



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Bolivia

Country Brief

January 2021



Operational Context

In the last decade, Bolivia made significant progress on improving food and nutrition security and reducing extreme poverty. Given the notable socioeconomic improvement, the country accomplished a middle-income status. However, poverty and malnutrition levels remain amongst the highest in the region.

The COVID-19 pandemic followed after a severe political crisis in 2019, adding significant pressures to a fragile institutional setting and political imbalances. Both situations impacted on the socioeconomic situation and food security of Bolivians, especially on those who work on the informal market, smallholder farmers and indigenous communities with precarious sources of income.

WFP Bolivia is currently implementing its Country Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022. Adapting to the country's needs and considering yearly natural disasters, WFP is consolidating its value added as the partner of choice for both emergency response and capacity strengthening, technical support, advocacy, and communications, acting as a facilitator in support of the Government. WFP's interventions are in line with the Five-Year National Development Plan 2020 that focuses on social development of vulnerable indigenous populations.

WFP has been in Bolivia since 1963.



Population: **11.4 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **118 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

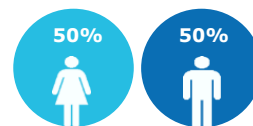
Chronic malnutrition: **16% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 11,215 in cash-based transfers

USD 1.5 million next six months net funding requirements

643 people assisted
January 2021



Operational Updates

- In January 2021, the COVID-19 second wave started with more than 2,000 cases per day. The country did not experience these types of figures since the peak of first wave in July-August 2020.
- Since mid-January, all the Country Office staff returned to teleworking considering COVID-19 prevention measures. All field missions have been suspended by the UN Resident Coordinator Office until further notice.
- WFP delivered 563 food baskets to in-home COVID-19 patients quarantined in rural municipalities. In urban areas, WFP had 80 food baskets delivered to health recovery centres. A new agreement with La Paz's Municipality is underway to continue providing food assistance to COVID-19 patients in the municipality's recovery centres.
- WFP is hiring a consultancy to develop a locally produced nutritional supplement for children under-two by recreating successful formulas with available local agricultural products and setting up a new processing plant.
- WFP launched a nutrition communications campaign for the Municipality of La Paz. The campaign objective was to promote a healthy diet to strengthen the immune system in order to prevent COVID-19. Due to the creative social media outreach, an audience of 928,559 people viewed the videos by the end of January.
- In response to a request of the Vice-Ministry of Civil Defence to assist flood-affected families, WFP is setting up an emergency response operation in two municipalities in the north of the Department of La Paz.

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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	6.8 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.

Monitoring

- During the second half of January, torrential rains fell in La Paz, Beni, Santa Cruz, and Cochabamba causing floods and subsequent loss of crops, livelihoods and infrastructure. The north of the Department of La Paz and the indigenous people of the Isiboro Sécure National Park and Indigenous Territory (located between Beni and Cochabamba) are the most affected. The Vice-ministry of Civil Defence requested the support of WFP to reach the affected population. WFP will conduct a 72-hour Emergency Food Security Assessment to evaluate the situation and target the most food insecure people.

Challenges

- Changes in the local authorities, the second wave of COVID-19 and subnational elections delay partners' implementations and information availability.
- WFP continues facing challenges to secure enough funding to implement the country strategic plan, particularly SO2, SO4 and the COVID-19 response in Bolivia. Floods, heavy rains and landslides have arisen and will continue in the following months.

Partnerships

- WFP is working on expanding its partnership base.
- WFP Bolivia will partner with Wester Union under the internal Long Term Agreement to disburse cash-based transfers to the beneficiaries.

Donors

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