Operational Context

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, Peru ranked 89 in the human development index. Despite persistent political uncertainty, its upper middle-income economy showed a steady growth largely driven by mining production and exports. This resulted in significant reductions in hunger and poverty. However, the pandemic unveiled a structural inequality gap that threatens the food security of millions of Peruvians. In 2021, 25.9 percent of Peruvians live below the poverty line, and 4.1 percent are considered extremely poor. This is associated with one of the highest informality rates in the region (72.5 percent). More than half of the national population is food insecure (51 percent). Food insecurity is also high among the large number of migrants in Peru.

In this context, WFP Peru adapted its Country Strategic Plan to provide direct food assistance through cash transfers along with logistics support for the national humanitarian supply chain. This is combined with its well-positioned capacity strengthening role that integrates communications, social mobilization and generation of evidence to strengthen policies and their implementation. WFP has been present in Peru since 1968.

In Numbers

USD 1.8 m delivered as cash-based transfers

USD 5.4 m six months (November 2022 – April 2023) net funding requirements, representing 35 percent of total

30,038 people assisted* in October 2022

*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- As part of its emergency operation, WFP assisted 30,015 established and in-transit migrants in eight regions with cash-based transfers through Western Union and vouchers redeemable in selected stores for food and personal hygiene articles.

- WFP provided humanitarian logistics services nationwide to transport 776 mt of food and non-food items on behalf of 16 partners, including the Government and the National Institute of Civil Defence, benefiting 318,765 people.

- WFP trained 584 migrant families on nutrition practices for reducing anaemia and gave nutrition counselling. WFP also trained 78 health professionals (67 women and 11 men) to address malnutrition in the migrant population.

- WFP with the municipality of Lima trained 30 local vendors (22 women and 8 men) from Lima markets to promote the sale of healthy food, including fortified rice.

- In Cajamarca, WFP partnered with local non-governmental organization Los Andes de Cajamarca to help seven women smallholder farmers’ (SHF) organizations receive microloans totalling USD 10,000 to scale up their agricultural small-scale enterprises. Under this initiative, which aims to target 340 women SHF organizations by mid-2023, WFP also carried out trainings on gender, sustainable food systems, climate change adaptation, marketing and financial literacy.

- As part of WFP’s commitment to Zero Hunger in Peru, WFP partnered with the private sector and participated in the panel of experts in PERUMIN Inspira to select entrepreneurship that can improve social and economic gaps in the country.

- WFP provided technical assistance to the local government of San Martin to share their experience of the production and sale of fortified rice experience to members of the Global Committee of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities of the Governors’ Climate and Forests Task Force.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

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Activities:

- Provide assistance to the Government, civil society, private sector and academia to build an alliance to achieve SDG 2, establishing targets and allocating resources and commitments towards zero hunger goals.

- Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance – including through South-South cooperation and technology transfer – to all three levels of government through research, evidence generation and assessments to implement innovative, inclusive nutrition intervention models adapted to the regional/cultural context.

- Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance at the policy and operational levels for national and subnational authorities to improve the integration and efficiency of social protection and disaster risk management programmes geared towards the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

- Technical assistance, research and assessments, to improve the implementation of programs linked to food security and nutrition.

- Knowledge management and sharing of best practices and studies, including through South-South cooperation.

- Facilitate the provision of life-saving interventions through direct support for the government's humanitarian supply chain.

Capacity strengthening

- As part of WFP's technical assistance to the Government of Peru, WFP presented to the Zero Hunger Commission of the Peru Congress, the lessons learned on the route to scaling fortified rice into national policy.

- In Ayacucho, WFP provided support to the local organization Biohuertunchiq to meet the requirements and demand of the "Public Food Purchases from Smallholder Farming Law." And it carried out its first delivery of fresh products to three local schools.

- To promote social protection WFP and MIDIS organized the Social Inclusion Week, a series of expert panels with the participation of governmental and academia experts as well as WFP staff from the country and regional offices.

Monitoring

- Migration flows at the northern and southern borders have increased due to high unemployment and increase in prices. Migrants previously residing in Chile are leaving and entering Peru. Consequently, WFP will target more migrants than planned.

Challenges

- The country is facing a prolonged period of instability intensified by the ripple effects of the Ukraine crisis. The crisis has disrupted strategic supply chains threatening the trade flows of key products. This has accelerated the global increase in the prices of food commodities, with severe effects on the food security of the vulnerable population in the urban and rural areas. Food insecurity is at the centre of the political agenda, and the Government has put measures that include economic bonuses, food assistance and emergency measures to support the agricultural sector. As a result of the socioeconomic context, social and political tensions are increasing.

- These factors are expected to continue putting pressure on the fragile economies of the most vulnerable households, including migrants and refugees with limited access to national social protection programmes.

Donors

Canada, China, ECHO, multilateral funds, Peru, United States of America (USAID-BHA), and private donors.