



World Food Programme

WFP Colombia Country Brief

January 2020

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

The Colombian humanitarian context is complex, with multiple risks and crises coexisting and often affecting the same vulnerable populations. The country is one of the most unequal in the world, with a Gini coefficient of 0.51 and 19.6 percent structural poverty, which reaches 39.9 percent on average in rural areas. Colombia also has the highest number of Internally Displaced People in the world, with 7.8 million people displaced during 50 years of conflict.

The crisis in Venezuela has triggered a massive migratory inflow into Colombia. According to the latest official figures, Colombia hosted over 1.6 million Venezuelans and 500,000 returnees in 2019. WFP's strategy aims at supporting the Colombian Government manage the migration crisis, thus contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 17 and 2, which will in turn support inclusive peace and stabilization.

WFP's strategy is aligned with Government priorities to address humanitarian, recovery, development and capacity strengthening needs. WFP has been present in Colombia since 1969.



Population: 49.1 million	2019 Human Development Index: 79 out of 189
Income Level: Lower middle	Chronic malnutrition: 10.8% of children

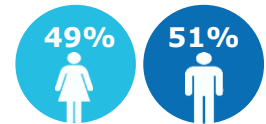
In numbers

345.5 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 4.1 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 71.9 m six months (March-August 2020) net funding requirements, representing 81% of total requirements

327,813 people assisted in JANUARY 2020



Operational Updates

- Response to the Venezuelan migration crisis:** In 2019 WFP supported about 1.3 million Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees and host communities in seven departments with hot meals in community kitchens, unconditional vouchers, food kits for migrants in transit to other countries and emergency school feeding; and in January 2020, WFP assisted 291,145 people – the highest level of monthly assistance since the beginning of operations. In a context of increased needs as projected by the UN, WFP extended its Level-2 Emergency Response until June 2020 and has started scaling-up its emergency assistance.
- Support to victims of violence and disasters:** In 2019, thousands were affected by disasters and an upsurge in violence, becoming displaced or confined to their communities, and WFP supported over 110,000 of them. In January 2020, WFP provided life-saving assistance to 42,000 victims of violence and disasters and it projects to continue increasing its assistance in response to growing needs across the country. In the Catatumbo region (Norte de Santander), WFP started providing assistance to vulnerable confined populations, aiming at reaching 20,000 of them.
- School Feeding:** In 2019, WFP provided food assistance to over 88,000 vulnerable schoolchildren in Atlántico, Cesar, La Guajira, Magdalena, and Norte de Santander, including some 20,000 migrant children. This support guaranteed a balanced diet while at school and incentivised sustained school attendance. In 2020, WFP has started school feeding operations in La Guajira, supporting some 77,000 children, including over 6,000 migrant children.
- Smallholder farmers and rural women's empowerment:** In close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP is implementing a multiannual project in violence-affected areas to promote rural women's economic independence. Women-led farms are being targeted in Chocó, Cauca, Valle del Cauca and Nariño to participate in the project, and a market assessment is being conducted. Focus groups have been held to explore women's role in their communities.
- Peace and stabilization:** WFP contributes to the implementation of the milestone 2016 peace agreements. Jointly with the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN) WFP provided technical assistance to productive projects led by former guerrilla combatants', effectively strengthening the livelihoods of 3,300 demobilized people. During 2020, WFP continues to provide technical to farmers associations in support of increased accountability and food quality standards.

Contact info: Génesis Maynard (genesis.maynard@wfp.org)

Country Director: Carlo Scaramella

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Colombia

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
404.3 m	190.3 m	71.9 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.

of vulnerable communities, through the recovery of ancestral knowledge, climate-smart agriculture, and environmental management. WFP is implementing a bi-national climate adaptation project targeting at-risk indigenous and afro-descendant communities along the Colombia-Ecuador border. A Seasonal Livelihoods Consultation has taken place in Tumaco, Nariño department, to identify and plan adaptation measures based on specific needs of these communities. WFP will also start implementing six projects in the departments of Arauca, Caquetá, Córdoba, Chocó, La Guajira and Valle del Cauca with a focus on the triple nexus aiming at strengthening the livelihoods of communities affected by internal violence and vulnerable to climate change.

Improved capacities to deliver

- WFP’s effectiveness, efficiency and accountability will continue to be enhanced in 2020:
- WFP’s **beneficiary registration system**, SCOPE, will be rolled-out, and a registration platform developed by WFP Colombia, EKAA, which is tailored to the specific needs of WFP’s assistance through community kitchens and school feeding will also be implemented. After successfully registering nearly 12,000 beneficiaries in January in Arauca, WFP started managing all its voucher assistance through SCOPE.
- WFP’s **voucher programme** will be strengthened with the expansion of our retailers’ network, which grew by 66 percent in 2019, aiming at bringing shops closer to people.
- **Cash transfers** will also be introduced in selected locations throughout 2020, and a pilot cash project has successfully started in Nariño, where 1,405 people are receiving their first monthly cash allowance.
- These actions have been designed in response to alarming levels of food insecurity: According to an **Emergency Food Security Assessment** carried out by WFP in 2019, 55 percent of Venezuelan migrants are food insecure. Furthermore, 70 percent of them are in severe or moderate food insecurity during their first three months in the country; only after a year food insecurity stabilizes at around 50 percent. Access to food continues to be the number one need for most migrants as they reach Colombia.
- WFP Colombia forecasts **USD 150 million will be required to address their most pressing needs in 2020** and support some 440,000 vulnerable migrants, Colombian returnees and host communities in 2020 on a monthly average.

Partnerships

- In December 2019 WFP signed the 2020 implementation agreement with the Ministry of Education’s delegated authority in La Guajira for implementation of the national school feeding programme.
- Another key agreement with the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) was extended to cover 2020 and will allow WFP to continue supporting the National Government assist victims, as well as migrants through its newly created Mobile Care Units for the provision of integral assistance to vulnerable migrant populations.

Colombia, European Commission, Republic of Korea, USA, UN Adaption Fund

- **Livelihoods and resilience:** WFP focuses on strengthening livelihoods