



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Venezuela Country Brief June 2022



Operational Context

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) has been affected by a lengthy socioeconomic crisis that impacted directly 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 addition, the current Ukraine crisis is severely disrupting food, energy, and financial markets globally. Venezuela imports more than 70% of the processed foods consumed in the country and is extremely vulnerable to international price fluctuations. Hence, the increase in food prices will affect families' capacity to sustain basic consumption.

In April 2021, the Government and WFP signed a memorandum of understanding which allowed WFP to establish a presence in the country and provide support to beneficiaries in vulnerable areas. WFP established a Country Office on 30 April and distributed the first food assistance on 6 July 2021. As of June 2022, WFP is assisting to targeted beneficiaries in the states of Falcon, Trujillo, Yaracuy, Barinas, Anzoátegui, Monagas, and 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): USD 7,700

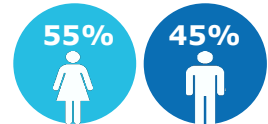
In Numbers

1,726 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 68 m six months (July – December 2022) net funding requirements, representing 76% of total needs

163,000 people assisted*
in June 2022

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- In June, WFP reached 163,000 beneficiaries in over 1,350 targeted schools across the six states where the school meal programme is currently implemented. Among them, WFP reached almost 126,700 children under 6; 7,300 students with disabilities; and 29,000 school personnel.
- In the state of Falcón, WFP started distributing Super Cereal Plus as supplementary feeding for children under 3. WFP's cooperating partners supported school cooks to ensure adequate preparation of this fortified food.
- In addition, WFP carried out four workshops in the states of Falcón, Yaracuy, Trujillo, and Barinas to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of cooperating partners regarding the preparation of Super Cereal Plus as well as distribution and monitoring activities.
- WFP signed four field-level agreements, following a prioritization exercise focused on school kitchen refurbishment in the states of Falcon, Yaracuy, Trujillo, and Barinas, to start rehabilitating and equipping targeted school kitchens.
- The Food Security Cluster is developing a short version of the food basket harmonization guidance for partners involved in the humanitarian response.
- The Logistics Cluster conducted a three-day Emergency Preparedness workshop. Attendees included personnel from the Venezuelan public sector, United Nations agencies, and non-governmental organizations.
- WFP continues to work closely with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and UNICEF to develop the implementation plan of their joint pilot project in the state of Falcon, focusing on food systems and school feeding within a common monitoring framework.

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WFP Venezuela

Six Month Funding (July-December 2022)

Six Month Total Needs (in USD)	Needs Resourced (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
89.6 m	21.6 m	68 m



- WFP is using regional food supply agreements to purchase vegetable oil, rice, and lentils. In addition, WFP is purchasing commodities at the local level to mitigate the risk of pipeline breaks. Nevertheless, the prices of local purchases are significantly higher (approximately, 20 percent higher than international purchases).

Monitoring

- WFP visited 100 schools across four states to monitor distributions. Beneficiaries proved to be satisfied with the programme, the quality of food received, and the service provided by the cooperating partners.
- In June, WFP received 769 calls and messages through its helpline, out of which 39 percent were positive comments, 32 percent corresponded to suggestions, 18 percent were requests for assistance and information, and 11 percent corresponded to negative feedback. Some beneficiaries expressed concern about the transitions from take-home rations to on-site meals and how this could affect the rest of the household, who would not be benefiting from the food basket, as well as the same school children in case they missed school.

Challenges

- Due to changes in the administrative processes within the Ministry of Health, WFP is facing significant delays in obtaining the necessary permits to import food commodities. As a result, WFP will face a pipeline break of vegetable oil in July. Hence, WFP might need to distribute some food rations without vegetable oil. In addition, the storage fees at the port associated with this delay will impact the overall distribution costs.
- WFP continues identifying security, access, and logistical challenges in the new intervention states of Anzoátegui, Monagas, Sucre, and Delta Amacuro. Trainings for WFP staff and cooperating partners on security, access, and logistics are being implemented.

Donors

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