



World Food  
Programme

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LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Venezuela

## Country Brief

### March 2022



## Operational Context

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) faces a lengthy socioeconomic crisis that is already affecting people across the country. In 2020 the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shrunk by 30 percent, the seventh year in a row.

According to estimates by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2018 a third of all people living in extreme poverty in Latin America were in Venezuela, compared to 8 percent in 2014. Economic difficulties have led to large-scale population movements.

Over the years, access to nutritious food and a diversified diet has become increasingly expensive. This situation is likely to have been exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has strained livelihoods across the whole Latin American region.

In April 2021, the Government and WFP signed a memorandum of understanding, whereby WFP could establish a presence in the country and provide humanitarian support.

WFP established a Country Office on 30 April and distributed the first rations on 6 July 2021. As of February 2022, WFP is implementing its distributions in Falcon, Trujillo, Yaracuy and Barinas, and is preparing to expand its operational to additional states.

Population: **28.4 million**  
(ECLAC, 2020)

Human Development Index  
2020: **113 out of 189**

Food Insecurity:  
9.3 million (FSA, 2019)

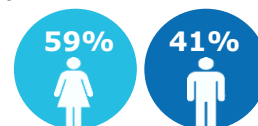
GDP per capita (Purchasing  
Power Parity): \$7,700

## In Numbers

**1,262 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 76.6 m** six months (April – September 2022) net funding requirements, representing 18% of total needs

**116,400 people assisted**  
in March 2022



## Operational Updates

- In March 2022, WFP reached 116,400 beneficiaries across the four states where school meals distributions are being implemented (Falcon, Trujillo, Yaracuy, and Barinas).
- Out of the total beneficiaries assisted in March, WFP reached 90,200 children under 6 in pre-primary schools, 4,875 students with disabilities and 21,300 school personnel.
- WFP is currently assisting 61 municipalities, 887 pre-primary schools and 102 special education schools across the four states.
- WFP continues to prepare its expansion to four eastern states: besides Anzoátegui, Monagas and Delta Amacuro, WFP is planning to include Sucre as well. The exact number of people to be targeted across these states will be defined within the registration exercise which will be carried out between May-June.
- In March, 670 people contacted WFP through its helpline, out of which 65 percent gave positive feedback, 18 percent expressed suggestions, 14 percent asked for assistance or information, and 3 percent provided negative feedback or reported an issue to access assistance.
- WFP visited health centers and associations of small farmers along with UNICEF and FAO in Falcon, to define the scope of the pilot joint intervention in targeted schools.
- WFP conducted a learning event with cooperating partners of Yaracuy and Trujillo states to document and consolidate lessons learned and best practices. The outcomes of this event will inform further programme implementation and expansion.

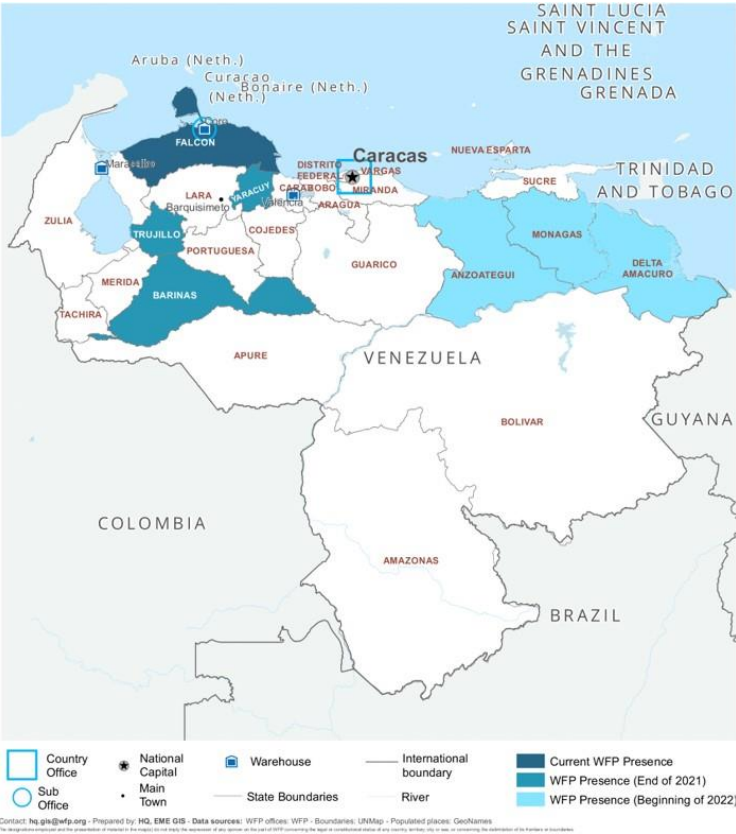
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**Further information:** [Venezuela \(Bolivarian Republic of\) | World Food Programme \(wfp.org\)](#)

Six Month Funding (April – September 2022)

Six Month Total Needs (in USD)	Needs Resourced (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
93 m	16.4 m	76.6 m



- Since the launch of the operation (July 2021), WFP purchased 16,100 mt of food commodities, of which 4,277 mt were distributed as of March 2022.
- WFP currently has 4,900 mt of food commodities prepositioned in its warehouses. Cartagena warehouse was phased out in March, except for 4 mt of pulses which will be shipped to Venezuela in April.
- A Food Safety and Quality team has carried out a mission in the country to evaluate local producers. The team has identified several potential providers that will need to be officially cleared for WFP purchases.

### Challenges

- WFP needs to constantly review beneficiary registration data, as the number of students enrolled in targeted schools frequently changes due to new enrolments and students leaving the school because their family moved to another state or another country.
- WFP is working with its partners and with school staff to improve communication with beneficiaries and ensure that all of them receive timely information on distribution dates, as lack of network and power cuts may hamper the receipt of information, which is often shared via WhatsApp (largely used in Venezuela).
- A purchase of vegetable oil from Turkey, which corresponds to one of WFP’s main providers for this commodity, was cancelled due to export restrictions caused by the Ukraine crisis. Regional alternatives are currently under evaluation.
- The continuous issue with maritime cargo bookings intensified the need for local procurement of necessary commodities.
- With the international community focused on other important crises, WFP needs support from its partners in advocating to make sure that humanitarian needs in Venezuela maintain the deserved attention from donors.

### Donors

Canada, European Union (DG-ECHO), France, Germany (GFFO), Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America (USAID) and private donors.

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