



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Venezuela Country Brief April 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, 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 April 2022, WFP is currently providing assistance in the states of Falcon, Trujillo, Yaracuy and Barinas, and is preparing to expand its operational to four additional states (Anzoátegui, Monagas, Sucre and Delta Amacuro).

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

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

Food Insecurity:  
9.3 million (FSA, 2019)

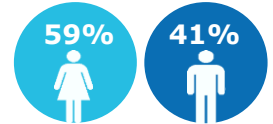
GDP per capita (Purchasing  
Power Parity): \$7,700

## In Numbers

**1,351 mt** of food assistance distributed\*

**USD 48.7 m** six months (May – October 2022) net funding requirements, representing 31% of total needs

**118,567 people** assisted\*  
in April 2022



\*Preliminary numbers

## Operational Updates

- In April 2022, WFP reached 120,000 beneficiaries in the following states: 43,000 in Falcon; 18,000 in Trujillo; 26,000 in Barinas; and 32,000 in Yaracuy.
- Among these, WFP reached 92,000 children under the age of six enrolled in pre-primary schools; 5,000 students with disabilities and 22,000 school personnel.
- WFP advanced with preparations to start distributions in the states of Anzoátegui, Monagas, Sucre, and Delta Amacuro between May and June. As part of the inception process, WFP presented its programme to state-level and education authorities.
- In addition, WFP finalized the geolocalization of all the schools assisted by WFP in Anzoátegui, to inform the food distribution plan and will continue georeferencing schools in the states of Monagas, Sucre, and Delta Amacuro.
- WFP is organizing focus groups in the state of Delta Amacuro, to better assess the needs of the Indigenous communities, including Waraos, Araucanos and Caribes.
- WFP is preparing to sign Field-Level Agreements (FLA) with six new non-government organization partners, to support programme implementation in the new states. WFP will also continue to work with its current partners, three of which will support WFP's operations in the new states.
- WFP held focus groups with beneficiaries and other actors involved in the operations (caregivers, school personnel and cooperating partners) to assess the acceptance of Super Cereal Plus for children aged 6 to 36 months. The results showed a general acceptance of the commodity by the community.
- Ahead of the introduction of Super Cereal Plus into the food basket in June, WFP will conduct an assessment across the schools assisted in the current states, to ensure that schools are ready to receive and prepare this commodity for children's consumption.

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## WFP Venezuela

### Six Month Funding (May - October 2022)

Six Month Total Needs (in USD)	Needs Resourced (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>70.2 m</b>	<b>21.5 m</b>	<b>48.7 m</b>



- Currently, WFP has one main logistics hub located in El Consejo, in the state of Aragua. In addition, extended distribution points (EDPs) are in the states of Falcon, Trujillo, and Barinas. Distributions in the state of Yaracuy are done through the hub in El Consejo. For the upcoming expansion, additional EDPs will be in the states of Anzoátegui, Monagas, Sucre, and Bolivar, the latter one serving Delta Amacuro. WFP is looking to partner with an academic institution to create a route optimization tool. This tool would help analyze distribution routes and strategic location of EDPs to reduce transportation costs, as well as determine the best warehouse location to facilitate distributions.
- A first local purchase of salt (40 percent cheaper than the equivalent regional purchase) is currently underway. WFP is preparing to start local procurement of rice and pasta in May.
- The Logistics Cluster organized a consultation among its member organizations to identify the logistics gaps in the country. A report is being finalized and will be shared with partners.

## Monitoring

- WFP conducted a post-distribution monitoring (PDM) exercise to collect information about the progress of the school meals programme. Some of the main findings show that: i) beneficiaries are well informed about their entitlement and the frequency and dates of the distributions; ii) distribution sites are considered safe; iii) beneficiaries are satisfied with the quality of the food received and the treatment received by WFP's implementing partners' during distributions; iv) beneficiaries are aware of the possibility to convey their feedback through the hotline.
- In April, 700 people contacted WFP through its helpline. Over 50 percent of the calls conveyed appreciation for the food provided, while 33 percent suggested the food basket should include cereals or milk for children. This reiterates the importance of the upcoming introduction of Super Cereal Plus, a fortified cereal with vitamins and minerals, into the food basket.

## Donors

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

Additional support was provided by the United Nations Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and private donors.

## Challenges

- Due to the impact of the Ukraine crisis and the consequent food export ban from Turkey, WFP is preparing to purchase fortified oil at regional level, at a price that is estimated to be 60-65 percent higher than the sunflower oil previously purchased from Turkey.
- The overall increase in shipping rates is significantly affecting WFP's supply chain. Hence, WFP is preparing to gradually shift to local purchases as much as possible.