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.

Operational Updates

• In December, COVID-19 cases increased from a weekly average of 1,088 at the beginning of the month to 7,980 at the end. The National Strategic Council for Health Emergencies declared a “national health emergency”, as a preventive measure in response to the fourth wave throughout the country, mainly in Santa Cruz, Tarija, and Cochabamba.

• As of December 31, 39 percent of the population had two doses of vaccine, 48 percent had only one dose, and 5 percent had the third dose. The Government has issued a decree indicating that, from January 2022, people will have to present an official vaccination card to enter public spaces.

• Floods affected 9,000 families and more than 40,000 hectares of agricultural land. The regions that suffered the most are Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and La Paz. Only in Santa Cruz, losses are estimated to be of USD 40 million.

• The Project “Strengthening Resilience in the Chaco Region” continued assisting target communities by providing cash transfers to 1,280 families in December.

• More than 80 people living with HIV (PLWH) of the city of Riberalta in the Beni department received assistance through food-for-training programme, nutritional classes, and training materials.

• The infrastructure of the Complementary Food Plant in Caracollo - Oruro was concluded and the equipment installed. The official handing over of the plant to the Departmental Government of Oruro is due to happen in January 2022.

• WFP concluded the cash distributions to 2,315 families affected by the drought in the Oruro department. Productive assets such as irrigation channels and traditional water wells were rehabilitated or built. In addition, beneficiaries were provided with 161 sets of tools (wheelbarrow, shovel, and picks), to facilitate and enhance the quality of their work.

• With the support of two consultants, WFP started the design of its new country strategy.
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.8 m</td>
<td>8.4 m</td>
<td>2.1 m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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 final evaluation of “Strengthening Resilience in the Chaco Region” project performed by a consulting firm was concluded at the end of December.

**Challenges**

- The rainy season once again generates concern in Bolivia due to the overflowing of rivers and floods that have put dozens of families in emergency in different rural and urban areas. The Vice Ministry of Civil Defence identified the tropical regions of Cochabamba, and northern Santa Cruz as the most prone to flooding, and expressed that the Government can respond to the emergencies by themselves with no assistance from the international cooperation.

- WFP continues facing challenges to secure enough funding to implement the 2018-2022 Country Strategic Plan (CSP), particularly funds for resilience under Strategic Outcome (SO) 3. Supporting the indigenous communities around former Poopó lake requires USD 2.1 million.

**Partnerships**

- WFP signed an agreement with the Autonomous Departmental Government of Oruro to support 1,800 families in 12 municipalities affected by the drought, to prepare them for the next rainy season and to collect water for their livestock and crops.

**Donors**

Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Japanese Association for World Food Programme (JAWFP).