



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bolivia Country Brief August 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.



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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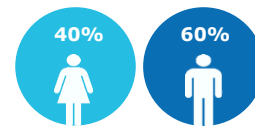
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/bolivia-plurinational-state

In Numbers

US\$ 3,469 in cash-based transfers

US\$ 0.8 m six-month net funding requirements

68 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) were benefited with CBT transfers for attending nutrition training sessions in AUGUST 2021



Operational Updates

- In the month of August, COVID-19 infections decreased from a weekly average of 782 at the beginning of the month to 451 at the end. It appears that the trend in the short term is towards a decline in infections.
- 22 percent of the population was fully vaccinated (two doses), compared to 14 percent at the end of July. Around 35 percent of the population has received the first vaccine dose.
- The training cycle in nutrition (semi-presential) for PLWHA in the city of Cochabamba has concluded, with 65 percent of participants completing the cycle and receiving a CBT (104 registered participants, 68 completed the cycle).
- The “Strengthening Resilience in the Chaco Region” project has started with some Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities and planning the first distribution to take place by the end of next month. FFA activities include the construction and rehabilitation of communal and school gardens, improvement of communal water and irrigation systems, and land clearing for agriculture among others.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 11.7 m | 8.3 m | 0.8 m |

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.

Monitoring

- The results of a joint UNDP-WFP project aimed to Strengthen the Resilience of Population of the Southern Altiplano Region of the Department of Oruro was presented to local authorities.

Challenges

- According to Bolivian authorities, the month of August closed with 69 percent fewer heat sources compared to last year. Almost 600,000 hectares have been burned in the department of Santa Cruz due to preventable causes, and 64 percent of the fire sources were in protected areas. WFP is closely following the forest fire development and assessing a possible intervention.
- Bolivian Health authorities announced that the start of the fourth wave of COVID-19 could begin at the end of September.
- WFP continues facing challenges to secure enough funding to implement the 2018-2022 Country Strategic Plan, particularly funds to respond to emergencies under Strategic Outcome (SO) 1, such as the forest fires, drought, and other natural disasters. Some activities under SO 3, and SO 4 and SO 2 have no resources confirmed to date.

Partnerships

- WFP participated in a meeting with the Vice-Minister of Civil Defence and the Departmental Government of Santa Cruz to coordinate WFP's potential response to the fires with humanitarian assistance.
- WFP participated in the health cluster meetings organized by the Ministry of Health and Sports to assess the status of preparedness, presenting the ICA and WFP's role in nutrition in emergencies and emergency response.

Donors

Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Japanese Private Sector (JAWFP), Strategic Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC).