-kind food and cash distributions and safety net interventions such as blanket supplementary feeding, targeted supplementary feeding and school meals. Cash-Based Transfers (CBTs) in lieu of in-kind food distributions are implemented in four out of the six camps, enabling refugees to purchase food of their choice at the local markets, thus contributing to the country's economy.

This refugee operation and its components were formulated based on consultative meetings with partners including the Government of Rwanda, UN agencies and the people that WFP assists.

WFP's portfolio of assistance under the Common Country Programme (CCP) focuses on national capacity development and on modelling innovations in food assistance. WFP's emphasis is on the provision of technical support to the government and enabling it to develop, design, and manage nationally owned, innovative hunger solutions, including school feeding.

WFP enhances resilience and livelihood opportunities for the most vulnerable and food insecure people, and strengthens the capacity of the government to reduce hunger.

WFP builds resilience through community based asset creation activities and is based on WFP's long term experience in asset creation and existing government initiatives such as Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme (VUP), based on a participatory approach.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/John Paul Sesonga

Caption: WFP's home-grown school feeding is being implemented in the most food insecure districts located in south and western Rwanda. Over 83,000 primary school children are receiving mid-morning meals as an incentive to reduce dropout rates and increase school performance.

In Numbers

245,849 people were reached with WFP food assistance in August 2017.

USD 647,901 were transferred to refugees in camps and vulnerable households participating asset creation activities.

1,444 mt of food commodities were distributed.

People Assisted
August 2017



August 2017

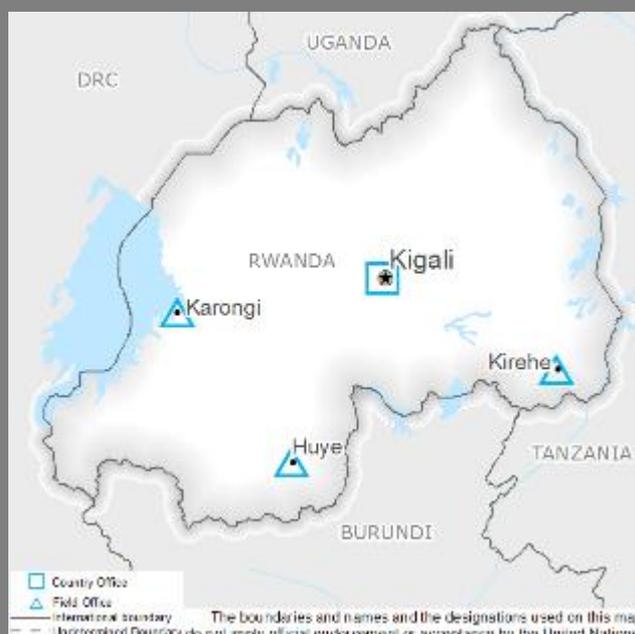
Operational Updates

- In August, WFP provided food assistance to 245,849 people, including vulnerable host populations and refugees in camps through general distributions, nutrition interventions, asset creation activities and school meals programmes in food insecure areas.
- WFP has expanded cash-based transfers (CBTs) to refugees in lieu of in-kind food distribution to the fourth camp of Kiziba and is planning to extend CBTs to the fifth camp of Mugombwa by the end of September. CBTs allow refugees to purchase food of their choice from local markets, using the multi-wallet smart cards, which include biometrics for identification checks. Gihembe, Nyabiheke, Kigeme and Kiziba are the four camps, which are currently distributing CBTs.
- In August, WFP transferred USD 647,901 to 62,630 camp based refugees. Under the country programme, transferred USD 78,787 to 18,335 local households participating in asset creation activities in the most food insecure areas.
- WFP provided 1,348 mt of assorted food commodities to refugees in camps and returnees; as well as schoolchildren in food insecure districts of Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Rutsiro and Karongi.
- WFP continues to support small-holder farmers in Rwanda, providing training and linking them with buyers and agriculture service providers, including banks and crop insurance companies.

Challenges

- The refugee operation is facing serious funding shortfalls. WFP requires **USD 9.4 million** to meet the needs of the camp based refugees in the next six months (September 2017-February 2018). Food stocks and cash-based transfers are running low. Therefore, new contributions are required immediately to avert supply chain breaks and ration cuts. Given the protracted crisis in Burundi and the deteriorating security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which is likely to trigger further refugee influxes into Rwanda, it is essential to maintain adequate funding levels to be able to respond to the increased needs.
- Under the Country Programme, a new phase of the prevention of stunting programme for children aged 6-23 months, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers has been discontinued due to lack of new funding. The discontinuation of the programme will erode gains made by the joint UN nutrition project in addressing stunting in Rwanda and will put children at risk in the most food insecure areas with high levels of chronic malnutrition.

Country Background & Strategy



Rwanda has one of the highest population densities in Africa (416 people per square kilometre). It has a limited natural resource base; agriculture is the main sector contributing over 33 percent to the national gross domestic product (GDP) and generates 80 percent of total export revenue. Life expectancy in Rwanda is 64 years and households headed by women or orphans account for 36 percent of the population.

Since the 1994 genocide and the ensuing collapse of the economy and social services, the Government embarked on rebuilding the country and improving the quality of life through long and short term development programmes such as vision 2020 and the second Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS2). Rwanda was the first country to sign the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) compact and to secure funding, thus confirming malnutrition and food insecurity as one of the Government's key priorities.

WFP's strategy is to contribute towards making Rwanda a food secure country, where people are well nourished, able to develop to their full potential and living in resilient communities.

WFP has been present in Rwanda since 1975.

Population: **11.2 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
163 out of 188

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition:
37 percent of children between 6-59 months

Top Five Donors

CP 200539: USDA, Republic of Korea, Multilateral, Private Donors and UN Common Funds and Agencies (excl. CERF).

PRRO 200744: USAID, UK, Japan, European Commission and UN CERF

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Rwanda