



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief May 2023

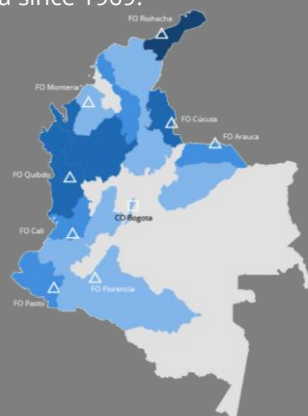
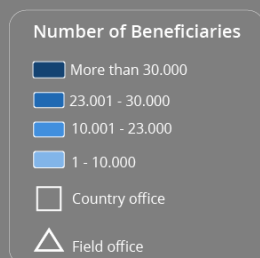


Seikiurin Indigenous community in La Guajira © WFP

Operational Context

Despite being an upper-middle-income country, Colombia faces a challenging food security situation. Concerning levels of food insecurity are shown among Colombian households, as some 30 percent (15.5 million) are food insecure. Also, the food security for the migrant population and host communities has deteriorated. According to WFP's Food Security and Nutritional Assessment (Dec 2022), 1.3 million migrants are food insecure, equivalent to 52 percent of the total migrant population in Colombia. Improving food security and advancing the peace process are among the Government's main priorities. 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 mixed 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 the country has also been the largest host for migrants from Venezuela. Around 2.8 million are currently registered in Colombia. The country office's strategy is aligned with the Government's priorities on food security, humanitarian response, recovery, development, and capacity-strengthening to ultimately achieve Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17. WFP has been present in Colombia since 1969.

WFP beneficiaries reached
by Department in May 2023:



Population: **51.1 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
88 out of 191

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **10.8%**

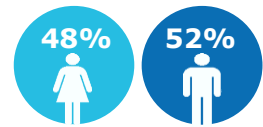
In Numbers

639.41 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 1.7 m cash-based transfers made*

USD 75 m six months (June - November 2023)
net funding requirements, representing 58%
percent of total

315,610 people assisted*
in MAY 2023



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- On 2 May, the Government and National Liberation Army (ELN) resumed peace talks in Cuba, focusing on a bilateral ceasefire, civil society participation in the peace process, and humanitarian actions. WFP is closely monitoring to assess any possible impacts on its operations.
- The upcoming El Niño phenomenon could put up to 1.5 million people at very high risk of severe food and nutrition insecurity due to reduced rainfall, water shortages and droughts, according to WFP's food security assessment. Households depending on livestock and agriculture in Huila, Santander, La Guajira, Bolívar, Magdalena, Córdoba, Cesar and Chocó departments could be the most impacted.
- Due to funding constraints, WFP will gradually have to start closing some community kitchens over the coming months. WFP and its donors are discussing options to continue providing food to vulnerable people as best as possible.
- On 15 May, the Ministry of the Environment announced the beginning of the 2023 hurricane season, slightly in advance compared to the previous years. Specialized agencies expect a near-normal season of tropical storms to affect the entire Caribbean coastline.
- In May, WFP assisted 83,200 migrants with the intention to settle, Colombian returnees and host communities through cash-based transfers in 11 departments. Of these, 28,000 in-transit migrants and Colombian returnees received hot meals and 16,000 received ready-to-eat food rations in nine departments.
- WFP reached over 68,400 children through the National School Feeding Programme. Of those, 57,029 were Colombian children in La Guajira and 11,397 were migrant children.
- WFP assisted 69,700 people affected by conflict and weather-related events this month in Choco, Valle del Cauca, Antioquia, Norte de Santander, Caquetá, Cauca and Nariño. Most beneficiaries were displaced populations (71 percent) and nearly every second was Afro-descendent (40 percent).

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
856.3 m	344.6 m	75 m

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.

Story from the field

Afro-descendant women entrepreneurs work growing ancestral plants and transforming their lands to improve the food security of their communities. [Click here for the video on Twitter](#)



Monitoring

- Nearly 90 percent of 250 Indigenous Awá and Afro-descendent communities in Putumayo and Nariño have increased agricultural production for their household food consumption, while 59 percent improved their nutritional diversity.
- WFP's monitoring revealed that migrant populations have had to dedicate substantially more money to buy food, spending over half of their available resources (55 percent up from 47 percent in December 2022). WFP sees this trend continuing, given persistent food price inflation, which would leave these populations with reduced purchasing power.

Challenges

- WFP started taking operational measures that lead to significant unaddressed food needs and impede populations from transitioning to sustainable food security. Nearly 130,000 victims of displacement and over 35,000 people affected by disasters may not receive assistance.
- By September, the predicted peak of El Niño impacts, WFP may not have the resources to respond to any national emergency or displacement, despite local governments' requests for assistance.

Partnerships

- Demonstrating increasing food needs, and realities on the ground of vulnerable populations, WFP conducted field visits with European donors to enhance visibility and advocacy for future funding.
- WFP is consolidating its emergency preparedness support to the government for a possible Nevado del Ruiz Volcano eruption. WFP leveraged its food security data to analyse the food needs of at-risk populations to solidify contingency plans.
- WFP piloted Digital Wallets for migrants in Valle del Cauca, Cauca, Bolivar, and Antioquia to support easier access to financial resources through digital transfers. This pilot is in partnership with Davivienda Bank in Colombia and under the Better Than Cash Alliance.
- On 30 May, WFP's partnership with the Department of National Planning (DNP) culminated in the [Household Social Registry](#), a vital instrument merging social protection data to better assist vulnerable populations and effectively allocate social spending.

Donors

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