



World Food Programme

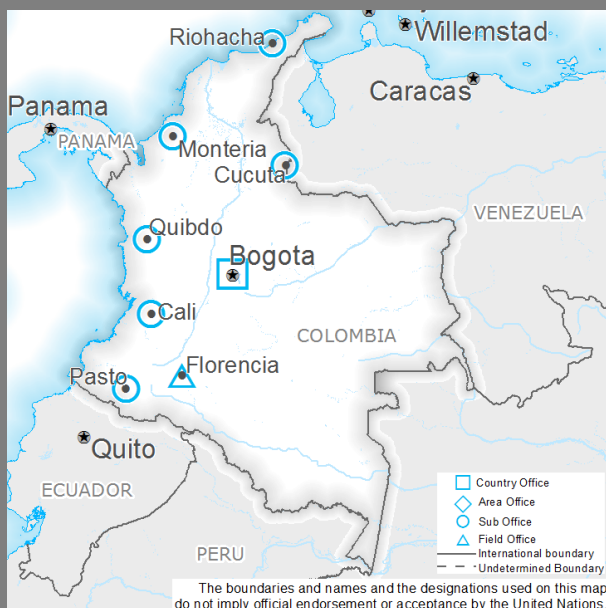
SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Colombia Country Brief March 2019



## 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**

## In Numbers

**USD 254.5 m** total requirements  
**\$3,299,406 USD** in cash transfers distributed  
**260,531** people assisted in March



## Operational Updates

- Violence continues to affect thousands of Colombians. Massive forced displacements, mobility restrictions and confinements are threatening communities in several regions throughout the country. Requests for crisis response are increasing, including for the emergency that was declared in La Guajira due to drought.
- Due to clashes between illegal armed groups in rural areas of several municipalities in Chocó department, around 9,000 people belonging to indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities have severe mobility restrictions, which affects their livelihoods. According to the Ombudsman's Office, seven children from indigenous communities in Chocó have died due to malnutrition and limited access to health services. In response to a request from Unit for Victim's Assistance (UARIV), WFP provides food assistance to 8,600 people in the municipalities of Bojayá and Bajo Baudó.
- In the southern region of Córdoba department, clashes between illegal armed groups and FARC dissidents over the control of the territory caused a forced displacement of around 2,150 people. Affected families moved to the urban area of the municipality of Puerto Libertador, where they have sought shelter in the parish house and in temporary shelters. As the dry season is aggravated by the El Niño Phenomenon there is limited access to water. According to the needs assessments carried out by WFP, affected families are highly food insecure. The Unit for Victims Assistance (UARIV) and the mayor's office of Puerto Libertador has provided humanitarian assistance for a few days and requested WFP to cover food assistance gaps until they have the resources to further support these families. WFP plans to assist around 1,300 people.
- In March, WFP assisted vulnerable migrants and members of host communities in five border departments, including the border department of Cesar:
  - Distribution of food vouchers: WFP provided unconditional food assistance in form of vouchers to vulnerable people.
  - Provision of hot meals: WFP provided two daily cooked meals to vulnerable migrants in community kitchens on their first days of arrival to Colombia.

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>254.5 m</b>	<b>105.4 m</b>	<b>22.9 m</b>

### 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

Assistance to walking migrants (migrantes caminantes): WFP started to deliver food assistance to transiting migrants in the departments of Norte de Santander and Arauca, providing a 5-day ration of food kits in five key strategic transit points along main migrant routes. Each beneficiary receives a kit composed of non-perishable food, which covers 70 percent of the daily intake of calories. With support from local partners, food assistance is complemented by assistance for hygiene and shelter.

- WFP is currently implementing an Adaptation Fund binational project (Colombia and Ecuador) aimed at building adaptive capacities to climate change through food security and nutrition actions in vulnerable Afro and indigenous communities in the Colombia-Ecuador border area. One of the project components aims at increasing institutional and community capacities to sustainably address recurrent climate risks. A certified course on adaptation to climate change, disaster risk management, food security and gender was launched in collaboration with the local government of Nariño department and the University of Nariño.

## Monitoring

With rising numbers of Venezuelan migrants and Colombian returnees, the information available on the current food security situation is outdated or insufficient. Results from the latest food security assessment in rural areas conducted by WFP/FAO/UNHCR in October 2018 are already outdated due to the fast-changing nature of the situation and the massive influx of refugees. An Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in border areas was identified as a priority to strengthen WFP's knowledge base on the food security of affected populations. With support from the Regional Bureau, the Monitoring & Evaluation team is planning to carry out an EFSA in the coming months.

## Challenges

- The escalation of violence along with the uncertainty of the outcome of peace 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, with a view to longer-term solutions and socio-economic integration of migrants. WFP and the Government of Colombia started planning activities to transfer cash in support of vulnerable migrants from Venezuela through the Colombian social protection system.

## Donors

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