



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bolivia

Country Brief

May 2019



Operational Context

Bolivia has made significant progress in improving food and nutrition security and reducing extreme poverty. However, sustaining progress, particularly in the most vulnerable areas, depends on the future of the country's oil and gas revenues, which in recent years have dramatically decreased. Despite the progress, poverty and malnutrition levels remain amongst the highest in the region.

WFP Bolivia has started implementation of its Country Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022. With this plan, WFP moves away from food assistance and focuses on capacity strengthening, technical support, advocacy and communications, acting as a facilitator in support of the Government and adapting to the country's needs. WFP's programmes are in line with the Five-Year National Development Plan 2020 that focuses on social development of vulnerable indigenous populations. WFP has been present in Bolivia since 1963.



Population: **11.4 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **118 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **16% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 11.7m total requirements
USD 2 m six months net funding requirements
566,100 in Cash transfers distributed
11,90 people assisted in May 2019

Operational Updates

- In partnership with the Government (VIDECI) and the Municipal Risk Management Unit, three modalities of the SCOPE system (e-vouchers, barcode coupons and cash transfers) are being used in an emergency operation to support the rehabilitation of community assets. During the three-month project, 12,000 people affected by floods will be able to restore food security and improve their resilience.
- WFP is already exploring the effects that the cash distribution has had on food security and resilience in Tarija y Chuquisaca: beneficiaries of the projects have food reserves for the coming months and can cover a wider range of needs.
- As part of the ECHO-funded project for the development of an early warning system, an event will be held on 11 June to present the new system to the Vice-Minister and to raise awareness on disaster management through a round table exchange and debate, involving the press.
- In the framework of a UNDP-financed project supporting the local government of Oruro in developing investment plans, WFP and FAO are designing a gender and food security assessment that will inform the government investment planning process.
- WFP Bolivia will carry out a six-month intervention relying on the Three-Pronged Approach to identify a list of asset creation activities.
- At the request of the Ministry of Rural Development and with funding from China, WFP is carrying out a smallholder value-chain assessment, focusing on vegetables, apples, maize, beans and quinoa in 14 municipalities in the departments of La Paz, Oruro, Chuquisaca and Tarija. The objective is to identify gaps and strategies to boost production and identify markets.
- The PROBITAS-funded activity helps identify capacity gaps in four agricultural associations in Entre Ríos. Equipment is being purchased for two associations of small producers and a dehydration plant. In addition, new infrastructure needs for a corn flour production plant were determined. During the month of May, a consultant will be hired to support the restoration of this infrastructure.

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Further information: www1.wfp.org/countries/bolivia-plurinational-state

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
11.7 m	2.7 m	2 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Communities affected by shocks are able to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements in times of crisis.

Focus area: crisis response

Activities:

- Provide Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) to crisis affected households.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable groups at risk of malnutrition in all its forms have improved nutritional status by 2022.

Focus area: root causes

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance to the Government for the delivery of innovative nationwide communications campaigns and multisectoral policies and programmes that contribute to eradicating malnutrition.

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

Strategic Outcome 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes by 2022.

Focus area: resilience building

Activities:

- Provide FFA and training to subsistence smallholder farmers.
- Strengthen government institutions in order to link smallholder surplus production under activity 3 with the demand generated by the school meals programme.

Strategic Result 4: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacity to manage food security policies and programmes by 2022.

Focus area: root causes

Activities:

- Strengthen capacities of government institutions to reduce the food insecurity of the most vulnerable communities.

Monitoring

- Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) is taking place during the last week of May and first week of June. An assessment will compare different cash-based transfer modalities implemented during the immediate response phase.

- A gender assessment for cash-based transfers will be carried out to ensure a gender perspective throughout emergency interventions. Four workshops will be organised with beneficiaries.

Challenges

- WFP Bolivia is facing challenges in securing sufficient funding for the implementation of the CSP, especially for 2019. The country office is making progress to expand its donor base targeting non-traditional donors and UN joint initiatives.
- Considering the 2019 elections in Bolivia, there could be a risk of high turnover among government staff.

Partnerships

- **Korea:** The Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and WFP Bolivia country office are collaborating to secure financing for a three-year project.
- **Repsol Foundation:** The extension of the project into 2019 has been approved. WFP Bolivia is waiting for the signature of the agreement.
- **China:** A South-South cooperation proposal involving WFP and IFAD has been submitted to obtain technical experts from China's nutrition institution.
- **Rome-based agency collaboration:** WFP is engaging with FAO and IFAD on joint resource mobilization efforts.
- **AECID:** WFP Bolivia and Spain are exploring funding possibilities for a national nutrition communication campaign in Bolivia.

Donors

- **PROBITAS foundation** supports capacity strengthening of smallholder farmer associations in the municipality of Entre Ríos, Tarija department, until mid-2019.
- **ECHO** supports the creation of a beneficiary registry for an early warning system using bio-indicators until mid-2019.
- **China:** The first Chinese contribution to WFP Bolivia was confirmed at the end of 2018 to support Strategic Outcome 4 of the CSP in 2019.