In Numbers

USD 2.3 m six-month (February–July 2022) net funding requirements, representing 56% of total

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 January, COVID-19 cases increased from a weekly average of 4,918 at the beginning of the month to 5,017 at the end.

• As of January 31, 45 percent of the population received two doses of vaccine, 58 percent only one dose, and 7 percent the third dose. Even though the Government issued a decree for which everyone over 18 years of age should present the vaccination card or a PCR test to enter public entities and banks, the norm had to be suspended due to anti-vaccine groups protests.

• The Vice Ministry of Civil Defence informed that a total of 59,838 families were affected by floods, which were assisted by the Government, without need for additional assistance from the international cooperation.

• With the support of WFP and in coordination with indigenous leaders and representative to the Congress, handicrafts made by women of the Guarani indigenous people were marketed in WFP Headquarter in Rome. The pilot aims at expanding the market for these handicrafts benefitting Guarani indigenous women from 36 communities in Entre Ríos, Tarija.

• The works and equipment of the Complementary Food Plant in Oruro are completed. The official handing over to the Departmental Government of Oruro is due to happen by the end of February 2022.

• WFP started the planning of a new intervention in Oruro that will benefit 5,600 indigenous families affected by the dried up of Lake Poopó which is their main source of livelihood. Productive assets such as irrigation channels and traditional water wells will be rehabilitated or built to make families more resilient for the next dry season due to start in May.
To Prepare for potential future emergencies or interventions, WFP will carry out three Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSAs) and update required Cash-based Transfer assessment in three selected ecoregions of Bolivia: Highlands, Chaco and a protected indigenous territory in the northern part of Bolivia (Territorio Indígena Multiétnico II).

**Monitoring**

- The final evaluation of “Strengthening Resilience in the Chaco Region” project, performed by a consulting firm, was concluded at the end of December 2021.

**Challenges**

- Although the Government informed that it will not require international assistance to respond to the recent floodings, some municipalities have asked for the support of WFP.

- WFP continues facing challenges to secure enough funding to implement the 2018-2022 Country Strategic Plan (CSP), particularly funds for emergencies response (Strategic Outcome 1) and capacity strengthening (Strategic Outcome 4). For Strategic Outcome 3, the support to Oruro has a shortfall of USD 1 million.

**Partnerships**

- WFP and students from the London School of Economics (LSE) work together to identify strategic recommendations for the new CSP and analyse opportunities to partner with Bolivian gastronomy to promote social and purposeful cuisine to activate local production.

**Donors**

Japanese Association for World Food Programme (JAWFP).