



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Venezuela Country Brief February 2023



Operational Context

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) continues to face a challenging socioeconomic situation, exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, global supply chain disruptions and food price increases. Despite signs of economic recovery, according to the World Bank Venezuela ranked the third highest food inflation in the world in 2022.

The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2022-2023 for Venezuela aims to support 5.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in the country, of which 2.9 million are planned for food security and nutrition interventions.

WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) 2023-2025 for Venezuela was approved by the end of February. The ICSP enhances WFP school-based programme in the country, integrating emergency preparedness and response activities with resilience-building interventions, including climate change adaptation activities and capacity strengthening of national actors.

Currently, WFP has a presence in the states of Falcon, Trujillo, Yaracuy, Barinas, Anzoátegui, Monagas, Sucre, and Delta Amacuro.



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

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

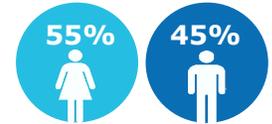
In Numbers

2,815 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 32.9 m six months (March - August 2023) net funding requirements, representing 40 percent of total needs.

450,000 people assisted*

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- In February, WFP assisted 450,000 beneficiaries through its school feeding programme. Of these, 46 percent are students from pre-primary and special education schools, 43 percent are household members of pre-primary school children and 11 percent are school personnel.
- WFP is currently reaching 2,000 schools. Of these, 200 are special education schools attended by 13,000 students with disabilities.
- To ensure the transition to onsite school meals by 30 June, WFP continues refurbishing and equipping school kitchens to meet the minimum standards for school meals. As of February, WFP and its cooperating partners refurbished 44 school kitchens in the state of Falcón and continued refurbishing works in 27 kitchens.
- WFP planned to deliver cooking utensils to targeted pre-primary schools in preparation for the distribution of fortified food (Super Cereal Plus) to 41,000 children under 3 across the states where the school meals programme is implemented.
- The Logistics Cluster through the working group on inland water transport continued to gather information from authorities, service providers and non-governmental organizations operating in hard-to-reach zones on the main logistical gaps and actions to promote a joint approach to ensure adequate fluvial transportation in the state of Delta Amacuro.
- The Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster established a multisectoral working group to ensure the integration into humanitarian interventions of a culturally sensitive approach towards Indigenous people, increasing livelihood opportunities in the local context.

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WFP Venezuela

Six Month Funding (March – August 2023)

Six Month Total Needs (in USD)	Needs Resourced (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
83 m	50.1 m	32.9 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome (SO) 1: By 2025 girls and boys in early and special education and other prioritized groups in the school system, school staff, pregnant and lactating women and other prioritized groups are better able to meet their food needs.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activity 1: Improve the food security and nutrition of priority groups, children in early education, boys and girls in special education and other priority school-age groups and their families, pregnant and lactating women and other priority populations through a comprehensive package that includes diversified school meals, adequate complementary food, take-home rations, communication to improve eating habits, infrastructure strengthening and capacity strengthening for the school community.

Strategic Result 2: Food systems are sustainable

Interim country strategic plan outcome 2: By 2025 national actors and institutions have strengthened capacity in prioritized strategic areas.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities 2: Provide cooperation, support and technical assistance to national institutions to strengthen components of production chains, institutional procurement and climate-resilient agri-food systems that are resilient in the face of climate change.

Strategic Result 3: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs.

Strategic Outcome 3 (SO3): By 2025 people affected by natural disasters are better able to meet their food needs in the face of the effects of climate change.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activity 3: Improve food security and nutrition for women, men, boys and girls affected by natural disasters and strengthen national capacity to respond to and mitigate the effects of natural disasters and climate change.

Strategic Result 4: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Strategic Outcome 4 (SO4): National and institutional actors in Venezuela are supported by efficient and effective supply chain and other services

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activity 4: Provide coordination and management services to state institutions and national actors and allow access to common logistical services when warranted.

Activity 5: Provide support for the strengthening of the supply chain and logistics to support activities related to food and nutrition security

Monitoring

- In February, WFP assisted 1,400 people through its helpline. Of these, 71 percent of users inquired about WFP's digital campaign on diverse diets and healthy eating habits for school children; 15 percent gave positive feedback; 9 percent offered suggestions about WFP's upcoming transition from take-home rations to onsite school meals; and 5 percent expressed concerns about constraints in accessing assistance.
- WFP conducted a market functionality analysis in Yaracuy, Barinas, Trujillo and Delta Amacuro. The analysis identified the high price fluctuation as the main concern. In addition, WFP collected information from beneficiaries on family income, resource management and risks related to gender-based violence, with the aim to assess family and community dynamics impacting market-based assistance.

Challenges

- WFP and cooperating partners faced challenges in ensuring adequate fuel supply in Barinas and Monagas. Although food distributions have not been affected, shortages in fuel supply may affect distribution plans in the upcoming months.
- Delays in obtaining import permits for food may impact timely food distributions. WFP engages in regular dialogues with the Venezuelan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to identify agreed solutions.

Donors

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

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