



World Food Programme

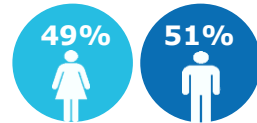
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief February 2019



In Numbers

USD 161 m total requirements
29.7 mt of food assistance distributed
4,202,697 USD in cash transfers distributed
236,160 people assisted in February

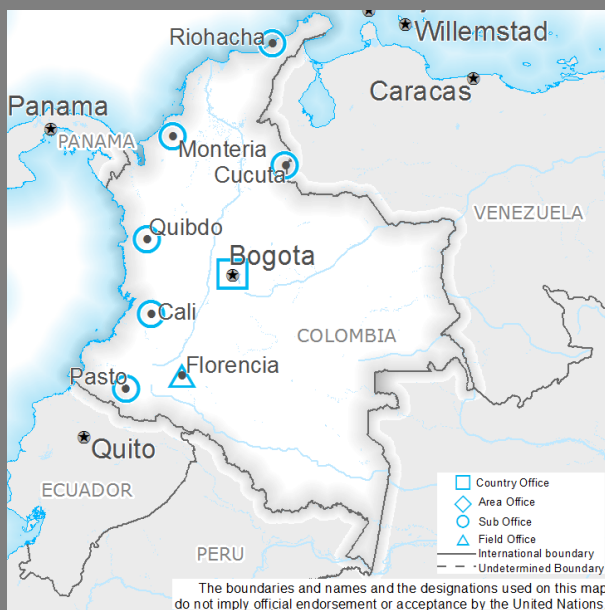


Operational Updates

- Violence continues to affect thousands of Colombians. Massive forced displacements, mobility restrictions and confinements are threatening communities in several departments of the country, particularly on the Pacific coast and in border zones.
- In coordination with local partners, WFP carried out needs assessments in three municipalities of Cordoba Antioquia and Norte de Santander departments. Disputes between armed groups, increased mobility restrictions, extortion, illegal recruitment of minors, and fighting between armed groups and the military, have negatively affected communities' livelihoods and food security. Families suffer mobility restrictions to access the areas dedicated to agriculture and food production. WFP is planning to assist 200 affected families in the municipalities of San José de Uré and Tarazá, and 9,500 victims of forced displacement and confinement in Bojayá and Bajo Baudó.
- Although the 2019 impact of El Niño phenomenon has not yet been officially declared in Colombia, the dry season is severely impacted, mainly in the Eastern Plains, Caribbean and Andean regions: a decrease in river levels, lack of drinking water, reduction in agricultural and livestock productivity, and an increase of vector-borne diseases has been observed. Around 114 municipalities in 9 departments suffer from high temperatures and water shortages. Simultaneously, heavy rains affected the department of Chocó, causing the overflow of five rivers and floods in six municipalities. Approximately 3,280 Afro-Colombian families (15,400 people) were affected.
- WFP has been working in coordination with the Unit for Victims Assistance (UARIV) for several years, in a joint effort to assist victims of violence in the country. In February, WFP and UARIV signed an agreement aimed at strengthening the collaboration in humanitarian food assistance and improved food security of conflict-affected communities. Thus, WFP will continue supporting the Government in the implementation of the Victims Law (1448 of 2011). One of the work lines established in the agreement is the improvement of the food and nutritional conditions of victims through the recovery and use of native foods and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Operational Context

Colombia is one of the most unequal countries in the world, with a Gini index of 53.5 and a gender inequality index of 0.429. Sixty years of conflict has had a significant impact on the country's social, economic and political landscape, with more than 8 million victims. Despite progress on the implementation of the peace agreement, Colombia is still facing serious humanitarian challenges. WFP's strategy in Colombia is based on the premise that supporting the Government in reaching Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 2, will achieve an inclusive peace. WFP's strategy is aligned with priorities of the Government to address humanitarian, recovery, development and technical assistance needs. WFP has been present in Colombia since 1969.



Population: **49.7 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **90 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
161.24 m	79m	37.4m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Crisis-affected populations have adequate access at all times to nutritious foods and diversified diets, and are supported in establishing or improving their livelihoods.

Focus area: *root causes*

Activities:

- Support crisis-affected populations
- Implement home-grown school feeding

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Communities and families have the capacities to prevent malnutrition in all its forms.

Focus area: *root causes*

Activities:

- Provide food security and nutrition education and behaviour change communication
- Provide technical support
- Implement school meals programmes in response to government requests

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 4: Smallholder farmers – women and men – increase their production and marketing capacities sustainably

Focus area: *resilience building*

Activities:

- Provide technical support for rural smallholders
- Stimulate markets with WFP purchases

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 5: Rural ethnic communities in vulnerable areas have increased capacity to recover from shocks and adapt to climate change

Focus area: *resilience building*

Activities:

- Build resilience and enhance livelihoods

Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 1: Local governments and civil-society organizations have strengthened capacities to implement accountable programmes that contribute to reducing food insecurity and malnutrition

Focus area: *root causes*

Activities:

- Strengthen the capacities of territorial actors for planning, implementing and evaluating food and nutrition policies and programmes
- Develop and evaluate innovative food and nutrition models

- Under the agreement signed with the Ministry of Education, and for the third consecutive year, WFP operates the School Meals Programme in La Guajira. In 2019, WFP will assist around 66.700 children, in 310 schools in 15 municipalities.
- The situation in Venezuela continues to deteriorate, marked by political instability, hyperinflation and a scarcity of basic supplies, including food and medicine. This has triggered a large migration of Venezuelans, the speed of which is currently fuelling a humanitarian crisis. In 2019, WFP is expecting to assist 825,800 vulnerable migrants and members of host communities in 2019 in four ways:
 1. Distribution of food vouchers: WFP will provide monthly unconditional food assistance in the form of vouchers to 285,000 targeted vulnerable people. In remote areas of La Guajira, where the availability of retailers is not sufficient to support the voucher scheme, WFP will provide food kits to an estimated 53,000 vulnerable people.
 2. Provision of hot meals: WFP will provide two daily cooked meals to an estimated 632,000 targeted vulnerable migrants in community kitchens on their first days of arrival in Colombia.
 3. Preventative blanket nutrition support to pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) and children under 5: WFP will provide blanket supplementary nutrition support to 78,000 PLWG and children under 5 with a six-month commodity voucher coupled with distribution of micronutrient powders (MNP) to ensure meal fortification at home.
 4. Assistance to 'migrantes caminantes': WFP aims to assist approximately 55,000 transiting migrants with a 5-day ration of food kits in four key strategic transit points along main migrant routes.

Monitoring

Based on the revised Corporate Results Framework, the indicators of the CSP were updated, monitoring tools were adjusted at outcome and output level, and new data collection tools were designed for the monitoring toolkit.

Challenges

- The escalation of violence along with the uncertainty of the outcome of negotiations represent a threat to the peace process and may lead to a further escalation of the armed conflict in Colombia.
- The main challenge in assisting Venezuelan migrants and Colombian returnees relates to strengthening partnerships and coordination with the Government at national and local level, with a view to longer-term solutions and socio-economic integration.

Donors

USA, Government of Colombia, Switzerland, Germany and Canada.