



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bolivia Country Brief October 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**

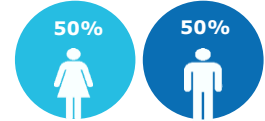
Chronic malnutrition: **16% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 177,089 in cash-based transfers made

USD 0.7 m six-month (November 2021 – April 2022) net funding requirements, representing 30% of total

7,120 people assisted in OCTOBER 2021



Operational Updates

- In the month of October, COVID-19 infections increased from a weekly average of 318 at the beginning of the month to 524 at the end. Health authorities announced the start of the fourth wave but with a lower mortality rate as the vaccination campaign is strengthened, including for those 12-17 years range.
- After the rehabilitation and creation of productive assets by local communities, the “Strengthening Resilience in the Chaco Region” project started the round of cash-based transfers distribution to 1,500 indigenous families (7,500 people).
- The government of Oruro has issued an emergency and disaster declaration because of an extreme drought in the areas surrounding Lake Poopó. The lake has completely dried up, and the surrounding communities have been left without livelihoods. The Oruro government has requested support to assist 19,000 families through Food Assistance for Assets. WFP will assist 515 families from the Uru indigenous nations and the Salinas Indigenous Native Autonomous Government (GAIIOC) in an emergency operation.
- In commemoration of World Food Day, WFP Bolivia and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organized a webinar called “Better Production, Better Food”
- WFP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean visited Bolivia, where she had the opportunity to visit some interventions and witness the high impact of climate change in Bolivia.
- In the rural area of the department of Oruro, in the framework of a stop-hunger project, associations of indigenous women entrepreneurs were trained on good productive practices and links to markets.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
11.7 m	8.4 m	0.7 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 CO has started the recruitment of a monitoring and evaluation assistant.

Challenges

- Based on data from the Forest Fire Early Warning and Monitoring System, from January to October, more than 3.4 million hectares were burned nationwide in 2021. 94 percent of burned areas are concentrated in the departments of Santa Cruz and Beni; 37.6 percent are concentrated in the department of Beni and 56.4 percent in the department of Santa Cruz. The Government allocated USD 900,000 in equipment, food, fuel, and actions to combat forest fires.
- The march of the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon, the East, and the Chaco of Bolivia, which has brought together more than 500 indigenous peoples from 34 original peoples from six departments - Beni, Santa Cruz, Pando, Tarija, Chuquisaca and La Paz, is in Santa Cruz, waiting for a response from the Government to discuss their demands.
- WFP continues facing challenges to secure enough funding to implement the 2018-2022 Country Strategic Plan (CSP), particularly funds to respond to emergencies under Strategic Outcome (SO) 1, such as the forest fires, drought, and other natural disasters. The entire CSP has no new resources confirmed to date.

Partnerships

- To introduce the new WFP Country Director in Bolivia and explore joint work opportunities, meetings were held with the embassies of Italy and Argentina. Meetings were also held with country representatives of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Donors

Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Japanese Private Sector (JAWFP).