



COMPACT  
2025

# Rwanda

Assessment of Food Security and  
Nutrition Situation

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Permanent Secretary of MINAGRI

Roundtable Discussion

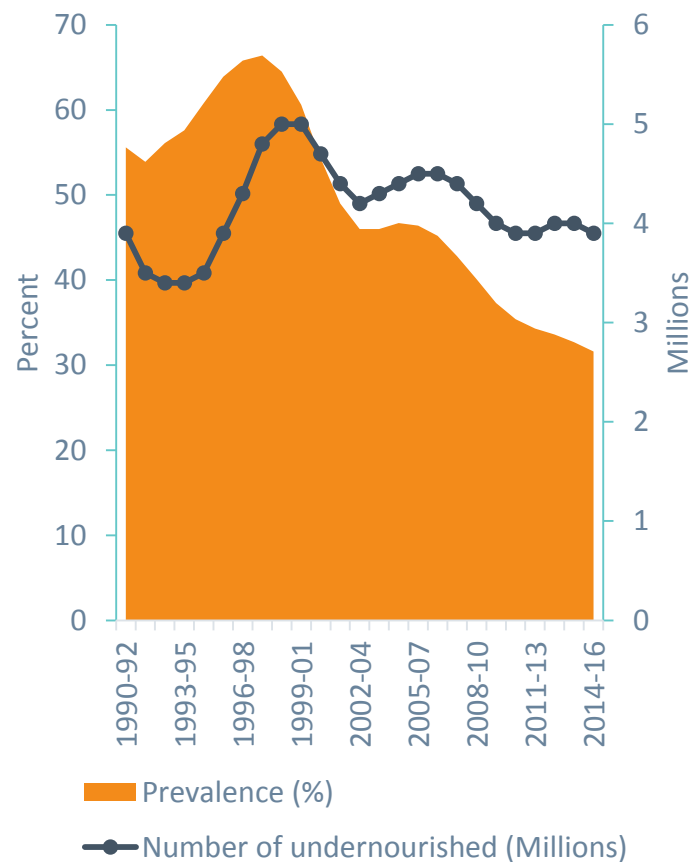
March 24, 2016 | Kigali, Rwanda



# Progress in reducing hunger, but more to be done

- Undernourishment has fallen from 56% to 32% (1990-2014)
- Regional variation
  - Most food insecure: Western region
  - Least food insecure: Kigali City
- Rwanda food deficit: 232 kcal/day
- Poor spend 60% of income on food

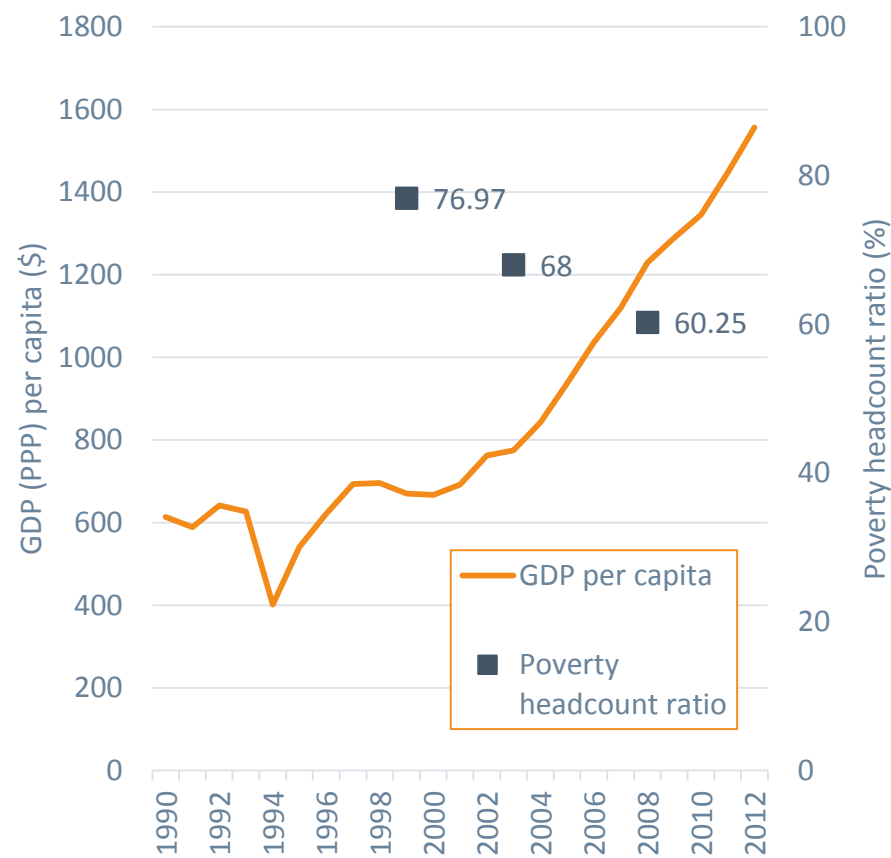
**Undernourishment in Rwanda**



# Poverty persists despite strong economic growth

- Low income country with impressive GDP growth
  - 7.2% average growth from 2000-2014
- Poverty reduced, but 60% live below \$1.90/day (2008)
- Majority of poor live in rural areas, where poverty and hunger are highest

GDP per capita (PPP, Current international dollar) and Poverty Headcount Ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP, % of population)

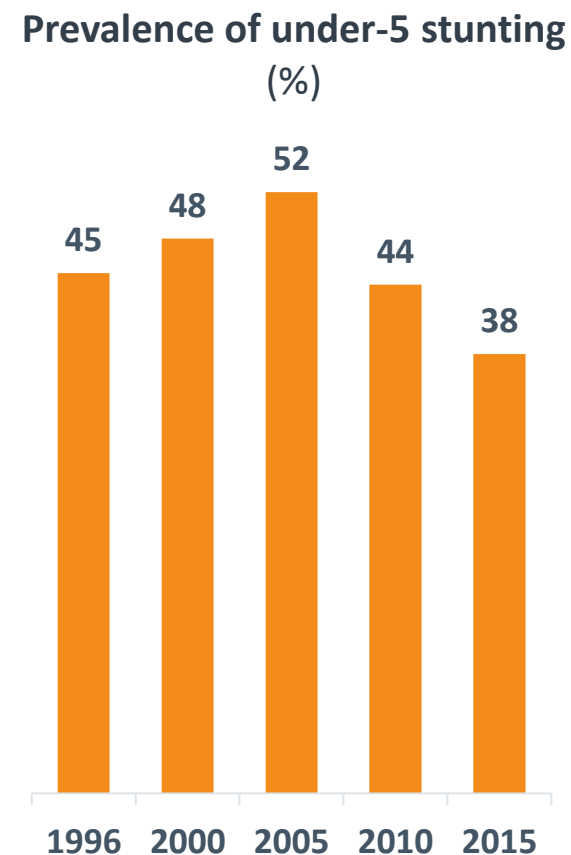


# Food availability improving, but food access is a challenge

- Food production and productivity have increased
  - From 1995-2013, yield has increased for
    - Roots and tubers (doubled)
    - Plantain (+35%)
- Low-income farmers, unskilled daily laborers & daily agric. laborers are most food insecure
  - Spend 75% of their income on food

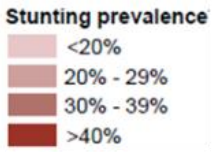
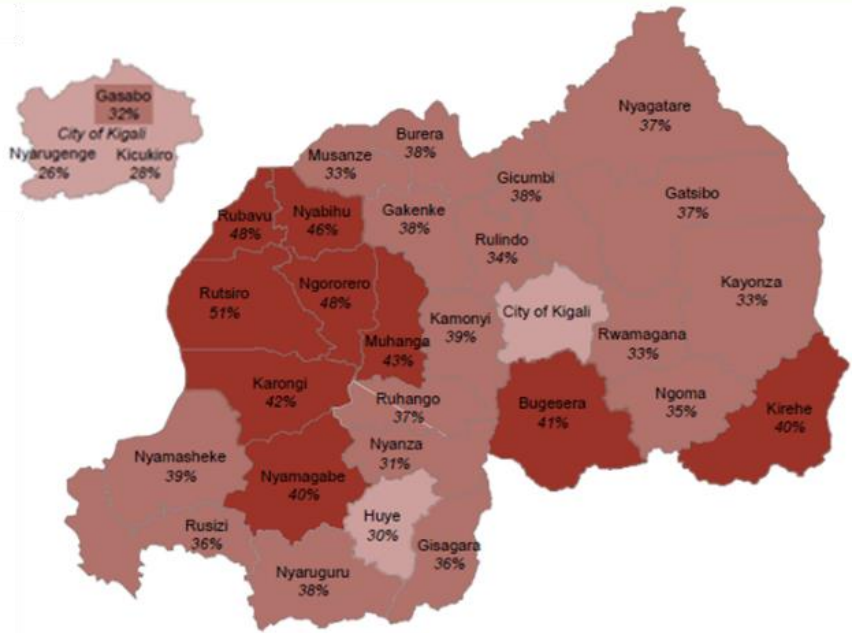
# Despite progress, child undernutrition is high

- **Child stunting** fell from 52% to 38% (2005-2015)
  - 3% reduction per year
- **Anemia/iron deficiency**
  - Women of reproductive age: 17% anemic (2011)
  - Children under five: 38% iron deficient (2015)
- **Child wasting: 2% (2015)**
- **No imminent obesity problem**

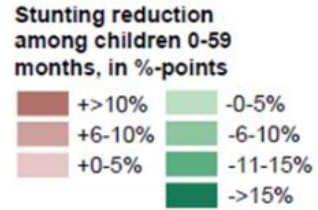
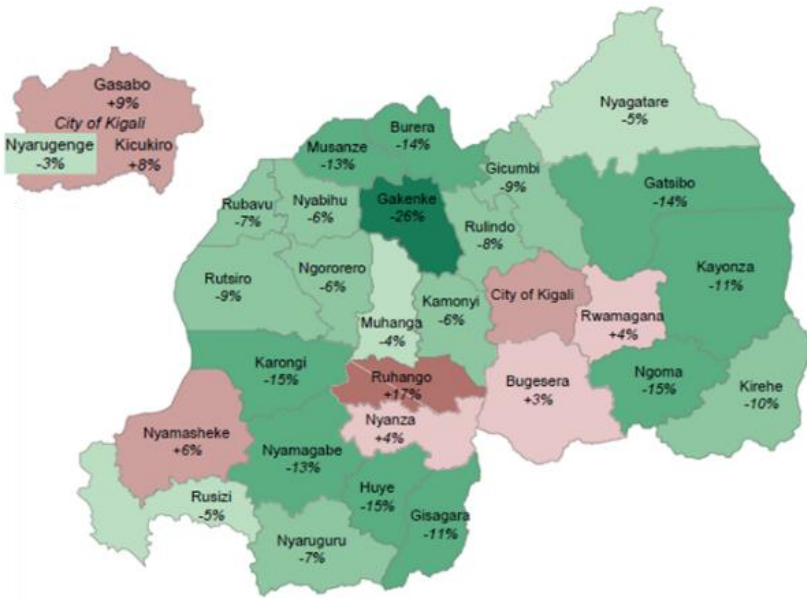


# Stunting prevalence and progress varies by region

Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years old in Rwanda



Estimated stunting reduction in %-points (from 2010 to 2014)



# Selected determinates of nutrition

- **Diet diversity:** Proportion of calories from non-staple crops above Africa average (50% vs 37%)
- **Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH):** Increased coverage from 1990 to 2013
  - Safe drinking water: 58% to 76%
  - Improved sanitation coverage: 38% to 75%
- **Maternal education:** children of mothers with no education more likely to be stunted
  - Female secondary education enrollment: 34% (2013)

# National frameworks and plans for food security and nutrition

Strategy/Plan	Relation to food security, nutrition
<b>Vision 2020</b>	Includes agric. production, child stunting goals
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Economic Development &amp; Poverty Reduction Strategy</b>	Sets food and nutrition among long-term foundational issues
<b>Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture</b>	Aims to transform, commercialize agriculture; increase rural incomes; reduce poverty
<b>Health Sector Strategic Plan</b>	Identifies nutrition indicators (e.g. Reduce child stunting from 44%-18% from 2013-2018)
<b>Social Protection Sector Strategic Plan</b>	Seeks to reduce social, economic vulnerability for poor, vulnerable, & marginalized groups

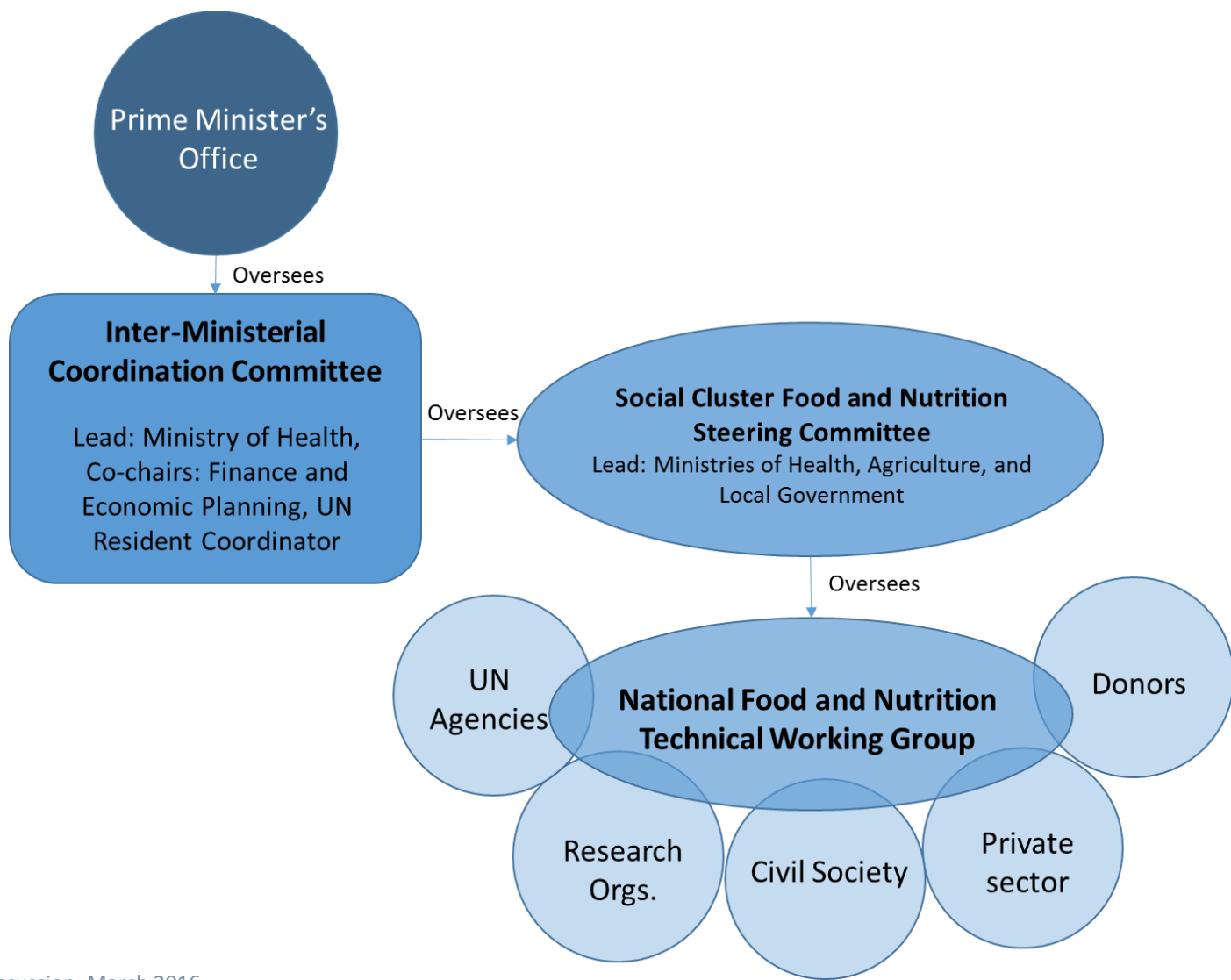


# National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan (NFNSP, 2013-2018)

## Seven strategic directions

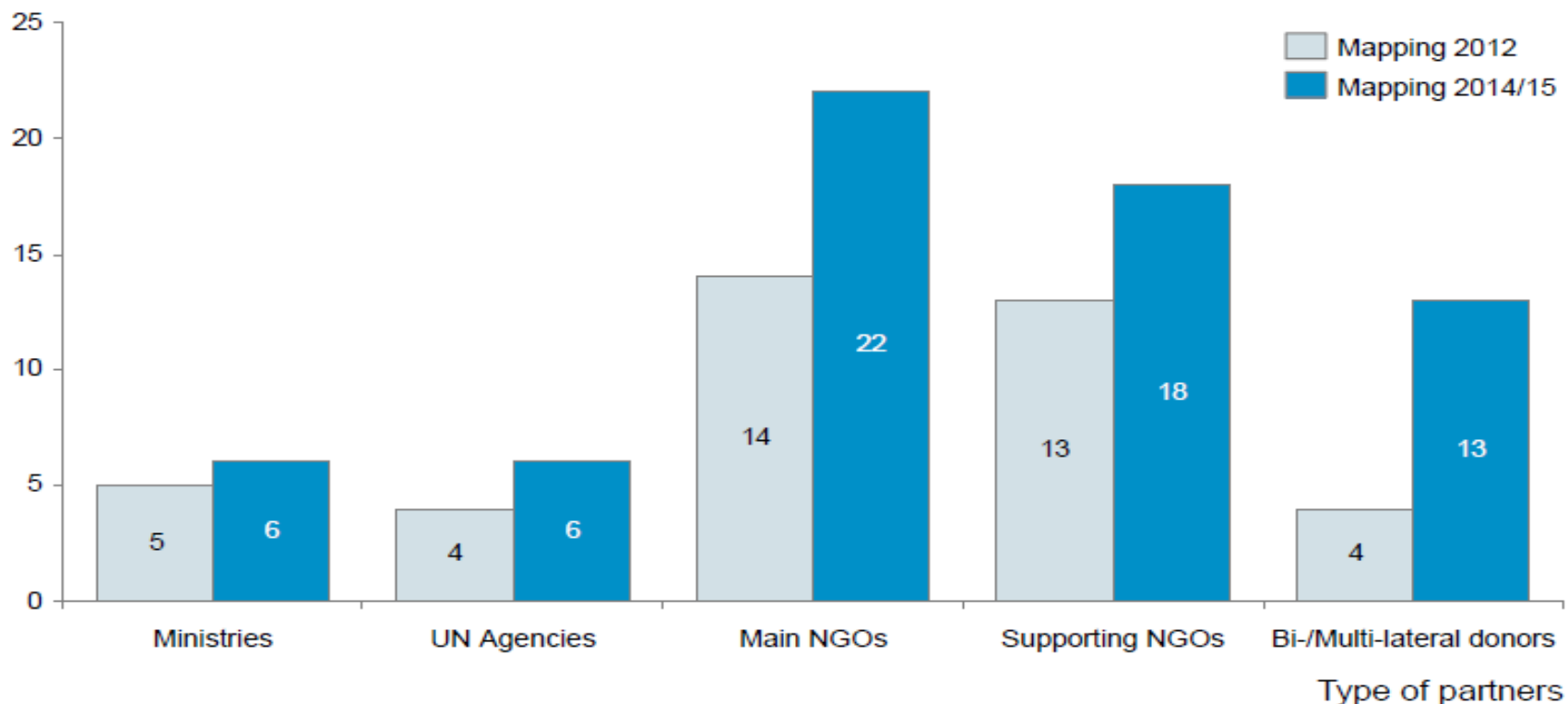
1. Advocacy for food and nutrition, resource mobilization
2. Reducing child stunting
3. Enhancing household food security
4. Preventing and managing all forms of malnutrition
5. Improving food and nutrition in schools
6. Assuring healthy food and nutrition in emergencies
7. Supporting activities and services

# Implementation of NFNSP



# Many stakeholders engaged

Number of food and nutrition partners registered in REACH Stakeholder Mapping exercise



Over **65 stakeholders** are working on food security and nutrition at national and subnational levels in Rwanda

# Selected policy gaps

- Improving girls' and women's education and empowerment
- Enhancing health environments with improved WASH
- Promoting pro-poor land tenure policies
- Leveraging agriculture for growth, reduced poverty, and better nutrition and health

# Selected implementation gaps

- Improving coverage of core nutrition activities in districts of most need
- Scaling-up of existing interventions where needed for improving agric. production at household level
- Strengthening support to community health workers, farmer promoters and others
- Improving coordination across sectors AND levels of government

# Selected knowledge gaps

- Understanding bottlenecks to improving child nutrition
  - E.g. Key risk factors, capacity and data gaps for tracking and monitoring progress
- Exploiting cross-sectoral linkages
  - E.g. Across agriculture, nutrition, and gender
- Stimulating agricultural innovation
  - E.g. Biofortification, horticulture value chain development

In summary

# Challenges and opportunities

## Strengths

- High level of political will for food security and nutrition
- Enabling environment for business
- Highly suitable for investment, e.g. in biofortification interventions
- Community health workers/farmer promoters in place for intervention delivery

## Weaknesses

- Lack of local coordination and uneven geographic coverage of nutrition programs
- Low (but growing) investment/capacity in agricultural R&D
- Agricultural growth not always pro-poor
- Limited scale-up of many pilot projects

## Opportunities

- Momentum from Sustainable Development Goals, global initiatives supporting Rwanda
- Regional integration of Rwanda's agric. sector
- Suitable environment for "outside-the-box" innovations
- Presence of coordination mechanisms

## Threats

- Climate change
- Population growth/changing demographics
- Fragile neighboring states