



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Bolivia Country Brief May 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 in recent years, have dramatically decreased. 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**

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## In Numbers

**USD 11.7 m** total requirements

**USD 1.2 m** six months net funding requirements

**USD 141,187** distributed in Cash Transfer

**3,210 people** assisted in May 2020

## Operational Updates

- During May, Bolivia was in total national lockdown, schools remained closed as well as the country borders. The staff was working from home and all missions not related to the emergency were suspended.
- The Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs implemented isolation centres in the bordering cities of Pisiga, Yacuiba and Puerto Suarez. The purpose of these centres is to ensure that Bolivians returning from neighbouring countries comply with the quarantine measures. As per the Government's request, WFP distributed around 1,450 food rations in these isolation centres for the 14 days of quarantine.
- WFP continued with the assistance to 1,000 vulnerable people with chronic, heritable and noncommunicable diseases through electronic vouchers for the purchase of food and essential goods in selected supermarkets from La Paz and El Alto. On 21<sup>st</sup> May, nutritional workshops started.
- In the framework of the Repsol Foundation financed programme, WFP distributes Take-Home Rations (THR) in the Municipality of Entre Ríos for 5,000 girls and boys. Rations are composed of 14.4 kg of flour and 200 gr of dried peas (per girl/boy). These products were initially destined to strengthen the Municipal School Feeding Programme but, due to the COVID-19 prevention measures, schools are closed since March. For this reason, WFP agreed with the donor to distribute THR.
- WFP Bolivia continues supporting the Ministry of Health with a communication campaign in alliance with the UN Global Pact and a national TV show (PICA), diffusing nutritional messages to affront quarantine and COVID-19.

## Challenges

- WFP Bolivia continues facing challenges to secure sufficient 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.
- Bolivia is facing a period of political destabilization, which may lead to confrontations between political groups on the streets.

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
11.7 m	5.8 m	1.2 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.

## Partnerships

- WFP Bolivia ensured funding from the Japanese private sector (JAWFP) until June 2021
- WFP is in negotiations with the Repsol Foundation to secure funding until the end of 2020.
- WFP, UNICEF, and WHO submitted a joint proposal endorsed by the Ministry of Health to the Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEFF) of the World Bank.
- WFP and the *Universidad Tecnológica Privada de Santa Cruz* (UTEPSA) are in negotiations to sign a cooperation agreement.

## Donors

Japanese Private Sector (JAWFP)