



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief

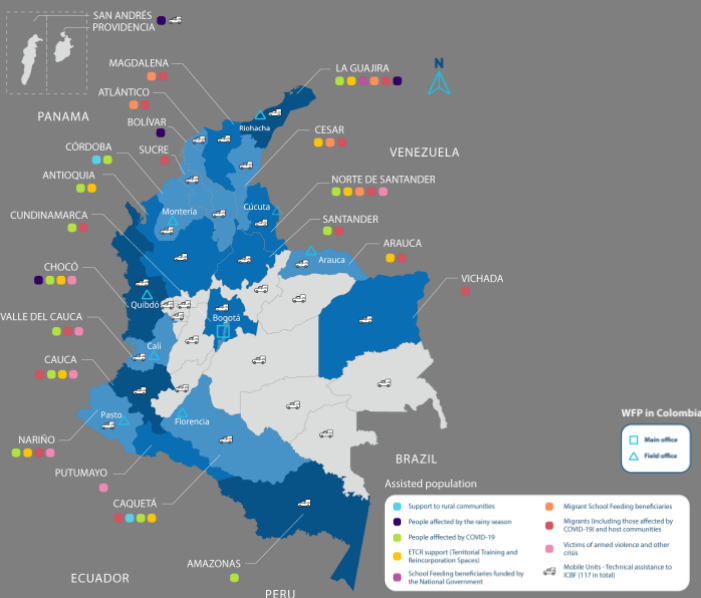
March 2021



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.



Population: **49.1 million**

2020 Human Development Index:
83 out of 189

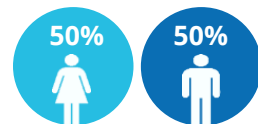
Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **10.8%**

In Numbers

USD 85.5 million next six months
funding requirements

384,868 people assisted
in March 2021



Operational Updates

- The **new Country Strategic Plan (CSP)** for Colombia covering the period from **2021 to 2024** was approved in February 2021, effective on 1st March 2021 (see overview on second page).
- Scale of WFP's response:** In March, WFP reached 384,868 of the most vulnerable people, including migrants, victims of household violence, schoolchildren, and disaster-affected people, 50 percent of which are female. WFP implemented an articulated set of interventions in response to different contexts and requirements, in alignment with national emergency response priorities. Cash-based transfers made up 55 percent of total assistance during the month.
- Response to the Venezuelan migration emergency:** WFP supported 244,616 Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees, and members of host communities through cash-based transfers, hot meals, food kits and school feeding. In addition, a mass displacement of civilians from bordering Venezuela into the neighbouring department of Arauca took place at the end of March due to military operations in Venezuela. In response [WFP has been providing emergency assistance](#) (food kits) to over 6,000 people and is coordinating with national and local authorities for continuing assistance operations.
- Violence and disaster-affected people:** As of March, over 38,500 people had been [displaced or confined](#) in their communities due to internal violence. WFP provided in-kind support and cash-based transfers to 37,166 people in the four departments of the Pacific coast, this included communities affected in 2020 and which still receive support.
- Support to COVID-affected Colombians:** WFP assisted 27,239 Colombians affected by the COVID-19 crisis through in-kind or cash-based transfers in March. This included support to the Government's selective isolation strategy (PRASS), through which WFP has cumulatively provided relief assistance to 102,643 COVID-19 positive or symptomatic people. This support is especially important as the country enters the third COVID-19 wave.
- School feeding:** WFP continued providing its school feeding programmes through take-home rations, reaching 93,884 Colombian and Venezuelan schoolchildren in La Guajira and Barranquilla. Contracting procedures for school feeding operators, needs assessments and database consolidations are ongoing which will allow to expand to other areas.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Colombia

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
654.3 m	49.8 m	85.5 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees and members of host communities receive humanitarian assistance, equitable access to quality differential services and expeditious and massive access to the labour market and entrepreneurship options, with a focus on food security and nutrition, with the support of WFP and in coordination with the United Nations country team, as a complement to the efforts of the Colombian Government.

Activities:

- Provide humanitarian assistance and access to services.
- Strengthen institutional capacities and provide support.

Strategic Outcome 3: The public policies, institutional capacity, systems and services for the promotion of food security, nutrition and social inclusion are technically strengthened and vulnerable populations have access to adequate and nutritious food throughout the year for the acceleration of catalytic SDGs, in particular SDG 2, with the support of WFP and in coordination with the United Nations country team, as a complement to the efforts of the Colombian Government.

Activities:

- Support the Government and territorial entities in strengthening their capacity and strategies.
- Provide technical assistance and support for school feeding.
- Provide food and nutrition assistance, including through the strengthening of the social protection system.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 1: By 2024, people and communities in a situation of food vulnerability in the PDET municipalities prioritized by the Government improve their quality of life by strengthening their resilience and sustainable livelihoods and local governments strengthen their capacities, contributing to the stabilization and consolidation of the territories, with the support of WFP and in coordination with the United Nations country team, as a complement to the efforts of the Government.

Activity:

- Provide food, technical and production assistance.

- **Support to peace efforts:** Through several projects, WFP contributes to national efforts for peace and stabilization after the 2016 Peace Agreement in Colombia, with a focus on triple-nexus activities. In March, WFP has supported over 15,000 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.
- **Livelihoods:** WFP will implement a pilot project for the socioeconomic integration of migrants in Arauca, through which over 500 households engaged in recycling activities will expand and strengthen their businesses through capacity strengthening support and cash-based transfers.

Monitoring

- WFP's latest food security estimates found 48 percent of Colombians and 71 percent of the Venezuelan migrant population affected by

moderate to severe food insecurity in January. This compares to 22 and 55 percent, respectively, before the COVID-19 pandemic. As the economy was hit hard by the impact of the health crisis, its recovery is expected to take considerable time with protracted negative effects on food security and nutrition, in particular among the most vulnerable.

- In March, WFP and FAO released a [report](#) which estimated that the number of food insecure Venezuelans will rise significantly beyond the 9.3 million recorded in 2019, likely triggering even higher migration levels by July 2021.
- According to the latest [Global Risk Analysis from ACAPS](#), both Colombia and Venezuela are classified as highest risk countries for the next six months. Main risk factors in Colombia are the escalation of conflict and humanitarian access constraints, along with increasing migration flows from Venezuela.

Partnerships

- The World Bank and WFP concluded a milestone agreement for a [project](#) in support of vulnerable Venezuelan migrants and their host communities. The USD 3.2 million project will serve to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through unconditional emergency cash transfers in Bogotá, Soacha, Cali and Bucaramanga.
- Together with Colombia's First Lady, WFP organized a second public [webinar](#) under the Innovation for Nutrition (I4N) initiative to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security and nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Challenges

- **Humanitarian needs are increasing** across the country due to a surge in armed violence caused by illegal groups, massive displacements, extreme weather events and the intensification of irregular migration inflows, also following the announcement of the Temporary Protection Status for irregular Venezuelan migrants. Yet WFP's capacity to deliver flexible assistance at scale is being severely impacted by low funding forecasts. In view of insufficient funding, WFP unfortunately had to decrease its beneficiary outreach from over 500,000 people assisted in November 2020 to around 380,000 in March 2021.
- **Pipeline breaks:** For 2021, with rising needs and decreasing resources, pipeline breaks are expected as early as July for COVID and the migration response. Crisis operations are only 25 percent funded over the next six months.
- **New COVID-19 outbreaks** caused by new variants and Government measures to contain the spread of the pandemic might pose significant operational challenges. WFP continues closely coordinating with national authorities and implementing strict biosecurity protocols to mitigate these risks.

Donors

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