



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Bolivia Country Brief November 2021

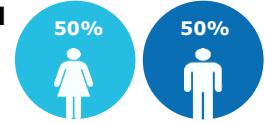


## In Numbers

**USD 255,521** in cash-based transfers made

**USD 0.3 m** six-month (December 2021 – May 2022) net funding requirements, representing 46% of total

**10,525 people assisted**  
in NOVEMBER 2021



## Operational Updates

- In November, COVID-19 cases increased from a weekly average of 477 at the beginning of the month to 876 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 the 12-17 age group.
- Following the rehabilitation and creation of productive assets by local communities, the Project "Strengthening Resilience in the Chaco Region" continued assisting target communities by providing cash-based transfers benefiting 8,165 people.
- The Oruro Government has issued an emergency and disaster declaration due to an extreme drought in the areas surrounding Lake Poopó. The Government has requested WFP Bolivia support to assist 19,000 families through food assistance for assets. In response, WFP started an emergency cash-based transfer operation assisting 2,360 people from the Uru indigenous communities. WFP needs USD 2.5 m to assist the 19,000 indigenous families.
- WFP Country Office participated of a joint mission of UN Bolivia and Paraguay. The mission visited the Gran Chaco Americano region, including WFP programmes, to explore conditions and opportunities to support the resilience of indigenous populations against climate change impact.
- Also, a WFP mission visited the municipality of Entre Ríos in the department of Tarija to explore and identify opportunities to support local indigenous community ventures, such as the production and marketing of baskets and native honey.
- In November, within the campaign "Join and Feeding dreams" supported by WFP Bolivia and UN Women, the Project "Mama Pacha" of the "Cholitas Escaladoras (indigenous women climbers)" started with the purpose of calling for the prevention and elimination of gender violence.

## 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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## 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	0.3 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

- In the following months, WFP will hire a consultancy firm to conduct the final evaluation of “Strengthening Resilience in the Chaco Region” project.

## Challenges

- With the start of the rainy season at the national level, fires are no longer an emergency on the government’s agenda, and no new related reports have been generated.
- In Bolivia, droughts and floods put the fight against poverty at risk. Climate change effects include accelerated melting of glaciers, variations in precipitation patterns, and increased drought. An example of the negative impact of the climate crisis is the disappearance of the Poopó Lake located in Oruro. The negative impact of these trends on the economy, the ecosystem and the livelihoods and well-being of the population is already felt, especially among the most vulnerable sectors of the populations including the poor, women, children, and indigenous communities.
- Without an agreement with the government, the lowlands indigenous march decided to leave Santa Cruz after spending more than 50 days in that city. The indigenous people sent letters to representatives of the four organs of the State to discuss their needs and demands. According to indigenous leaders the Bolivian State did not respond of the more than 500 members of the march. The departure date has not yet been defined
- 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 and resilience under SO3. Supporting the indigenous communities around former Poopó lake requires USD 2.5 m. It is worth mentioning that to date, all the CSP has no new resources confirmed to date to start activities in 2022.

## Partnerships

- To strengthen and leverage knowledge in the field, partnerships are being sought with national and international NGOs, including universities.

## Donors

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