



World Food Programme

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# WFP Venezuela

## Country Brief

### September 2022



## Operational Context

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) continues to face a challenging political and socioeconomic situation, further exacerbated by the pandemic. Some economic improvements helped curb the hyperinflation in 2021, when the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted at a rate of -3 percent, compared to -30 percent in 2020. Moreover, the Venezuelan economy is expected to grow by 12 percent in 2022, according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. However, the food security situation in the country remains of concern. According to the Humanitarian Response Plan 2022-2023, overall, more than five million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Venezuela imports more than 70 percent of the consumed processed foods and is extremely vulnerable to international price fluctuations. In August 2022, food prices increased by 30 percent (World Bank), making access to nutritious food and a diversified diet difficult for most families.

To respond to these needs, WFP reaches most vulnerable children, their families, and their communities through a school-based food assistance. The programme was launched in July 2021, following the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding in April 2021. As of September 2022, WFP has presence in the states of Falcon, Trujillo, Yaracuy, Barinas, Anzoátegui, Monagas, Sucre and Delta Amacuro, aiming to further expand to additional states.

WFP's operations in the country are focused on school meals, nutrition activities, school kitchen refurbishment, coordination and information sharing through the Food Security Cluster and the Logistics Cluster, and capacity-strengthening activities.

Population: **28.3 million**  
(ECLAC, 2022)

Human Development Index: **120 out of 191**  
(UNDP, 2021)

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance: **5.2 million**  
(HRP 2022-2023)

GDP (Annual Growth rate): **-3**  
(ECLAC, 2021)

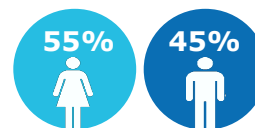
## In Numbers

**81 mt** of food assistance distributed\*

**USD 71 m** six months (October 2022 –March 2023) net funding requirements, representing 58% of total needs

**210,000 people** assisted\*  
in September 2022

\*Preliminary figures



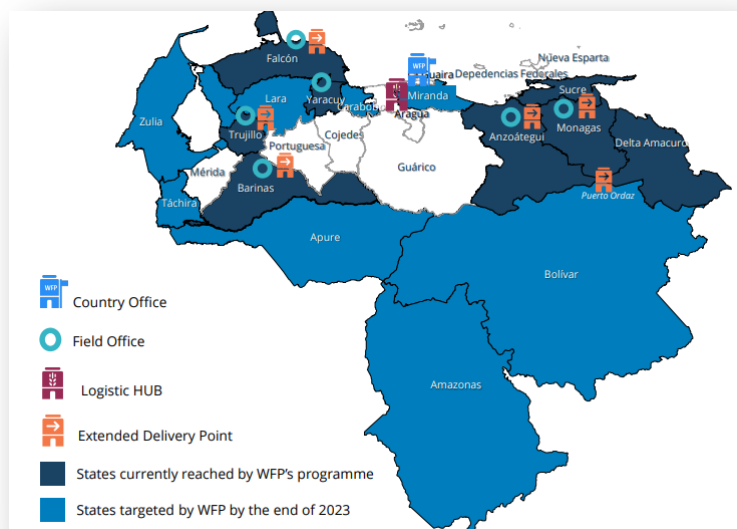
## Operational Updates

- As of September 2022, WFP reached 210,000 beneficiaries in the states where the school meals programme is implemented.
- During the school closure for the vacation period, most of the beneficiaries received a double ration in August to cover their nutritional needs until the end of September.
- In September, WFP distributed additional 8,700 food baskets in 43 new school communities in the Peninsula of Araya in the state of Sucre.
- In the state of Delta Amacuro, WFP trained cooperating partners on key aspects of humanitarian principles and access. In Barinas, cooperating partners were trained in school kitchens refurbishment activities, in preparation for the transition to onsite school meals.
- In Falcon, WFP and its partners finalized infrastructure plans for the rehabilitation of 125 school kitchens. Refurbishment works will start in October.
- WFP signed a total of 15 field-level agreements with local non-governmental organizations, of which 12 were already working with WFP and three were new (ACTED, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and Un Techo para mi país Venezuela).
- In collaboration with the National Civil Protection and Disaster Management Organization, the Logistics Cluster trained civil protection officers on Logistics in Emergency Response, to strengthen public institutions' capacities. This effort was coupled with workshops held by the Food Security Cluster to introducing the Sphere methodology to apply humanitarian principles in food assistance.

## WFP Venezuela

### Six Month Funding (October 2022-March 2023)

Six Month Total Needs (in USD)	Needs Resourced (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>121.6 m</b>	<b>50.7 m</b>	<b>71 m</b>



## Monitoring

- In September, WFP monitored school-based programme activities in the states of Barinas, Yaracuy and Trujillo. WFP held 18 focus groups with 135 beneficiaries. The main findings showed that beneficiaries perceive that food availability in the market has increased. However, due to the decrease in their purchasing power, beneficiaries expressed concern about food access for vulnerable households and people with specific needs such as elderly and people with disabilities.
- In September, WFP received 380 calls and messages through its helpline. Of these, 50 percent gave positive feedback and/or requested information about WFP's school meals programme, 45 percent offered suggestions about the programme, and 1 percent reiterated concern over the upcoming transition to onsite school meals. A reduction of helpline users was observed in September compared to previous months, which is probably due to the school vacation period.

## Challenges

- Above-average rainfall has impacted access to areas where WFP operates. WFP has been monitoring the situation to evaluate potential risks and access constraints considering school meals distributions are planned to resume in mid-October when schools reopen.

## Donors

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

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