



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bolivia Country Brief April 2020



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 has dramatically decreased in recent years. Despite the progress, poverty and malnutrition levels remain amongst the highest in the region.

WFP Bolivia is currently implementing 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 the social development of vulnerable indigenous populations. WFP has been present in Bolivia since 1963.



Population: 11.4 million

2018 Human Development Index: **118 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 11.7 m total requirements

USD 2.4 m six months net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- In the context of the global pandemic of the COVID-19 virus, on 23 March the Bolivian Government decided to decree a total national lockdown and complete closure of borders. During April, all Bolivia CO staff were working from home, and all missions not related to the emergency were suspended.
- On 4 April, WFP provided food rations for 480 people in the Pisiga “quarantine isolation centre” in coordination with the Ministry of Defence and IOM. Beneficiaries were Bolivians returnees into the country.
- In April 2020, WFP started the assistance to 1,000 vulnerable people with chronic, heritable and noncommunicable diseases in La Paz and El Alto through electronic vouchers for the purchase of food and essential goods in selected supermarkets. Because of the lockdown measures and the mainly informal economy, these people were not able to generate income, and, as a consequence, food support to complement their medical treatments was needed. Supply Chain Unit has been monitoring and ensuring an expedite redemption process for this CBT intervention.
- Because of the lockdown measures, WFP activities to support Municipal School Feeding Programmes financed by the Repsol Foundation were suspended. Nevertheless, to ensure that 5,000 girls and boys will receive the food planned, WFP coordinated with Repsol Foundation the implementation of Take-Home rations.
- Because of the lockdown measures and the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP Bolivia postponed the implementation of the "Double Burden Study" with ECLAC and RBP until the context allows to resume the evaluation of this activity. The study performance was initially planned to start in the begin in June.
- WFP Bolivia continues supporting the Ministry of Health with a communication campaign in alliance with UN Global Pact and with a national TV show (PICA), diffusing nutritional messages to affront quarantine and COVID-19.

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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	5.3 m	2.4 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Communities affected by shocks can 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 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 the capacities of government institutions to reduce the food insecurity of the most vulnerable communities.

funding for the implementation of the Country Strategic Plan and the COVID-19 response. The Country Office is seeking to expand its donor base, targeting non-traditional donors.

- To the global pandemic by COVID-19, Bolivia also finds itself facing a period of political destabilization, which may lead to confrontations between political groups on the streets.

Partnerships

- WFP is in negotiations with the Repsol Foundation to ensure the current programme until the end of 2020 and for the implementation of Take-Home rations due to COVID-19.
- WFP, with UNICEF and WHO, is drafting a proposal endorsed by the Office of the Resident Coordinator to the Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility to apply for World Bank funding.
- The *Universidad Técnica Privada de Santa Cruz* (UTEPSA) approached WFP to explore possibilities for collaboration between both institutions.

Donors

Repsol Foundation (until May 2020)

Challenges

- WFP Bolivia continues facing challenges to secure sufficient