



World Food Programme

WFP Colombia Country Brief

December 2020

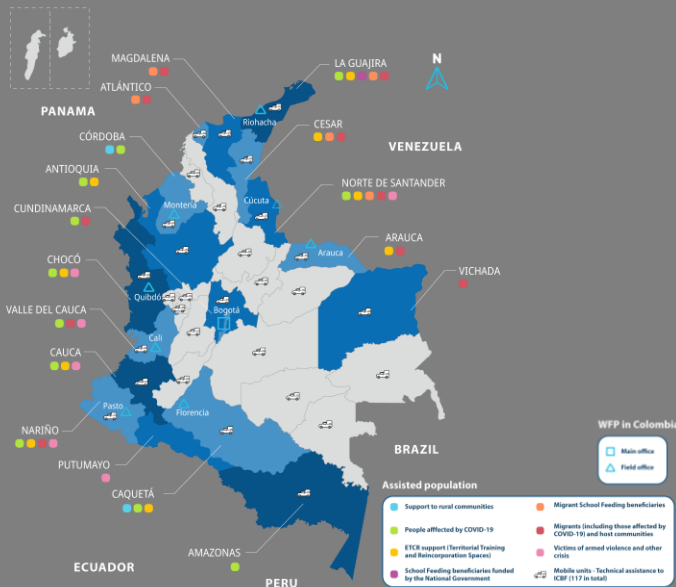
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

The Colombian humanitarian context is complex, with multiple risks and affectations coexisting. Colombia's 50-year-long armed conflict left 7.8 million IDPs, and while the country has set a path of peacebuilding and stabilization, violence caused by armed groups linked to illegal economies still affects thousands of Colombians every year. Colombia has also become the largest host for Venezuelan migrants fleeing dire living conditions in their country. Nearly 5.5 million have already left, 1.7 million of them are in Colombia. The COVID-19 crisis further exacerbates the situation and impacts food security for both Colombians and migrants, especially for those who depend on informal labour, or who are in extreme poverty.

WFP is supporting the Colombian Government in its efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17. WFP's strategy is aligned with Government's humanitarian, recovery, development, and capacity strengthening priorities. WFP has been present in Colombia since 1969.



Population: **49.1 million**

2020 Human Development Index: **83 out of 189**

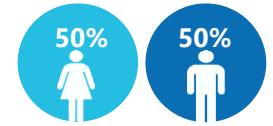
Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **10.8%**

In numbers

USD 93.7 m next six months (January - June 2021) **funding requirements**

409,696 people assisted in December 2020



Operational Updates

- **Scale of WFP's emergency response:** In 2020, WFP reached 1.6 million of the most at-risk people, half of which are women, through its diversified responses and assistance modalities. In alignment with national emergency response priorities, WFP met 94 percent of its annual targets, despite the particular challenges posed by the spread of COVID-19 and expanded operations from 13 to 20 departments, including both urban and remote areas to cover rising needs.
- **Response to the Venezuelan migration emergency:** Nearly 70 percent of the total people reached by WFP (1.1 million) were either Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees, or members of host communities supported through cash-based transfers, in-kind food, hot meals, food kits, and emergency school feeding. Other initiatives also kick-started in 2020, included a pilot shock-responsive social protection project conducted with key national institutions, and two pilots fostered migrant socioeconomic integration, run jointly with ILO. WFP plans to reach 1.2 million people under its migration response in 2021.
- **Support to COVID-affected Colombians:** A total of 168,000 Colombians affected by the COVID-19 crisis received in-kind or cash-based transfer support in 12 out of 32 departments. This included milestone support to the Government's selective isolation strategy (PRASS), through which WFP provided relief assistance for 60,000 people with positive or suspected COVID-19 results and their families. This programme will continue during the first quarter of 2021. Overall, WFP is targeting 220,000 COVID-affected Colombians in 2021.
- **Support to disaster and violence-affected populations:** 2020 was marked by a continued upsurge in internal violence and a particularly devastating rainy and hurricane season. In response, WFP provided emergency assistance to 166,000 violence and disaster-affected people in 13 departments. This included the implementation of funds from the UN CERF in prioritized areas of Nariño, Chocó, and Amazonas with a gender and protection focus. WFP also donated 1,500 food kits to the National Disaster Management Office and 14,000 biscuits to the Ministry of Education in response to the effects of Hurricane Iota.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
414 m	313 m	93.7 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: crisis-affected populations, including victims of violence, natural disasters and shocks, marginalized communities and vulnerable ethnic populations have adequate access at all times to nutritious foods and diversified diets, and are supported in establishing or improving their livelihoods.

Activities:

- Support crisis-affected populations.
- Implement emergency 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Strategic Outcome 6: the Government, its agencies, different territorial entities and other humanitarian organizations in Colombia have access to effective and reliable supply chain services during crises.

Activities:

- Provide national transport of goods and purchases of non-food items (NFI), as well as air transport services for passengers and cargo to Colombia Government, its agencies, different territorial entities, and other humanitarian organizations, considering WFP capacities.
- Provide food purchases to Colombia Government, its agencies and different territorial entities according to WFP food procurement processes and procedures.

- **School feeding:** In 2020, 118,000 children in five departments received school feeding, including migrants. In La Guajira, WFP implemented the national school feeding programme on behalf of the Government and will continue in 2021. WFP's school feeding activities supported the most vulnerable children to stay enrolled in school amidst the challenges posed by COVID-19.

- **Shock-responsive social protection (SRSP):** In 2020, WFP kick-started a milestone project which enabled an expansion of national social protection programmes for Colombians and Venezuelans in extreme poverty. Through this successful project, not only 47,000 people received cash-based transfers, but WFP is also leveraging its expertise to identify and jointly address capacity gaps together with leading social protection national institutions.

- **Support to peace efforts:** Besides other projects, in support of national efforts for peace and stabilization after the 2016 Peace Accords, in 2020 WFP continued providing capacity strengthening support to 14 cooperatives led by former guerrilla combatants in the process of reintegration, benefitting nearly 2,000 people, a third of which are women.

- **Gender:** In 2020, WFP scaled up efforts to mainstream gender across all its programmes and to implement measures to mitigate new risks due to COVID-19. Besides leading local interagency roundtables to tackle gender-based violence in Caquetá, La Guajira, and Nariño, WFP implemented gender-specific programmes to promote economic independence, women's empowerment, and the reincorporation of former guerrilla combatants.

Monitoring

- Remote monitoring results indicate that WFP's beneficiaries have improved their overall food intake in 2020, as measured by the Food Consumption Score (FCS). The percentage of people with acceptable FCS increased from 70 to 82 percent, and diets became more diverse.

Challenges

- Good funding levels allowed WFP to sharply scale-up its response in 2020, however needs will remain high, and a forecast 40 percent funding gap for emergency response activities in the first half of 2021 threatens the sustainability of results achieved so far.

Donors

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