



World Food Programme

WFP Colombia Country Brief

October 2019

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 have had a significant impact on the country's social, economic and political landscape, with more than 8 million victims of internal conflict. Despite progress on the implementation of the peace agreement, Colombia is still facing severe humanitarian challenges. The situation in Venezuela, marked by hyperinflation and a scarcity of basic supplies has triggered as well a massive migration of Venezuelans to Colombia. According to the latest official figures, Colombia is hosting over 1.5 million Venezuelans. WFP's strategy is to assist the Colombian Government with the migration crises and 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: **49.1 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **90 out of 189**

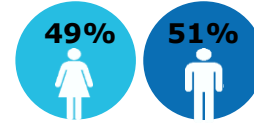
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

3,570,436 USD distributed in cash transfers

366,035 people assisted in October



Operational Updates

- Despite progress in establishing peace and making reparations to the victims, internal conflict and violence persist. Between June and October, the number of people forcibly displaced and confined increased from 31,309 to 45,839, mainly in the departments of Chocó, Córdoba, Norte de Santander, Nariño and Valle del Cauca. WFP assisted 17,480 crisis-affected people mostly in these departments through in-kind (54.1 metric tons) and vouchers (USD 158,600) modalities.
- In October, the number of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia reached 1.5 million (*Migración Colombia*, October 2019). Following a government request, WFP conducted a joint mission with UNICEF, OIM, UNHCR, WHO among others, under the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM in its Spanish acronym) to understand the emergency needs in the department of Vichada (border with Venezuela). This is one of the poorest departments in Colombia located in a remote area, with limited access. As the crisis in Venezuela continues to deteriorate, a larger number of binational indigenous people has moved to Colombia and WFP is preparing a response to assist them.
- WFP provided hot meals in community kitchens, vouchers, food kits for 'caminantes' (walking migrants) and emergency school meals to 274,645 people. In October, WFP expanded the School Feeding programme in Barranquilla and Santa Marta, to assist additional 2,000 children in 28 new schools.
- WFP is supporting 14 Territorial Area for Training and Reintegration (TATR) in the framework of the agreement with National Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN), seeking to improve livelihoods of former FARC-combatants focusing on community reconciliation, food security, nutrition and access to markets. WFP carried out technical assistance activities in order to strengthen technical, organizational and marketing capacities of TATR.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 256 m | 174 m | 40.9 m |

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: crisis response

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: crisis response

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 increased 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

- **Emergency Food Security Assessment for migrants (EFSA):** Preliminary results of the latest EFSA from almost 3,100 household surveys were presented with detailed information on food insecurity status, disaggregated by gender, age, type of population and coping strategies. The results show that 54% of the migrants and host communities in the border departments of Arauca, La Guajira, Cesar, Norte de Santander and Nariño are food insecure. More concerning is that almost 80% of migrants in transit (particularly the ones walking on foot) and 60% of pendular migrants are food insecure. These results have contributed to the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) for the estimation of the People in Need (PIN).
 - **SIPRI mission.** Colombia is one of the countries chosen to conduct a case study under the agreement between WFP and the Stockholm International Institute for Peace Studies (SIPRI). The objective of the study is to identify possible contributions of WFP to peacebuilding and how to measure them. Initial findings suggest that the country office is playing a significant role in supporting victims of armed conflict, vulnerable migrants, institutional strengthening and ex-combatants.
- The mission proposed recommendations such as: linking emergency response to other basic needs; using community kitchens as an entry point refer to other services (e.g. health, education) and recognized the impact of school feeding on reducing the risk of recruitment of children into illegal groups.

Challenges

- The escalation of violence represents a threat to the peace stabilization and may lead to a further escalation of the armed conflict in Colombia, affecting especially indigenous people.
- WFP continues its efforts to expand its donor base and advocate with the government on the importance of joint fundraising and advocacy for the migration crisis. More flexible funding is needed in 2020 to support the strategic shift from humanitarian assistance to more long-term resilience and livelihood building activities than can promote socio-economic integration for migrants.
- WFP Colombia is in the process of designing its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for the period 2021—2125. The CSP will be aligned to the UNSDCF, currently being discussed by the UN Country Team, and the priorities of the Colombian government (Migration, Reincorporation ex-combatants, Support in areas most affected by armed conflict and Capacity Strengthening). WFP will also hold consultation meetings with other key stakeholders.

Donors

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