



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Bolivia Country Brief May 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 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 2.4 m (Jun–November 2022) net funding requirements, representing 66% of total

Operational Updates

- WFP is conducting an emergency response operation in the southern region of Bolivia assisting more than 500 families of smallholder farmers with productive assets such as irrigation channels, water tanks, and traditional water wells started to be rehabilitated or built by Indigenous communities in the municipality of Entre Ríos (department of Tarija). The cash distribution will begin in June. The productive assets will make local families more resilient for the next rainy season, expected in November. Most of them are Guaraní Indigenous people who lost their livelihoods, houses, and their belongings because of floods and landslides that occurred last February.
- Based on a participatory community planning, WFP finalized the operations plan to support the Uru Murato and Uru Chipaya Indigenous peoples in the Oruro department. Activities related to institutional coordination and logistics were also defined. WFP is planning the implementation of activities to start in July, which include the rehabilitation and building of productive assets such as irrigation channels and traditional water wells which will increase the resilience of Indigenous families against climate change.
- In May, COVID-19 cases increased from a weekly average of 90 at the beginning of the month to 156 at the end.

Monitoring

- Since UNHCR warned last December that nearly 500 refugees and migrants cross daily through the irregular border between Bolivia and Chile, WFP and R4V are monitoring the food security situation of migrants transiting through the Colchane-Pisiga border.

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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

- Adding to the pandemic effects, the Ukraine crisis revealed structural problems that threaten the food security of Bolivian households. A Jubilee Foundation study warns that the 30 percent price increase in wheat flour, starting in May 2022, puts at risk the food security of the most vulnerable Bolivian population. Moreover, it is estimated that Bolivia would face a shortage of wheat flour of at least 230,000 mt in late 2022.
- WFP continues facing challenges to secure enough funding to implement the 2018-2022 country strategic plan, particularly funds for emergency response (strategic outcome 1) and capacity strengthening (strategic outcome 4).

Partnerships

- WFP signed an agreement with the municipality of Entre Ríos in Tarija to support water resource management amongst Indigenous communities affected by the floods last February through cash-based transfers (CBT) and the rehabilitation and construction of assets such as irrigation channels, water tanks, and wells.
- Prior to the start of a similar CBT intervention in Oruro, WFP met with the local government to discuss and define project activities.

Donors

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