



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Bolivia

## Country Brief

### October 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**

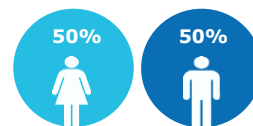
Chronic malnutrition: **16% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**USD 24,807** in cash transfers

**USD 0.6 m** six months net funding requirements

**1,602 people assisted**  
October 2020



## Operational Updates

- In October, Bolivia has shown a decrease in daily COVID-19 infections. New cases reported by the Ministry of Health were the lowest since May 2020.
- WFP will develop a food supplement for children under two years old in the Municipality of Riberalta with the support of Japanese Private Sector (JAWFP). In October, WFP held coordination meetings with municipal technicians and local smallholders' farmers.
- Within the framework of the programme financed by the World Bank, WFP is supporting the recovery centres in Oruro, La Paz, Tupiza, and Sucre. Agreements were also signed to support the patients from rural municipalities of Entre Rios, Padcaya, Bermejo, Villazón, Uncia, LLallagua, Yotala, Viacha, and Uriondo.
- In Sucre, 306 families of smallholders' farmers received cash assistance as part of a "food assistance for asset" activity. Farmers are working in exchange on the rehabilitation of urban gardens in peri urban areas of the city.
- In Entre Ríos, WFP held meetings with technicians from the Municipality and the Implementing Partner. In November, 4,360 children will be assisted with take-home rations; this group of beneficiaries have not received school meals due to the closure of the schools.
- WFP and the Ministry of Rural Development and Lands are working together to update indicators of Food Vulnerability in Bolivia. Assessment are being performed and the results are expected in November.
- WFP was [interviewed](#) by La Razon, the main national newspaper, and by ATB, a national TV media, about the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

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# WFP Country Strategy



## 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.

- WFP and the municipality of Sucre are working on guidelines documents for a "safe return to school" in a COVID-19 context. This document will provide essential information to relevant municipal authorities for safe food management and other biosecurity considerations in schools.
- WFP and the municipality of La Paz are working on a digital Communication Campaign with "back-to-school" nutritional messages. WFP will also deliver biosecurity items for distribution by the beginning of the 2021 school year.

## Monitoring

- WFP carried out a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) of an intervention implemented in the urban area of Oruro, where 2,000 vulnerable families have been assisted in previous months to reduce their food insecurity. Results showed that the households had access to food for nearly one month.
- WFP, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, launched a survey to estimate the impact of the COVID-19 on 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.
- Bolivia is experimenting drought with extensive forest fires and is prone to floods between the months of November to March which will increase the risk to food insecurity, particularly on smallholders' farmers.
- On October 18<sup>th</sup> the Presidential elections were held. A new government was elected, and the involvement of the new authorities must be ensured.

## Partnerships

- WFP and the Ministry of Planning signed an agreement to develop a platform facilitating access to statistical information on food vulnerability in Bolivia.
- WFP and the Ministry of Rural Development and Lands presented a proposal for funding from KOICA.
- WFP and the Ministry of Rural Development signed an agreement to update food security indicators.

## Donors

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