WFP Colombia Country Brief

February 2021

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.

Operational Updates

- On 23 February, WFP’s Executive Board approved the new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for Colombia covering the period from 2021 to 2024.
- Scale of WFP’s emergency response: In February, WFP reached 245,882 of the most at-risk people, 46 percent of which are female, through its diversified responses and assistance modalities and in alignment with national emergency response priorities, meeting 82 percent of its monthly target despite the particular challenges posed by the spread of COVID-19.
- Response to the Venezuelan migration emergency: From early 2021 WFP had to implement a sharp assistance cut due to lower funding forecasts, reaching only half of its needs-based plan. In February, WFP supported about 208,000 Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees, and members of host communities through cash-based transfers, in-kind food, hot meals, food kits, and emergency school feeding. Two pilots fostering socioeconomic integration of migrants are being implemented jointly with ILO.
- On 8 February, Colombia has announced the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for all irregular Venezuelan migrants living in the country for ten years. It is expected that this measure might result in rising inflows from neighbouring countries. A new walking migrants’ route has been identified by the Government with six strategic points in the North-East of the country. WFP is coordinating assistance (food kits and/or hot meals) with other humanitarian actors through existing platforms.
- Support to COVID-affected Colombians: In February, WFP assisted 23,222 Colombians affected by the COVID-19 crisis through in-kind or cash-based transfers. This includes support to the Government’s selective isolation strategy (PRASS), through which WFP has cumulatively provided relief assistance to 3,125 people with positive or suspected COVID-19 results and their families.
- School feeding: WFP met with the Ministry of Education’s new school feeding unit UAPA (Unidad Administrativa Especial de Alimentación Escolar) to discuss joint activities in 2021. In February, WFP started its school feeding programmes through take-home rations in La Guajira Department, reaching 83,000 Colombian and Venezuelan schoolchildren in La Guajira and Barranquilla, with other sites envisaged over the next two months.

In Numbers

USD 87.9 million next six months funding requirements

330,098 people assisted in February 2021

Population: 49.1 million
2020 Human Development Index: 83 out of 189
Income Level: Lower middle
Chronic malnutrition: 10.8%

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

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<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<td>654 million</td>
<td>19.5 million</td>
<td>87.9 m</td>
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**Strategic Result 1:** Everyone has access to food

**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.

**Shock-responsive social protection:** WFP finished implementing its first shock-responsive social protection pilot in February, reaching around 70,000 beneficiaries in total. This is already recognized as a model in the publication *WFP’s Work in Enabling Social Protection Around the Globe.*

**Support to peace efforts:** Through several projects, WFP contributes to the triple nexus of national efforts for peace and stabilization after the 2016 Peace Agreement in Colombia. In 2021, WFP has supported over 17,700 people in communities for which the Government established development programmes with a territorial approach (i.e. PDET), many of them affected by the socio-economic consequences of COVID-19 and armed violence.

**Gender:** WFP mainstreams gender across all its programmes. For its efforts, it was recognized with a Gender and Age Marker 4 for its new country strategic plan approved by WFP’s Executive Board.

**Monitoring**

- In 2021, WFP opened two new community kitchens (*comedores*) in La Guajira and evaluated the responses of 495 surveyed beneficiaries at 14 existing sites. 100 percent reported feeling safe, 62 percent eat there more than five times per week with three meals a day.
- Preparations have started for six evaluations planned in 2021.

**Partnerships**

- Together with Colombia’s First Lady, WFP officially launched the Innovation for Nutrition (I4N) initiative. More than 1,500 people joined a public webinar introducing approaches for improving malnutrition.
- Project visits took place with USAID BHA to assess new developments with regard to migration from Venezuela, including the new walking route.
- WFP led the development of an innovative solution (unique identifier) also adopted by UNHCR and NGOs that will allow to avoid duplications in CBT activities.

**Challenges**

- While the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) for 2021 expects the number of people from Venezuela in need of assistance to increase by 500,000, WFP faces a dramatic funding gap of 40 percent for its emergency response activities. This situation threatens the sustainability of results achieved so far and has led to a severe cut of beneficiaries by one third in early 2021.

**Donors**

Canada, Colombia, European Commission, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, USAID BHA, private donors, as well as UN CERF, Adaptation Fund, and the UN COVID-19 multi-partner trust fund.