



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief

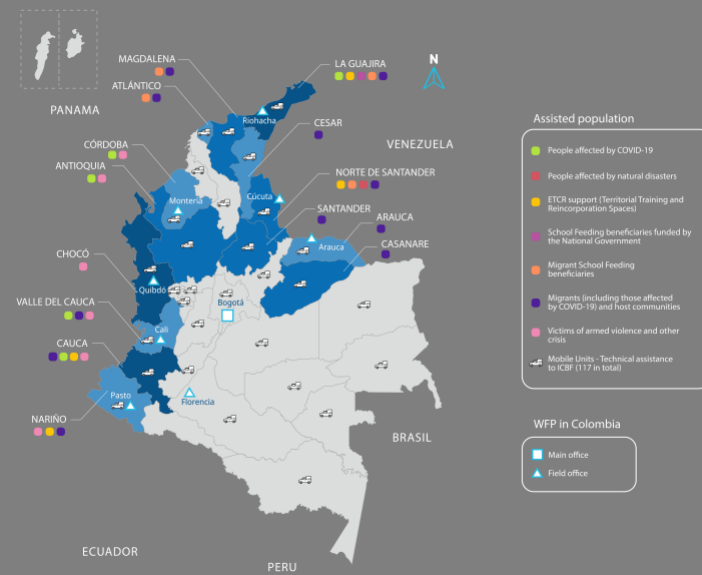
July 2021



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.



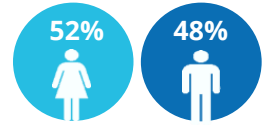
Population: 49.1 million	2020 Human Development Index: 83 out of 189
Income Level: Upper middle	Chronic malnutrition: 10.8%

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In Numbers

USD 92.7 million six-month net funding requirements

331,045 people assisted in July 2021



Operational Updates

- Scale of WFP's response:** In July, WFP reached 331,045 of the most vulnerable people, including migrants, victims of internal violence, school-children, and disaster-affected people, 52 percent of which are female. WFP provided assistance under particularly difficult conditions during 3 months of widespread social protests and strikes, with some beneficiaries affected by delays in distributions. The situation has since improved and WFP's operations are currently running as planned.
- Response to the Venezuelan migration emergency:** WFP provided cash-based transfers (CBT), in-kind food assistance, hot meals, food kits, and school feeding to 251,169 Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees and members of host communities. At the local level, WFP was able to assist migrants in Alto Catatumbo (Norte de Santander) for the first time. In support of the Government with the implementation of the Temporary Protection Status (TPS), WFP has started working on four pillars at the national level: i) Communication, ii) Information and orientation for migrants; iii) Expedition of certificates for the 'prueba sumaria e idonea'; and iv) Direct support for virtual pre-registry to request the TPS.
- Violence and disaster-affected people:** In July, WFP provided life-saving emergency assistance (in-kind and CBT) to 31,410 displaced or confined people in their communities due to internal violence, or disasters. Significant [increases in violent incidences and related mass displacements](#) compared to 2020 have been recorded in departments along the Pacific coast and in Colombia's northwest, as well as the number of people affected by disasters in Arauca. WFP will also support more than 4,000 of the most vulnerable people who have recently arrived in Ituango (Antioquia) with vouchers.
- Support to COVID-19 affected Colombians:** WFP continued to assist 22,265 Colombians affected by the COVID-19 crisis through in-kind or CBT in Amazonas, Cauca, Chocó and Córdoba while the number of new infections has slowed down.
- School feeding:** WFP provided school feeding through take-home rations as well as on-site to 27,280 Colombian and Venezuelan school children in La Guajira and Cesar, closely working with Government authorities as schools are reopening.

Photo: Displaced people from indigenous communities receive food assistance in Ituango (Antioquia) / WFP Colombia

- COVID-19 and the national strike are greatly affecting the socioeconomic situation. According to a [press release](#) published by the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), 76.2 percent of the heads of households surveyed in June 2021 were unable to buy food, clothes, etc., compared to the economic situation 12 months earlier.

- FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO have published the [2021 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#). The report analyses the interdependence and impact of conflict, climate-related and economic factors – particularly due to the COVID-19 – as drivers of hunger and malnutrition, affecting around 118 million more people in 2020 than in 2019.
- WFP estimates over 51 percent of Colombians (25.8 million people) to be food insecure as of May 2021, of which 3.9 percent severely food insecure. This compares to over 70 percent of migrants who were considered to be food insecure as of January 2021, showing a significant increase compared to 55 percent before COVID-19. (Source: CATI surveys, Jan. & May 2021)

Partnerships

- WFP is grateful for having received new financial contributions to meet its considerable requirements from the USA, Germany, Switzerland and the World Bank. As migrant flows, internal violence and climate-related disasters are augmenting, humanitarian needs in Colombia are expected to rise to new records in 2021, which is also reflected in WFP's six-month net funding requirements.
- At the **UN Food Systems Pre-Summit 2021** in Rome, Colombia's First Lady María Juliana Ruiz stressed the importance of multi-sector approaches and innovation to advance food security and nutrition in a sustainable way. She highlighted the initiative "Innovation for Nutrition" (I4N) jointly implemented with WFP, as one practical example.

Challenges

- Heavy rains and landslides are affecting road conditions and general mobility, which continues to be restricted by COVID-19 regulations, armed violence, and occasional civil unrest. WFP is building on its expertise in supply chain and logistics to ensure the timely provision of assistance in close cooperation with its partners.
- An accumulation of several thousand migrants at the border between Colombia and Panama on their way to North America is straining the capacity of the small host community and it is of particular concern in light of COVID-19. Government negotiations are underway.

Donors

Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, USA, the World Bank, and private donors. Additional support has been provided by UN CERF, the Adaptation Fund, and the multi-partner trust fund (MPTF).

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
654.3 million	100.3 million	92.7 million

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.

- **Socioeconomic integration of Venezuelan migrants:** In addition to the direct support of the TPS implementation mentioned above, WFP aims to strengthen the capacities of territorial entities for the inclusion of migrants in the entry services of the social protection system, including health insurance.
- **Support to peace efforts:** A needs assessment of former FARC combatants indicated acceptable levels of food security but a high vulnerability of surrounding communities. Both groups depend on limited livelihood opportunities. Successful community integration centered on joint assets or activities. Poorly paid economic activities, domestic work and the care economy represent a double or triple burden for women, with some reported cases of sexual and gender-based violence. Based on these findings, WFP is currently designing an appropriate intervention.