WFP Bolivia
Country Brief
June 2021

In Numbers
USD 23,666.81 in cash-based transfers
USD 0.4 million six-month net funding requirements
767 people assisted
June 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 the month of June, COVID-19 infections decreased from a weekly average of 2,767 at the beginning of the month to 1,839 at the end of it. In June, Bolivia had the highest peak of its three pandemic waves with a weekly average of 3,135 on June 14, 2021.

• By the end of the month, approximately 6 percent of the population was vaccinated (two doses), compared to 3 percent at the end of the last month. On the other hand, 16.1 percent of the population received the first vaccine dose.

• Within the framework of the Food Systems Summit, WFP continued to support the organization and implementation of dialogue workshops. In the month of June, a total of 5 dialogue workshops took place - three regional, one with indigenous people, and one with academic and research entities.

• To reduce the impact of COVID-19 for students in rural schools, WFP delivered biosafety supplies to the Autonomous Departmental Government of Oruro, and the Municipality of Zudañez in the department of Chuquisaca.

• After signing an agreement with the Municipality of San Pablo de Lípez in the department of Potosí, WFP assisted 191 families affected by snowfalls and frosts during the month of May through cash-based transfers (CBT).

• An agreement to implement a Food Production Plant has been signed between WFP and the Autonomous Departmental Government of Oruro. The plant will produce complementary food for children under 2 years of age, using local traditional foods produced by smallholder farmers.

Contact info: wfp.lapaz@wfp.org
Country Director: Ana María Salhuana
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/bolivia-plurinational-state

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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The baseline study for the resilience project in the Bolivian Chaco region was carried out during the month of June. The work covered 53 communities in 8 municipalities. Relevant information related to food security, livelihoods, consumption and sale of agricultural production, gender issues, and protection was obtained. Preliminary results show that 30 percent of the population is food insecure. The complete study will be shared by next month.

The main municipal governments have decided to lift the restriction on pedestrian and vehicular circulation that was maintained for more than two weeks to prevent COVID-19 infections. An increase of COVID-19 cases could potentially occur, which could restrict WFP operations.

The National Meteorology Service (SENA) warned against the entry of cold fronts in the country and potential increase in COVID-19 cases. These cold fronts could affect the regions of Tarija, Chuquisaca and Santa Cruz where WFP plans to have interventions.

WFP continues facing challenges to secure enough funding to implement the country strategic plan, particularly Strategic Outcome (SO) 2, Activity 4, SO4 and SO1 for the COVID-19 response in Bolivia, for which no resources have yet been confirmed.

The resilience project in el Chaco region has started with participatory workshops at regional and municipal levels to assess the actual food security situation and needs.

Donors