



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief

June 2020



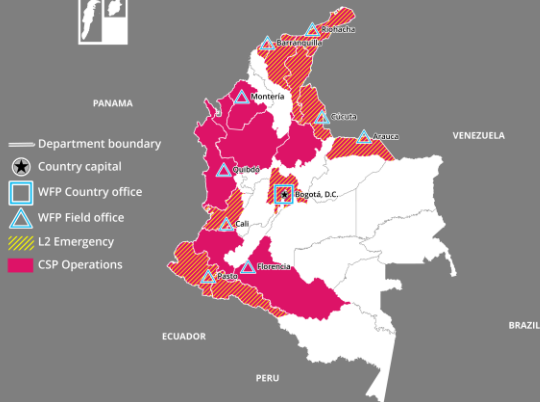
Operational Context

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 in the world; 1.8 million of them 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.



© WFP - World Food Programme 2020

Population: **49.1 million**

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

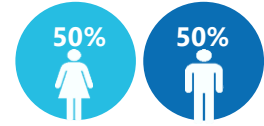
Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **10.8% of children**

In numbers

US\$ 86.8 m six months (July-December 2020) net funding requirements, representing 78% of total needs over the period

284,995 people assisted in JUNE 2020



Operational Updates

- **Food insecurity amidst the COVID-19 crisis:** With Latin America and the Caribbean as the new COVID-19 hotspot, food insecurity is forecast to sharply rise in the entire region, including Colombia. Preliminary WFP estimates indicate that 10 million people could be at risk of food insecurity in Colombia, of which 3 million are projected to be severely food insecure. It is estimated that 84 percent of Venezuelan migrants in the country are at risk of food insecurity, up from the 55 percent pre-crisis levels.
- **WFP's response to COVID-19:** Since the beginning of the crisis, WFP has received direct requests of assistance for over 1.2 million people across 13 departments. WFP has rapidly adapted and is providing immediate relief assistance to over 50,000 people newly affected by the socioeconomic consequences of COVID-19 across Colombia, with available resources; subject to funding, the Country Office is looking into reaching an additional 500,000 vulnerable people, including new urban centres and remote areas of the country, such as the Amazon region.
- **Response to the Venezuelan migration crisis:** Dire living conditions and an impossibility to afford basic services has prompted 84,000 Venezuelans to go back to their country; however, the Colombian migration authority estimates that once the COVID-19 crisis subsides, migration flows could surpass pre-crisis levels. Some 1.8 million migrants remain in the country with heightened vulnerabilities and increased humanitarian needs: 92 percent of migrants say food is their most urgent need, and only 26 percent of them report to eat three times a day ([Joint Needs Assessment](#), GIFMM 2020). WFP supported over 185,000 migrants in June, including those intending to return, who received food kits as they made their journey to Venezuela or before crossing, as well as hot meals in shelters and health centers in several areas of the country.
- **Support to victims of violence and disasters:** According to OCHA, between January and May 2020, there were nearly 60,000 people confined or displaced, and over 43,000 affected by natural disasters across Colombia; COVID-19 poses a further risk for these already vulnerable populations. WFP continues supporting the most vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas, including in Chocó and the Catatumbo region in the north of the country. In June, WFP supported over 23,000 victims of violence and natural disasters with relief assistance.
- **School Feeding:** The distribution of take-home rations for over 110,000 schoolchildren continues, with both food baskets for meal preparation at home as well as prepackaged rations, in line with local guidelines. WFP continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Education regarding procedures and operational standards for school reopening from August onwards.

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)
419.4 m	234.9 m	86.8 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.

- **Shock-responsive social protection:** WFP's shock-responsive social protection pilot project has also kicked-off and cash transfers targeting some 45,000 migrants and Colombians in extreme poverty. In Arauca. A pilot is being carried out in support and close collaboration with *Prosperidad Social* (social protection agency), UNGRD (disaster management agency) and *Gerencia de Frontera*.
- **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 July, WFP launched a call aimed at rural women organizations in several Colombian departments affected by violence. Successful organizations will receive financial and technical support to leverage their work in empowering Colombian rural women.
- **Expansion to urban areas:** WFP continues to expand to urban areas with a high concentration of migrants in need, including Bogotá, where cash transfers started for 20,000 migrants, in coordination with UNCHR and other actors present in the area. WFP has also rapidly mobilized to meet urgent needs in several areas of Valle del Cauca, including Cali. This is the first time WFP supports migrants in this department.
- **Beneficiary registration and management:** WFP continues with the roll-out of its corporate beneficiary management system, SCOPE. Since November 2019, WFP has registered some 240,000 beneficiaries in seven Colombian departments using this system. The Country Office has also advanced in implementing its beneficiary management system, EKAA, tailored to school feeding, hot meals, and food kits assistance. A successful EKAA pilot took place in La Guajira and is also being used to manage assistance in Arauca.
- **Unique beneficiary identifier:** As a co-leader of the Cash Working Group in Colombia, WFP has developed a unique solution (algorithm) to identify and avoid potential duplication of cash-based transfer assistance among humanitarian partners. Organizations of all sizes can use this algorithm to identify overlaps without sharing beneficiaries' data.

Life-saving support in the Amazon region

- **The situation:** The Colombian Amazon region is being dramatically affected by COVID-19, where besides the health crisis, isolation measures have severely impacted the lives and livelihoods of thousands of indigenous people who lost access to their production, markets, and sources of income.
- **Rapid assessment:** WFP immediately deployed its response assessment team and organized the first humanitarian airlifts to Amazonas, facilitating the delivery of critical humanitarian inputs and the movement of humanitarian partners. The assessment results highlighted a widespread condition of food insecurity, affecting a large part of the population in the region.
- **WFP response:** For the first time in its history, WFP reached the Amazon region and organized the delivery of life-saving assistance for the most vulnerable indigenous communities in marginal areas of Leticia, the capital city of the Amazonas department. About 5,000 people have already received immediate relief assistance. WFP aims to scale up its response in a context of wider needs. It is planning to extend its intervention in the area through cash-based transfers for 10,000 people in urban and rural communities of Leticia and Puerto Nariño.

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.