



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bolivia Country Brief September 2020



Operational Context

In the last decade, Bolivia made significant progress in improving food and nutrition security and reducing extreme poverty. 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**

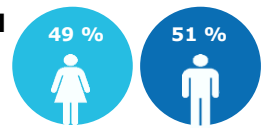
Chronic malnutrition: **16% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 31,675 in cash transfers

USD 0.8 m six months net funding requirements

1.933 people assisted
September 2020



Operational Updates

- In September, Bolivia has shown a decrease in daily COVID-19 infections. In average, 600 cases were daily reported, 30 per cent less than in the peak month of July.
- In the framework of a World Bank-financed programme, WFP delivered essential kitchen equipment to the Isolation Centre of Oruro. These items will ensure high-quality food rations for the inpatients in this isolation centre.
- WFP assisted in the city of El Alto 74 vulnerable families with disabled children. Due to lockdown, these families have not generated income to ensure adequate nutrient consumption during the past months. The beneficiary received electronic vouchers for food and essential goods.
- In coordination with the Government of Oruro, WFP distributed 2,000 kits with nutritious food and essential goods.
- The CBT e-voucher intervention has been operating for five months in the cities of La Paz and El Alto. During this period, the Bolivia Country Office has provided over \$430,000 to approximately 4,200 beneficiaries. Furthermore, WFP has been ensuring timely assistance to most vulnerable people by continuously monitoring the redemption process between beneficiaries and local supermarket chain
- On the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, the "Stop The Waste" campaign was launched, with the collaboration of a local food magazine: "Azafrán". WFP and local influencers were interviewed in online webinars.
- Thanks to a contribution from the Repsol foundation, WFP will ensure the delivery of Take-Home-rations to 5,038 girls and boys from Entre Rios, during the second semester of 2020.

Contact info: wfp.lapaz@wfp.org

Country Director: Ana María Salhuana

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	0.1 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.

Monitoring

- WFP carried out a field visit to the Uru Murato indigenous community, to corroborate post-distribution monitoring (PDM) information and integrate it with qualitative feedback from assisted people. The PDM was finalized and presented to the departmental government and the implementing partner.
- WFP, in coordination with the Ministry of Health of Bolivia, designed a survey to estimate the impact of the COVID-19 in food consumption patterns and behaviours at the national level.

Challenges

- WFP continues facing challenges to secure enough funding for the implementation of the Country Strategic Plan and the COVID-19 response in Bolivia.
- From the beginning of the presidential campaign, acts of violence have been registered in six regions of the country. This situation threatens the normal functioning of WFP's operations, should it involve the blockade of cities as in 2019.

Partnerships

- WFP agreed with the Municipality of La Paz to provide 7,000 food rations for patients in the La Paz Isolation Centre. Under the same framework, WFP agreed to provide 1,176 food rations to patients in the isolation centre of the city of Tupiza.

Donors

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