



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief

April 2020



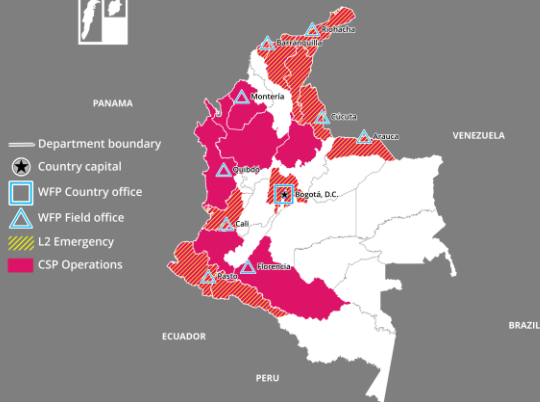
Operational Context

The Colombian humanitarian context is complex, with multiple risks and crises coexisting and often affecting the same vulnerable populations. Colombia's recently ended 50-year-long armed conflict left 7.8 million people internally displaced, and while the country has set a path of peacebuilding and stabilization, violence still affects thousands of Colombians every year. Furthermore, the country has 19.6 percent structural poverty, which reaches 39.9 percent on average in rural areas.

While facing these challenges, Colombia has also become the largest host for Venezuelan migrants fleeing dire living conditions in their country. Some 5 million have already left in what has become the second-largest migrant crisis globally; 1.82 million are in Colombia.

The recent COVID-19 crisis complicates the situation and impacts food security for both Colombians and migrants, especially for those who depend on informal labour, who are in extreme poverty, and for migrants with precarious sources of income.

WFP's strategy aims to support the Colombian Government to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 17 and 2, supporting inclusive peace and stabilization and leveraging the positive outcomes of migration. 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.



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Population: **49.1 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **79 out of 189**

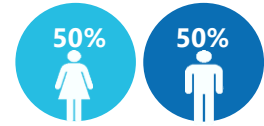
Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **10.8% of children**

In numbers

US\$ 92.9 m six months net funding requirements

362,908 people assisted
in APRIL 2020



Operational Updates

- COVID-19 response:** The current crisis is particularly affecting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, including victims of violence, migrants and people with multiple affectations. Since the beginning of the crisis, WFP has received requests of assistance for over 1 million people across Colombia and has prioritised and is implementing immediate assistance to 51,000 of them with resources immediately available.
- Response to the Venezuelan migration crisis:** The COVID-19 crisis is severely affecting the most vulnerable migrants, and 85% of them report to have reduced their food intake since the crisis started (GIFMM, 2020). Swift operational modifications allowed WFP to continue supporting over 243,000 migrants, Colombian returnees and members of host communities in April, including migrants directly affected by the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19. The crisis has also prompted 50,000 migrants to return to their country, and WFP has provided food kits as a relief measure for the most vulnerable, in close collaboration with local and national authorities.
- Support to victims of violence and disasters:** According to OCHA, between January and April 2020, there were nearly 56,000 people confined or displaced and over 28,000 affected by natural disasters across Colombia, COVID-19 poses a further risk for these already vulnerable populations. Although operations were briefly disrupted by mobility restrictions imposed amidst the COVID-19 containment strategy, WFP rapidly adapted and continued supporting victims of violence and natural disasters, reaching over 42,000 of them in April.
- School Feeding:** The closure of schools disrupted regular school feeding operations, and WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, redesigned its delivery modalities in just two weeks to provide take-home rations for 110,000 children in five departments, including 34,000 migrant children. The first round of distributions in La Guajira, Cesar, Norte de Santander, Atlántico and Magdalena has been completed.
- Shock-responsive social protection:** WFP has reached a milestone agreement with government agencies to support the strengthening of existing social protection programmes in Colombia. WFP started a pilot project aiming to reach 45,000 Colombians and Venezuelan migrants in extreme poverty, incorporating a capacity-building component.
- Nutrition:** In April, WFP referred cases of acute malnutrition in an indigenous community in La Guajira jointly with UNICEF; WFP will include 9,000 members from this community to its in-kind programme, to support longer-lasting nutrition results. WFP is performing joint nutrition assessment missions with UNICEF and the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) in 12 indigenous communities in La Guajira.

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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 m	250 m	92.9 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.

- **COVID-19 in Colombia:** Since the start of the outbreak, authorities have taken strict containment measures: the country is in lockdown until 01 June, and all non-essential domestic travel is prohibited; gatherings of over 50 people are not permitted, and school activities are suspended. These necessary measures helped Colombia to manage the outbreak, but they have affected the livelihoods of the most vulnerable.
- **The most affected:** The risk of food insecurity is estimated to increase amidst the COVID-19 crisis: Preliminary and conservative estimates from WFP Colombia point at some 11 million people, including migrants, who might potentially see a worsening of their food security. The majority of these people are being assisted through at least one of Colombia's social protection programmes; for others, the State has put special support measures in place. It is estimated that some groups, particularly vulnerable people in rural areas and part of the urban poor and migrants, may not be within the reach of State-run programmes. These groups may be particularly impacted and may require emergency assistance. WFP is scaling up its operations to reach about 300,000 of these people to complement national efforts to mitigate the effects of the crisis.
- **Two-track approach:** WFP Colombia has adopted a two-track approach aiming at:
 - *Ensuring the sustainment of current food assistance operations* for affected populations, including migrants, displaced and confined people and children participating in school feeding programmes, many of them facing the pandemic's indirect impacts.
 - *Identifying, prioritising and temporarily addressing COVID-related needs.* WFP aims at supporting an additional 300,000 people affected by the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 for up to six months.
- **Flexibility and adaptability:** To sustain operations and augment its assistance amidst COVID-19, WFP has rapidly adapted. Adaptations include a significant increase in the provision of cash-based transfers as a safer delivery modality; the procurement of in-kind contingency stocks as a preparedness measure to ensure continued adaptability to changing circumstances and market behaviour; the provision of double distributions where possible; the shift from on-site school feeding to take home rations; and the swift establishment of a remote monitoring system.
- **Livelihoods and resilience:** WFP focuses on strengthening the livelihoods of vulnerable communities, through the recovery of ancestral knowledge, climate-smart agriculture, and environmental management in targeted Colombian departments. COVID-19 containment measures have impacted these projects, which are planned to resume once restrictions are lifted. Currently, 11,000 people targeted under these projects are receiving vouchers as relief support.
- **Logistics coordination:** WFP is also leading the newly created Logistics Working Group to strengthen logistics coordination and information management and support humanitarian actors to deliver effectively in these challenging circumstances.

Challenges

- WFP requires **urgent funding to support additional 300,000 people** affected by isolation measures and the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 and who need immediate assistance.

Key Donors

Canada, Colombia, European Commission, Germany, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, USA, private donors (LDS, Mastercard, Enel, Repsol, UPS foundation, KFC, UNILEVER, PEPSICO, BASF), and UN funds.

WFP Colombia responding to COVID-19