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.

In Numbers
USD 0 in cash-based transfers
USD 0.4 million next six months net funding requirements
19 people attended a Logistics Training
May 2021

Operational Updates
• In the month of May, COVID-19 infections rose from a weekly average of 1,335 at the beginning of the month to 3,089 at the end of it. Having surpassed the peak of the second pandemic wave weekly average of 2,257 on January 31, 2021.

• By the end of the month approximately 3% of the population was vaccinated (two doses), an increase of 1% compared to last month. On the other hand, 11.6% of the population received the first vaccine dose.

• Within the framework of the Food Systems Summit, WFP was actively involved in supporting the organization and implementation of the Workshop for Food Systems Specialists. The outcome of the event is an important input for regional workshops to take place in the month of June.

• The country office provided support to the organization of the Logistics Coordination in Response to Emergencies Workshop implemented by the Regional WFP office. The event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Vice-Ministry of Civil Defence, Caritas Bolivia, UNICEF, WHO / PAHO, and UN Women. 21 persons, including the facilitators, attended the event.

• WFP Bolivia Twitter multimedia content in the month of May had an outreach of 14,400 people who interacted with our posts, and 4,000 visits to our profile, without counting on statistics of our videos posted on WFP Spanish main accounts of LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram, where our videos were also posted and shared. The most visited post was our video about the Logistics Cluster workshop.

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Monitoring
- The M&E unit finalized the cycle of training sessions in M&E and VAM for the internal CO staff. 70% of colleagues from all units participated in the six-sessions process, which focused on the CSP monitoring plan, methodologies and tools, food security indicators, EFSA, and COMET. The learning process strengthened the capacities and knowledge of the CO staff and will facilitate the communication, reporting and evidence generation to external stakeholders.

Challenges
- The important increase of COVID-19 cases has resulted in municipal lockdowns that could have an effect on operations, particularly at field level.
- Given that the country is going through an economic crisis due to a decrease in exports values of natural resources and the effects of the pandemic, the government may reduce the departmental and municipal financial allocations to finance local development and assistance to vulnerable groups.
- WFP continues facing challenges to secure enough funding to implement the country strategic plan, particularly SO2, Act4, SO4 and the COVID-19 response in Bolivia, for which no resources have yet been confirmed.

Partnerships
- In preparation for the execution of a resilience project in El Chaco region, WFP has signed MOUs with the Departmental Governments of Santa Cruz and Chuquisaca and is in the process of signing MOUs with 9 municipalities of Santa Cruz and Chuquisaca and the Ministry of Rural Development and Land.

Donors