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.

Operational Updates

- During the month of February 2021, the number of COVID-19 cases decreased. However, trends have been characterized by fluctuations without a steady decrease over the months.

- In response to a request of the Bolivian 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 and the Department of Beni.

- In coordination with the Ministry of Health and Sports, WFP assisted COVID-19 patients in quarantine with commodity vouchers in the cities of El Alto and Sucre.

- WFP hired a consultancy to develop a local nutritional supplement for children aged 0-59 months of age. This will be replicated in other locations by recreating the formula with available local agricultural products and the future development of a processing plant.

- A safety guide for the return to schools with essential information for teachers, parents and municipal authorities for sanitary food handling and other biosecurity considerations in the context of COVID-19 was developed with UNICEF.

In Numbers

| USD 3,757 in cash-based transfers |

| USD 1.4 million next six months net funding requirements |

| 196 people assisted |

| February 2021 |

| 43% |

| 57% |

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**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)**

<table>
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<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Strategic Outcome</th>
<th>Focus area</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>Everyone has access to food</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>No one suffers from malnutrition</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes</td>
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<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs</td>
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<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.7 m</td>
<td>6.8 m</td>
<td>1.4 m</td>
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**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 conducted an Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in the Amazon region of the Department of La Paz, where heavy rains and river floods caused losses in crops, livelihoods, and infrastructure. More than 3,000 families were affected and 60 percent of staple food production (e.g. rice, banana, cassava) was lost. This jeopardized the food security situation of most vulnerable people, mainly subsistence farmers, single-parent households, the elderly, and indigenous remote communities. WFP started the rehabilitation of assets in exchange of food assistance in coordination with local authorities.

- WFP is investing in the capacity development of employees in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (VAM) to strengthen skills and knowledge transfers. The trainings will be carried out using existing resources (e.g. WeLearn courses). The M&E-VAM unit is developing materials, in coordination with WFP units, focusing on log frame indicators, sampling, questionnaires, tools, and data analysis.

**Challenges**

- The second wave of COVID-19 and subnational elections in March are delaying 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 occurred in February 2021.

**Partnerships**

- WFP is working on expanding its partnership base.

- WFP Bolivia will partner with Western Union under the internal Long Term Agreement (LTA) to disburse cash-based transfers to the beneficiaries.

**Donors**