



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief September 2020



Operational Context

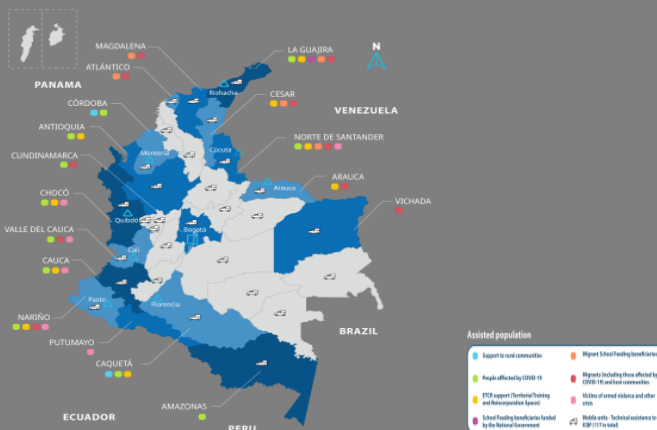
WFP supports the National Government and institutions in their goal of eradicating malnutrition by 2030.

As a result of over 50 years of internal conflict, the country presents one of the largest caseloads of IDPs at global level, with an estimated 6.3 million people affected by violence, of which 5.1 million need humanitarian assistance. As of 2019, it was estimated that around 2.4 million people suffered from food insecurity.

During the past years Colombia has also become a receiver of massive migration from Venezuela, the largest migration movement in the modern history of Latin America. About 1.7 million Venezuelans are currently in Colombia, in addition to about 700,000 Colombian returnees.

Colombia has been greatly affected by COVID-19. Restrictions and social distancing measures have had a severe impact on the country's economy, labour market and social fabric, with a reduction in the gross domestic product (GDP) estimated at 5.5 percent.

WFP has been present in Colombia since 1969.



Population: **1.1 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **148 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

US\$ 87.7 m six months (October 2020- March 2021) net funding requirements

470,137 people assisted in September 2020



Operational Updates

- Food insecurity:** The latest food insecurity estimates from WFP suggest the socioeconomic crisis escalated by COVID-19 is dramatically impacting food security for a significant part of the population, and at least some 3.5 million people are projected to be severely food insecure. This is a sharp increase from pre-crisis levels and is coherent with a deepening poverty situation as highlighted by the latest official figures according to which 35.7 percent of Colombian households were in poverty in 2019, already some 660,000 more than in 2018.
- Scale of WFP's emergency response:** WFP is currently supporting about 450,000 people per month with food parcels, cash-based transfers, and school meals. All of WFP's programmes now incorporate components to avoid COVID contagion and biosecurity protocols have been put in place.
- Support to COVID-affected Colombians:** In September, WFP supported about 49,000 newly targeted Colombians, affected by the COVID-19 socioeconomic impacts. This includes thousands of rural and indigenous people receiving relief assistance in the Amazon region. WFP also prepared to support the Government's contact-tracing and selective isolation strategy in eight cities, aiming at reaching 109,000 people.
- WFP's response to the Venezuelan migration emergency:** Food continues to be a critical priority for 91 percent of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia ([GIFMM, July 2020](#)). In September 2020 about 352,000 migrants, Colombian returnees, and host communities were supported, including Venezuelans intending to return to their country, who received food kits and hot meals in shelters.
- Support to violence-affected populations:** The consequences of a sustained upsurge in violence in the country have left nearly **85,000 displaced or confined so far in 2020**. The situation is particularly dire along the Pacific Coast (Nariño, Chocó, and Valle del Cauca) and areas in the border with Venezuela (Norte de Santander and Arauca). In September 2020, WFP already provided both food baskets and vouchers to over 20,000 of the most vulnerable violence-affected people.

Contact info: Genesis 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	286.4 m	87.7 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: victims of violence, marginalized communities and vulnerable ethnic populations always have adequate access to nutritious foods and diversified diets and are supported in establishing or improving their livelihoods.
Focus area: crisis response

- Activities:**
- Support victims of violence.
 - Implement home-grown school feeding, focusing on protection and targeting vulnerable children not covered by public programmes.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: communities and families have the capacities to prevent malnutrition in all its forms, with a focus on leaving nobody behind in marginalized urban and remote rural areas.
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 strengthened 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.

- School feeding:** The distribution of take-home rations for over 118,000 schoolchildren continues. In response to growing COVID-related needs, WFP successfully increased assistance with take-home rations, now reaching 42,000 schoolchildren (mostly Venezuelan migrants), a 30-percent increase compared to previous levels.
- Shock-responsive social protection:** in addition to delivering cash transfers and in-kind assistance to Colombians and migrants in close coordination with the social protection system, WFP is currently involved in evidence generation to document the extraordinary measures adopted by the national and subnational social protection systems and identifying lessons learnt that can be shared regionally and globally.
- Support to peace efforts:** WFP is committed to contributing to the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreements. Currently, 12,000 families are being supported with economic reactivation projects, complementing the government's efforts to implement its Territorial-focused Development Programmes. WFP supports women who were former guerrilla combatants in their reincorporation process, through individual and community social empowerment activities.

Monitoring

- Remote monitoring results:** Adaptations put in place to ensure assistance continuity amidst COVID-19 proved effective, with 93.2 percent of the surveyed beneficiaries reporting to be satisfied with WFP's assistance. Beneficiary surveys show 95 percent of people consider the foods provided to be varied. In terms of protection, 100 percent of the surveyed beneficiaries said they had not been asked for anything in return of assistance, a result that WFP is committed to sustain.

Challenges

- Face-to-face activities for livelihood improvement faced limitations due to the pandemic. Workshops were adjusted to be carried out virtually. When in-person activities were possible, COVID-19 protection and prevention trainings were imparted, and all sessions were conducted in compliance with biosecurity protocols.

Inter-agency coordination

- WFP co-leads the Food Security Cluster in Colombia together with FAO and UNICEF, and actively participates in the Education and Early Recovery clusters. WFP leads the Logistics Working Group to strengthen coordination for more efficient logistics processes.

Donors

Canada, Colombia, European Commission, Germany, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, USA, private donors.

Additional support has been provided by UN CERF, UN Peace Building Fund, UN Adaptation Fund.