WFP Colombia
Country Brief
September 2022

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.

WFP BENEFICIARIES SEPTEMBER 2022

Operational Updates
- WFP assisted 419,230 vulnerable Colombians and migrants with diverse interventions.
  - 143,000 Colombians received food baskets, emergency food assistance and school meals. Also, 272,784 migrants received hot meals, food rations, cash-based transfers, vouchers and school meals.
  - 102,571 schoolchildren received meals, including 57,975 Colombian children in La Guajira, and 44,596 migrant children in La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Atlántico. For the first time, 10,000 migrant school children received school meals in Norte de Santander. Despite this expansion, WFP’s school feeding programme continues to be underfunded.
  - 18,824 conflict-affected Afro-Colombian families in remote areas in Choco received food baskets from WFP following increased internal violence in 2022.
  - With floods persisting in the La Mojana region, WFP delivered life-saving emergency assistance to 30,038 flood-affected beneficiaries in September. The floods continue to impact on the livelihoods of families that rely on agriculture.
- Assisting the Government in ensuring access to the social protection system, WFP has helped 237,000 Colombian families and 140,000 migrant families to register in the national social protection system this year.

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**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<td>654.3M</td>
<td>274.5M</td>
<td>57.6M</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 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.

**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.

**Monitoring**
- WFP initiated its nationwide comprehensive food security and nutrition assessment. The objective is to provide an updated snapshot of the food security and nutritional situation among the Colombian population and to inform key food security and nutrition stakeholders within the national government, United Nations agencies, civil society and local and international non-governmental organizations.
- WFP’s continuous remote data collection exercise found that one in every three Colombian households (33 percent) are food insecure. This data also indicated an increase in food insecurity of Colombian households, likely linked to food price inflation.
- After years of closure, border crossing points between Colombia and Venezuela re-opened on 26 September. WFP is monitoring possible impacts on its operations, including migration flow and cross-border movement.

**Partnerships**
- WFP participated in regional fora across Colombia to support the Government in the preparation of the National Development Plan 2022-2026. WFP provided technical assistance on food and nutrition security to strengthen the right to food.
- To assist migrants, WFP is applying for additional regional funding, aiming to provide food assistance and expand food security and nutrition data collection.

**Challenges**
- The combination of rising operational costs and the funding reduction in 2023 will affect WFP’s ability to maintain its level of assistance.
- Socioeconomic integration and social protection activities remain underfunded, since May and July 2022, respectively. This severely limits WFP’s ability to provide services 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.