



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bolivia Country Brief April 2022



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**

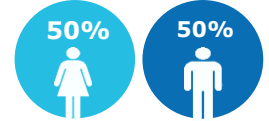
Chronic malnutrition: **16% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 171,879 in cash-based transfers made*

USD 2.4 m (May–October 2022) net funding requirements, representing 52% of total

6,935 people assisted* in April 2022



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- In March, COVID-19 cases decreased from a weekly average of 210 at the beginning of the month to 84 at the end. April had the lowest weekly average of infections for a year and a half.
- By the end of April, 51 percent of the population received two vaccine doses, 61 percent had only one dose, and 11 percent also the third dose. There were no increases in first and third doses.
- WFP conducted a field visit to carry out a participatory community planning with seven communities belonging to the Uru Murato and Uru Chipaya Indigenous peoples, in response to the Government of Oruro request to assist vulnerable Indigenous populations affected by climate change. WFP plans to start an integrated intervention in May.
- WFP completed the cash-based transfers to Indigenous communities surrounding Lake Poopo, after the rehabilitation and building of productive assets such as irrigation channels and traditional water wells.
- WFP Bolivia took part in the "IX Regional Forum on School Feeding of the World Food Program for Latin America and the Caribbean," participating alongside with Lia Gonzales, Indigenous climber and teacher, and Luis Erquicia, manager of the Association of Municipalities for School Feeding of Chuquisaca.
- WFP Bolivia is currently preparing the intervention to assist the flood that affected Guaraní Indigenous people of Entre Ríos.
- WFP Bolivia participated in the first workshop to formulate the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework together with the United Nations Country Team.

Contact info: wfp.lapaz@wfp.org

Country Director: Alejandro López Chicheri

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/bolivia-plurinational-state

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
11.8 m	11.7 m	2.4 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.

Challenges

- The Bolivian food system has recently been impacted by the Ukraine crisis. Due to the shortage and the rise in the cost of wheat and maize, producers announced an increase in the price of pork and chicken meat. To encourage wheat production in the country, the Government decided to increase the reference purchase price of wheat by 16 percent for the 2022 winter season, while trying to reduce its dependence on imports, particularly from Argentina.
- After the strong rainy season, Guaraní communities in the municipality of Entre Ríos in Tarija lost their production and livelihoods. Children attended classes in temporary schools, while roads and homes have been damaged. In particular, Indigenous peoples urgently require access to clean water.
- WFP continues facing challenges to secure enough funding to implement the 2018-2022 country strategic plan, particularly funds for emergencies response (strategic outcome 1) and capacity strengthening (strategic outcome 4). For strategic outcome 3, the country office has received the required funds to support the Oruro intervention and other country regions.

Partnerships

- WFP held planning meetings with the Government of Oruro, to assist vulnerable Indigenous populations. An agreement is expected to be signed for starting a new intervention in the region.

Donors

Germany, Strategic Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC), and the Emerging Donor Matching Fund (EDMF).