



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bolivia Country Brief July 2020



Operational Context

In the last decade, Bolivia 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 since 2016, have dramatically decreased. Despite the advancement, poverty and malnutrition levels remain amongst the highest in the region.

The recent COVID-19 crisis takes place on the back of a severe political crisis, adding significant pressures to a fragile institutional setting and political imbalances. Both situations may have impact on the food security of Bolivians, especially for those who depend on informal labour and for indigenous communities with precarious sources of income.

WFP Bolivia is currently implementing its Country Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022. Adapting to the country's needs, 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. WFP's programmes are in line with the Five-Year National Development Plan 2020 that focuses on 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 1.5 m six months net funding requirements
USD 111.265 distributed in Cash Transfer
3.919 people assisted in July 2020

Operational Updates

- The Government of Bolivia announced the extension of the national lockdown until August 31st. On July, WFP staff in Bolivia worked from home, and missions not related to the emergency were suspended.
- The Government of Bolivia announced the closure of the 2020 schoolyear due to the inability to provide effective online education and the rise in COVID-19 infections in the country. As a result, schools are closed as of August 3 until further notice.
- WFP assisted about 300 families in La Paz with electronic vouchers for food and essential goods in selected supermarkets. Assistance targeted highly vulnerable people, craftsman/women and street working young people.
- As of July, WFP assisted 81 Venezuelan migrant families in La Paz. This group of beneficiaries is not receiving any governmental assistance and is not generating incomes since the beginning of the lockdown in Bolivia. This was the first assistance to migrants provided by WFP in Bolivia.
- WFP and the Ministry of Land and Rural Development signed a cooperation agreement to update the national food insecurity indicators (ICA).
- Coordination meetings with the Ministry of Health were held to provide food assistance for COVID-19 patients in isolation centres in El Alto, Sucre and Oruro.
- The final evaluation for the Gender Transformative Programme (GTP) was carried out. WFP Bolivia achieved its certification by reaching 34 out of 38 benchmarks.

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Further information: www.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	6.4 m	1.5 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.

Challenges

- WFP Bolivia continue 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.
- Violent demonstrations and blockades, related to the upcoming presidential election, took place in the major cities of the country throughout the month of July. This situation may directly impact on food security of vulnerable groups in urban areas.

Partnerships

- Technical meetings between the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and WFP were held to develop a proposal for 2022.
- A proposal was submitted to the Repsol Foundation, including a COVID-19 perspective.
- A joint proposal for the Swiss cooperation is being developed together with Peru, Ecuador and Colombia Country Offices.
- A COVID-19 joint programme proposal for the Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) is being developed together with FAO, UNICEF and UNODC.

Donors

Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (World Bank), Japanese Private Sector (JAWFP).