WFP Colombia
Country Brief

October 2021

©WFP Photo: Emergency assistance after flooding in La Mojana

SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

Operational Context

The humanitarian context in Colombia 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. 5.9 million have already left, and 1.8 million of them are in Colombia which expects another 500,000 to arrive over the next months. 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 the Government's humanitarian, recovery, development, and capacity strengthening priorities. WFP has been present in Colombia since 1969.
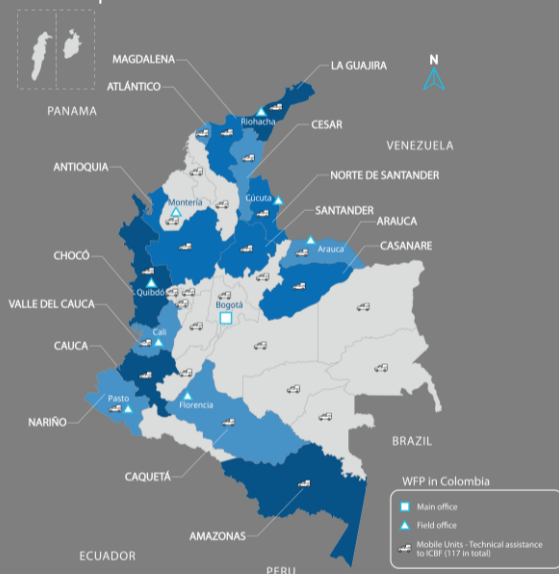
| Population: **49.1 million** | 2020 Human Development Index: **83 out of 189** |
| Income Level: **Upper middle** | Chronic malnutrition: **10.8%** |

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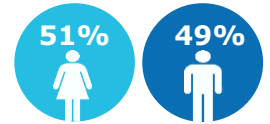Further information: **www.wfp.org/countries/Colombia**

In Numbers

USD 9.8 m cash-based transfers made

USD 69.7 m six months (November 2021 - April 2022) net funding requirements, representing 43% of total

USD 55.0 m L2 Emergency Response

475,363 people assisted in OCTOBER 2021

51% / 49%

Operational Updates

- WFP has provided cash-based and in-kind assistance as well as capacity strengthening and socio-economic integration activities to nearly 475,400 vulnerable people across Colombia in the month of October. This includes Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees, host communities, and victims of extreme weather events and armed violence.

- Between January and September 2021, the number of people displaced by violence and insecurity exceeded 60,700 (compared to 27,000 people in 2020). Moreover, the impact of forced community confinements and disasters related to natural hazards are also increasing humanitarian needs. To date, WFP has assisted more than 149,100 victims of such events in 2021, including in La Mojana, where more than 150,000 people require emergency food assistance due to devastating floods; WFP will support a total of 47,000 people.

- Key drivers of hunger are expected to further exacerbate the food security situation in Colombia, including concerning levels of malnutrition in children in certain regions. This includes the proliferation of non-state armed groups, which is worsening the security situation in the country. The capture of the leader of the *Clan del Golfo*, Colombia's largest paramilitary criminal organization, on 23 October, may lead to greater instability and displacements, and hamper WFP's operations.

- In support of the Government's response to COVID-19, WFP started its second phase of assistance under the national testing, tracking and isolation programme, aiming to reach a total of 75,000 people in the coming months.

- More than 1,300 schoolchildren in the municipality of Arauquita (Arauca) started benefitting from a home-grown school feeding pilot project. Food products from smallholder farmers make up over two-thirds of their rations, thus strengthening the local economy.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
654.3 m	**166.3 m**	**69.7 m**

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.

Monitoring

- According to the latest joint needs assessment by the Inter-agency Group on Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM), 85 percent of surveyed Venezuelan migrants prioritized food as one of their three main needs, and 59 percent eat less than the three recommended meals per day.

- In October, the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) published the first round of its migrant survey "Pulso Migración" which serves to monitor aspects related to the increasing number of Venezuelans in Colombia, making this the second-largest host country of migrants in the world.

Partnerships

- From 11 to 18 October, WFP Colombia's Country Director and the Presidential Adviser on Border Matters conducted a joint visit to Washington, D.C. to raise awareness on the migration crisis and discuss potential partnerships with the Inter-American Development Bank, USAID, the US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, and the World Bank.

- On 20 October, Colombia hosted the first regional migration conference with representatives from 17 countries. Colombia's Vice President, Marta Lucía Ramírez, met with the WFP Executive Director, David Beasley, on 27 October at WFP's Headquarters in Rome to discuss their joint efforts for promoting food security and nutrition.

- WFP launched its new project with the World Bank to address the needs of 75,560 migrants and host community members, and completed the prioritization exercise of more than 7,000 migrant families in Bogotá D.C.

Challenges

- After over three years of closure attributed to political tensions and COVID-19, the border between Colombia and Venezuela reopened in October. An influx of 500,000 migrants is anticipated over the coming months, with the Temporary Protection Status offered by the Colombian Government functioning as an additional pull-factor. WFP is very concerned that in the absence of additional funding, due to limited resources, it will be obliged to significantly reduce the number of beneficiaries.

- Several days of protests in the department of Chocó have resulted in food and fuel shortages. Ongoing demonstrations and road blockages are also delaying WFP's in-kind distributions to 7,440 beneficiaries in Medio Atrato, Bojayá and Medio Baudó and related monitoring activities.

Donors

Canada, Colombia, ECHO, France, Germany, Italy, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United States, the World Bank, and private donors.

WFP is also implementing operations and activities funded by the Adaptation Fund, UN CERF, and the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Peacebuilding (MPTF).