



UNITED NATIONS
RWANDA



FUND LEVEL CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Executive Summary	03
II. Purpose	04
III. Key Results	05
IV. Challenges, Lessons Learnt & Best Practices	07
V. Human Interest Stories & Best Practices	08
VI. Strategic Way Forward & Conclusion	10

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Fund Level Consolidated Annual Progress Report presents strategic results achieved during 2025 through the Rwanda SDG Fund, an integrated, multisectoral platform convening United Nations (UN) entities, Government institutions, and development partners to accelerate Rwanda's national development priorities and progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Fund: Rwanda SDG Fund | **Reporting Period:** 2025

UN PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

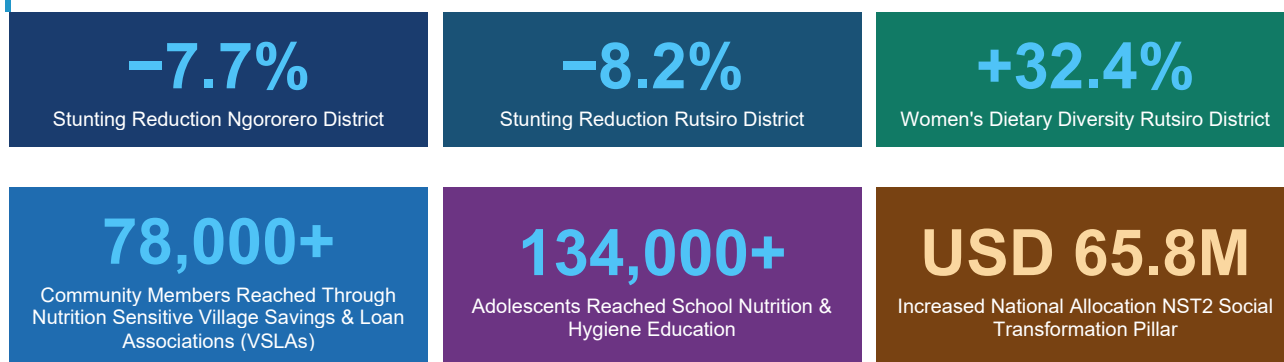


I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Established in July 2018, the Rwanda SDG Fund (hereinafter 'the Fund') operates under the strategic guidance of the joint United Nations Government Steering Committee, with operational decision making delegated to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator. The Fund brings together United Nations entities and their partners to sharpen planning and coordination, accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), improve coherence across interventions, and reduce fragmentation and transaction costs. It also champions innovative financing mechanisms and mobilizes additional resources to support activities under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2025 2029), in alignment with Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation (NST2).

In 2025, the United Nations Rwanda received funding from donors to support Joint Programmes (JPs). The end-of-programme reports and annual narrative progress reports for each Joint Programme are available through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office Gateway at mptf.undp.org/fund/rw200.

STRATEGIC RESULTS AT GLANCE



JOINT PROGRAMMES OVERVIEW AND DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Joint Programme	Total Funds Received (USD)	Reporting Status
Nutrition	4,369,872.82	✓ FINAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE REPORT

¹ the amounts include contributions from both the Fund and parallel funding, including funding directly managed by Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNOs).

FUND EXTENSION, 31 DECEMBER 2026

The Rwanda SDG Fund officially completed its current operational cycle on 31 December 2025. A formal extension process through 31 December 2026 is currently underway. This extension is strategically essential to finalize results consolidation, complete all donor accountability and reporting obligations, strengthen institutional transition and sustainability mechanisms, document best practices for scale up, and preserve the substantial gains achieved, ensuring maximum long term development return on donor investment.

II. PURPOSE

The Rwanda SDG Fund was established to accelerate Rwanda's progress toward national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through integrated, multisectoral, and partnership driven programming. All Joint Programmes (JPs) under the Fund are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2025 2029), contributing to the pillars of economic transformation, social transformation, and transformational governance. In line with the National Strategy for Transformation (NST2), the Fund plays a central role in advancing Rwanda's development agenda.

The Fund's core objective is to strengthen national systems while improving the wellbeing of vulnerable populations through a life cycle approach encompassing women, children under five, school aged children, adolescents, and food insecure households. Special focus was placed on high burden districts where malnutrition, food insecurity, and climate vulnerability required targeted and sustained intervention. The Fund combines policy reform, institutional strengthening, service delivery improvement, and community empowerment to ensure both immediate results and durable long-term impact.

Strategic Outcomes

OUTCOME 1

Human Capital

Strengthened national systems for human capital development and governance, including policy formulation, planning, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E), and domestic resource mobilization, contributing to the Fund's human capital outcome area across health, nutrition, education, social protection, and WASH.

OUTCOME 2

Economic Transformation

Well-equipped service providers across health, nutrition, agriculture, social protection, Early Childhood Development (ECD), and education delivering quality, life cycle nutrition services to communities.

OUTCOME 3

Gender Equality & Climate Resilience

Empowered communities with improved access to diverse, nutritious foods; early malnutrition detection; reduced disease risk; and strengthened resilience against economic and climate shocks.

Target Districts

Ngororero District

Achieved 7.7% reduction in child stunting; children's Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) improved by 8.7%; and Women's Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD W) rose by 20.7%, reflecting strengthened household nutrition systems and deepened community behaviour change.

Rutsiro District

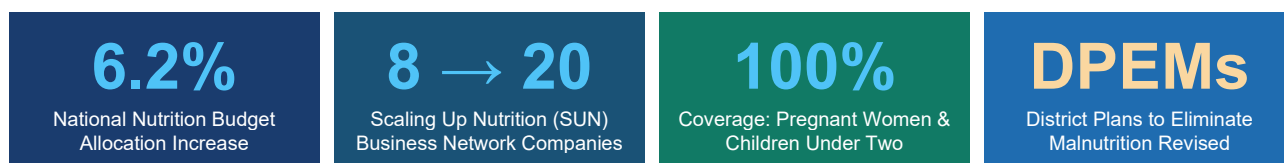
Achieved 8.2% reduction in child stunting; children's Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) improved by 8.1%; and Women's Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD W) rose by 32.4%, representing some of the most significant nutrition gains recorded in the programme's history.

III. KEY RESULTS

Advancing Sustainable Development Through Systems Strengthening and Community Resilience

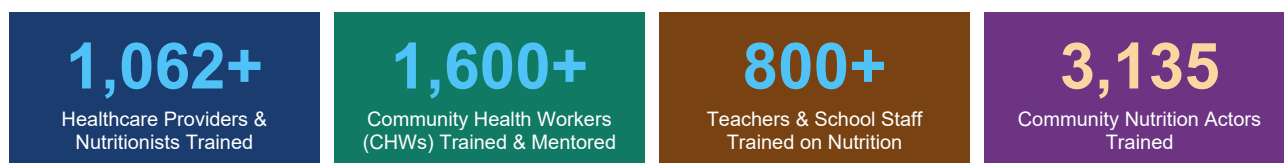
Governance & Systems Strengthening

The Fund significantly strengthened national and district governance systems through targeted investments in planning, budgeting, coordination, monitoring, and accountability. Nutrition resource tracking and budget tagging mechanisms contributed to a 6.2% increase, equivalent to USD 65.8 million, in allocations toward the National Strategy for Transformation 2 (NST2) Social Transformation Pillar in 2024, directly reinforcing government ownership and long-term sustainability.



Frontline Service Delivery Capacity

Frontline systems formed the operational backbone of programme delivery. Healthcare providers, teachers, Community Health Workers (CHWs), data managers, and local nutrition actors across Ngororero and Rutsiro were systematically equipped with the tools, knowledge, and systems required to deliver quality, integrated nutrition services at scale.



Schools became primary platforms for nutrition education, reaching over 134,000 adolescents, including 69,680 girls, with food safety, hygiene, and healthy diet messages. The World Health Organization (WHO) AnthroPlus digital surveillance software was deployed across all target health facilities, strengthening real time response to child malnutrition and enabling evidence based decision making at facility and district levels.

Nutrition Outcomes by District

INDICATOR	NGORORERO	RUTSIRO
Stunting reduction (under 5 children)	-7.7%	-8.2%
Children's Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) improvement	+8.7%	+8.1%
Women's Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD W)	+20.7%	+32.4%
Dietary diversity in children aged 6-23 months	37% → 72%	37% → 72%
Animal source protein consumption (children)	43% → 61%	43% → 61%
Compliance with Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD)	37% → 55%	37% → 55%

Community Resilience & Household Nutrition

The Fund placed communities at the heart of programme delivery, combining nutrition sensitive agriculture, financial inclusion, and household resilience interventions to drive lasting improvements in dietary diversity, food security, and local ownership.

- 14,124 egg laying chickens distributed to 3,531 vulnerable households, increasing average household egg consumption to 9 eggs per week and generating supplementary income.
- 25,000+ fruit trees and improved seeds provided to households, strengthening dietary diversity and building sustainable local food systems.
- 3,144 nutrition sensitive Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) established, benefiting approximately 78,000 members, predominantly women, linking economic resilience directly to improved nutrition practices.
- 98% coverage achieved among self-help groups through peer to peer support mechanisms, driving community led nutrition behaviour change.
- 550,000+ people reached through targeted radio programming and community mobilization campaigns reinforcing healthy dietary and hygiene practices.

Emergency Response: 2023 Floods

Following the devastating 2023 floods, the Fund rapidly deployed emergency nutrition and resilience support to affected households, demonstrating strong adaptive management capacity and the ability to protect development gains under crisis conditions.



IV. CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNT & BEST PRACTICES

The Rwanda SDG Fund demonstrated consistently strong adaptive management capacity throughout its operational lifecycle. Two significant implementation delays were encountered and effectively resolved without compromising programme scope, quality, or strategic outcomes, a testament to the Fund's robust governance and accountability frameworks.

Implementation Challenges

Programme Start-Up Sequencing

A key lesson is the need for synchronized programme start-up processes in complex joint programming environments. Strong coordination among stakeholders, combined with adaptive planning and operational flexibility, enabled implementation momentum to be sustained without compromising programme quality, strategic scope, or delivery integrity.

Final-Year Financial Closure and Transition Management

The implementation experience further underscored the importance of early operational sequencing, coordinated financial closure planning, and flexible transition arrangements across participating entities. During the final implementation phase, evolving administrative and financial closure requirements necessitated additional coordination and adaptive implementation measures.

Lessons Learnt

- Context matters: Durable reductions in malnutrition require a deep understanding of the local social, economic, and environmental drivers of vulnerability.
- Convergence creates impact: Integrated, co-located interventions targeting the same populations consistently produce stronger and more cost-effective results.
- Adaptive management is non-negotiable: Continuous monitoring, learning, and course correction must be institutionalized from programme inception.
- Complementarity strengthens value for money: Multisectoral programming reduces duplication, improves coherence, and maximizes donor investment returns.
- District ownership is the bedrock of sustainability: Strong engagement and accountability by local authorities significantly enhances implementation quality and long-term national ownership.

Best Practices

A best defining strategic practice was the commissioning of a comprehensive gap analysis at the midpoint of programme implementation. The findings enabled stronger inter agency coordination, improved convergence of interventions, accelerated delivery pace, and reinforced donor accountability, directly informing the approval of a six month no cost extension to consolidate programme gains.

The Fund leveraged authoritative national data sources, including the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA 2024) and the Seventh Demographic and Health Survey (DHS7, 2025), to validate programme outcomes, track impact trajectories, and strengthen donor confidence through rigorous evidence-based reporting.

Empowering local authorities and contextualizing nutrition solutions to the specific realities of Ngororero and Rutsiro proved catalytic for both immediate results and long-term sustainability. The co design of District Plans to Eliminate Malnutrition (DPEMs) with evidence-based budget tagging set a new standard for district level nutrition governance in Rwanda.

V. HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

School Health & Nutrition: Transforming a Student's Life

Agency Lead: World Health Organization (WHO) & United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) | Bumba TVET School, Ngororero District

Kagabo, a Senior 4 student at Bumba Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) school, had been living with Type 1 diabetes for five years. Feeling ashamed to disclose his condition, he suffered in silence, experiencing loneliness, mental health challenges, and deteriorating medication adherence. The project's school health and nutrition training programme changed everything when his teacher, trained through a World Health Organization (WHO) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) joint capacity building initiative, educated students on health, nutrition, and chronic disease management, creating a safe space for open discussion.

"A teacher who received training on school health and nutrition educated all students about health, nutrition, including diabetes management, and encouraged us to openly discuss our health status and seek support regarding an appropriate diet."

Kagabo, Senior 4 Student, Bumba Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) School

Following nutritional counselling from his trained teacher, combined with proper medical treatment and an appropriate diet, Kagabo's health and nutritional status improved significantly. His story illustrates how school-based nutrition education, a joint World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) investment, creates ripple effects that reach the most vulnerable learners.

WHO AnthroPlus: Digital Tools Eradicating Malnutrition

Agency Lead: World Health Organization (WHO) | Ngororero & Rutsiro Districts | Source: WHO Africa, June 2024

At Ntaganzwa Health Centre in Ngororero, serving over 3,000 children under five, nutritionist Mado Ishimwe previously spent hours performing manual, paper based growth calculations. The World Health Organization (WHO) AnthroPlus software, deployed as part of the joint programme, transformed frontline nutrition monitoring. The tool automatically calculates growth indicators, flags at risk children in real time, and generates facility level data to guide targeted community responses.

"No more slow manual calculations. No more errors. Before the app, I had to do all these calculations manually, but now the app does it for me!"

Mado Ishimwe, Nutritionist, Ntaganzwa Health Centre, Ngororero

"This app gives me data on all the children I am monitoring. When I see numbers increasing in any locality, I know exactly where we need to concentrate our efforts."

Vincent Habiryayo, Nutritionist, Nyange Health Centre, Ngororero

The results speak for themselves: when Vincent began at Nyange Health Centre in April 2023, 70 malnourished children under two were under active supervision. By November, just seven months later, not a single child remained on the list. All had recovered. Full story: afro.who.int → Rwanda

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network: Private Sector as a Force for Nutrition

Agency Lead: World Food Programme (WFP) & Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) | National Coverage, Rwanda | Launched: 2022

In Rwanda, 78% of families access food through markets, yet private sector actors had long prioritised profit over nutrition. The World Food Programme (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) co led the launch of the

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network in 2022 to bridge this gap, mobilising enterprises to align their business models with Rwanda's national stunting reduction goals under the National Strategy for Transformation (NST2). Through targeted capacity building, the Network grew from 8 to 20 member companies by 2025.

N5 Agrifoods: From World Food Programme (WFP) IGNITE Beneficiary to SUN Business Network Vice President

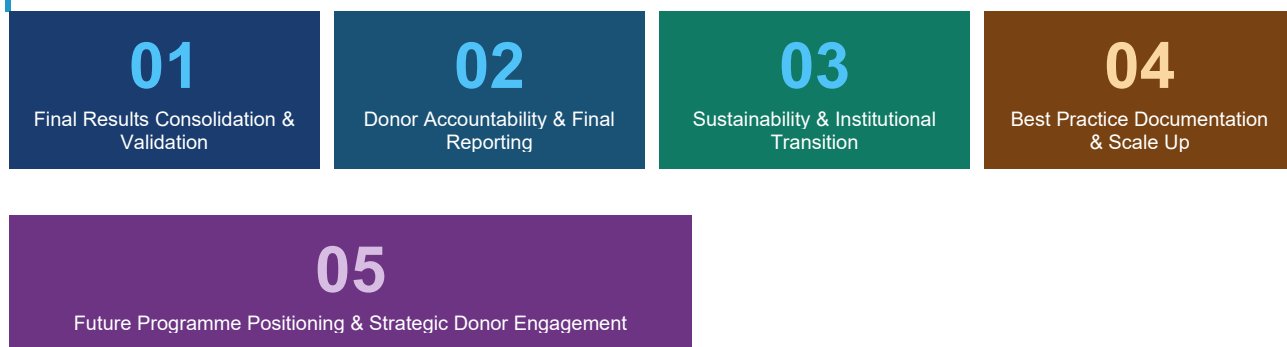
N5 Agrifoods, a small porridge flour enterprise initially supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) through the IGNITE initiative, joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network after attending a capacity building session organised by WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Yvette, was moved by the human cost of stunting on Rwanda's development and recognised the transformative role that businesses could play. She registered with N5 Agrifoods as a founding SUN Business Network (SBN) member and began mobilising other enterprises to do the same.

In 2025, Yvette was elected Vice President of the SUN Business Network (SBN) by an overwhelming majority of members. Under her leadership, N5 Agrifoods is now pursuing product fortification to strengthen nutrient adequacy for vulnerable families, a direct private sector contribution to Rwanda's national nutrition goals.

VI. STRATEGIC WAY FORWARD & CONCLUSION

As the Rwanda SDG Fund transitions into its extension phase through 31 December 2026, the strategic focus shifts decisively toward consolidating the gains achieved, reinforcing sustainability and national ownership, and laying the groundwork for the next generation of joint programming. The extension period is not merely a technical closure; it is a strategic opportunity to maximize the development return on donor investment and to position United Nations Rwanda cooperation for greater future impact.

2026 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Strategic Closure Roadmap



CONCLUSION

The Rwanda SDG Fund has demonstrated that coordinated, multisectoral development financing produces stronger, faster, and more sustainable results than fragmented programming. The measurable reductions in child stunting, the strengthening of national governance systems, and the transformation of communities across Ngororero and Rutsiro are a direct testament to what is possible when governments, United Nations agencies, civil society, and the private sector are aligned around a shared vision.

The proposed extension through 31 December 2026 represents both a responsible closure mechanism and a strategic investment, maximizing donor return, safeguarding institutional gains, and reinforcing Rwanda's long-term trajectory toward resilience, inclusive growth, and sustainable transformation. The Fund remains the most effective platform available for delivering impact where it matters most: at the intersection of systems, communities, and national priorities.



THANK YOU

We extend our sincere appreciation to all partners, stakeholders, and communities for their valuable contributions and continued commitment to building a more sustainable and resilient future for all.



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