WFP Bolivia
Country Brief
March 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.

Operational Updates
• In March 2021, the number of active COVID-19 cases has fluctuated but is slightly reduced from previous months.
• In response to a request of the Bolivian Vice-Ministry of Civil Defence done in February 2021 to assist flood-affected families, WFP responded with emergency interventions in the Departments of Beni and La Paz. Over 1,250 families affected by floods in more than 30 communities of five municipalities were assisted with cash transfers.
• In coordination with the Ministry of Health and Sports (MHS), under the World Bank joint UN project, WFP started an operation in the city of El Alto to give persons with COVID-19 a food basket for their quarantine. WFP will expand to reach people in five other departments due to an increase of patients.
• A safety guide for the return to schools with essential information for teachers, parents and municipal authorities regarding sanitary food handling and other biosecurity considerations in the context of COVID-19 was published in coordination with UNICEF and UNESCO.
• To ensure an efficient and effective inter-agency logistics response between the Vice-Ministry of Civil Defence and partner organisations, WFP is organizing a Logistics Cluster workshop to identify recurring bottlenecks and strategies to overcome constraints.

In Numbers
USD 239,527 in cash-based transfers
USD 0.2 million next six months net funding requirements
10,067 people assisted
March 2021

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

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<td>11.7 m</td>
<td>7.9 m</td>
<td>0.2 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.

**Monitors**

- WFP monitored the results and processes of emergency interventions in the Amazonian area of the Departments of La Paz and Beni, where families were affected by heavy rains and floods. WFP assisted nearly 1,250 families in six municipalities with cash-based transfers. Before the assistance, 86 percent were food insecure. After, 89 percent were food secure and 11 percent were marginally food insecure.

**Challenges**

- The second round of subnational elections in March have delayed partner implementation schedules.
- WFP continues facing challenges to secure enough funding to implement the Country Strategic Plan, particularly SO2, SO4 and the COVID-19 response in Bolivia.

**Partnerships**

- WFP is working on expanding its partnership base.
- WFP Bolivia partnered with Western Union under the internal Long Term Agreement (LTA) to disburse cash-based transfers to the beneficiaries.

**Donors**