Operational Context

Despite being an upper-middle-class country, Colombia faces major challenges of food insecurity with over 13 million Colombian people lacking adequate access to a healthy diet, while over four million people are undernourished (FAO, 2022). Improving food security is the Government's priority, while also advancing the peace process. Colombia also faces a complex humanitarian situation, exacerbated by multiple emergencies triggered by increasing violence from non-state armed groups (NSAGs), often overlapping with extreme weather events, a massive migration crisis, economic shocks of high inflation and currency devaluation, as well as the pandemic’s residual impacts. Colombia’s 50-year-long armed conflict resulted in 7.8 million internally displaced people (IDPs), while Colombia has also been the largest host for migrants from Venezuela. Nearly 2.5 million are currently registered in Colombia. WFP supports the new Government in these priorities, to ultimately achieve Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17. The country office’s strategy is aligned with the Government’s priorities on food security, humanitarian, recovery, development, and capacity-strengthening. WFP has been present in Colombia since 1969.

In Number

- **1 m mt** of food assistance distributed*
- **USD 4.8 m** cash-based transfers made*
- **USD 83.1 m** six months (September 2022 - February 2023) net funding requirements, representing 62% of total
- **USD 54.1 m** Corporate Attention Emergency Response
- **379,224 people assisted** in August 2022

*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- The newly elected President, Gustavo Petro met WFP Executive Director David Beasley to discuss how WFP can support the Government in the fight against hunger and provide humanitarian assistance and access to services to migrants.
- WFP assisted 379,224 vulnerable Colombians and migrants with diverse interventions.
  - Overall, 144,000 Colombians received food baskets, livelihood assistance, emergency food assistance, school meals and more. Also, 235,000 migrants received hot meals, food rations, cash-based transfers, vouchers and school meals.
  - 5,139 people affected by displacements and armed violence received food baskets in six departments.
  - 95,000 schoolchildren received meals, including 58,500 Colombian children in La Guajira, as well as 37,000 migrant children in La Guajira and Atlántico.
  - 30,420 conflict-affected Afro-Colombian families in remote areas in Choco received food baskets from WFP following increased internal violence in 2022.
  - 25,000 flood-affected people in La Mojana region received life-saving emergency assistance. Most of the people affected by the 2022 floods were also impacted by the floods late 2021, compounding the challenge to recover their livelihoods.
  - WFP assisted 300 smallholder producers to support the Government’s plan to improve food production and commercialization, as well as enabling producers’ to access markets and the social protection system.
- Assisting the Government in ensuring access to the social protection system, WFP has helped 90,000 Colombian families and 140,000 migrant families to register in the system this year.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>654.3 m</td>
<td>273.6 m</td>
<td>83.1 m</td>
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Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees and members of host communities receive humanitarian assistance, equitable access to quality differential services and expeditious and massive access to the labour market and entrepreneurship options, with a focus on food security and nutrition, with the support of WFP and in coordination with the United Nations country team, as a complement to the efforts of the Colombian Government.

Activities:
- Provide humanitarian assistance and access to services.
- Strengthen institutional capacities and provide support.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 1: By 2024, people and communities in a situation of food vulnerability in the PDET municipalities prioritized by the Government improve their quality of life by strengthening their resilience and sustainable livelihoods and local governments strengthen their capacities, contributing to the stabilization and consolidation of the territories, with the support of WFP and in coordination with the United Nations country team, as a complement to the efforts of the Government.

Activities:
- Provide food assistance through conditional transfers and asset building, to ensure the transition from humanitarian assistance towards self-sustainability and development phase activities.
- Provide technical assistance for the strengthening of livelihoods, ensuring food self-sufficiency and the generation of surpluses for markets.
- Strengthen the social cohesion, prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and leadership capacities of the livelihoods and resilience beneficiaries.
- Support the most vulnerable people to manage and reduce climate-related risks to food security and to adapt to climate change.

Strategic Outcome 3: The public policies, institutional capacity, systems and services for the promotion of food security, nutrition and social inclusion are technically strengthened and vulnerable populations have access to adequate and nutritious food throughout the year for the acceleration of catalytic SDGs, in particular SDG 2, with the support of WFP and in coordination with the United Nations country team, as a complement to the efforts of the Colombian Government.

Activities:
- Support the Government and territorial entities in strengthening their capacity and strategies.
- Provide technical assistance and support for school feeding.
- Provide food and nutrition assistance, including through the strengthening of the social protection system.

Monitoring

- Three in four migrants from Venezuela in transit (75 percent) are food insecure, 37 percent of which are severely food insecure, as per WFP’s recent Food Security and Nutrition Assessment. Migrants in transit spend most of their disposable income (70 percent) on food, underscoring their economic vulnerability. This data demonstrates the continued humanitarian needs of the migrant population.

Partnerships

- WFP met with several ministries to expand partnerships and support the fight against hunger, and its continued assistance in addressing the humanitarian migration crisis.
- WFP, the Government, academia and United Nations agencies identified lessons learned and best practices to address acute malnutrition. Results will inform WFP’s strategy in assisting the Government’s fight against hunger.
- WFP and Colombia’s Institute of Family Welfare started its cooperation to increase knowledge on nutrition and healthy diets of families with children under 5 in five departments. During the first month, 3,200 people learned about better nutrition, a third of them children.
- WFP hosted USAID’s mission to visualize the continued humanitarian needs of migrants in the country, visiting shelters and communal kitchens.

Challenges

- Due to persistent food inflation, WFP’s operational costs have spiked to ensure migrants in transit continue receiving the same food ration.
- To maintain its level of assistance to vulnerable people over the next six months, WFP requires USD 135 million.
- Due to lack of funding, WFP has not been implementing socio-economic integration (SEI) programmes since June 2022. SEI programmes are crucial to providing services to vulnerable people beyond humanitarian assistance.

Donors

Canada, Colombia, European Union (DG-ECHO), France, Germany, Italy, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United States of America, the World Bank, and private donors.

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, WFP Innovation Accelerator, and the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Peacebuilding.