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 Nutrition Assessment (Dec 2022), 1.3 million migrants are food insecure, equivalent to 52 percent of the total migrant population in Colombia. Improving food security is one of the Government’s priorities and 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 mixed migration crisis, economic shocks of high inflation and currency devaluation, and 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 2.89 million are currently registered in Colombia. WFP’s strategy is aligned with the Government’s priorities on food security, humanitarian response, recovery, development, and capacity-strengthening to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 and 17 ultimately.

El Niño phenomenon food vulnerability risk analysis
Territories with projected rainfall shortages and food insecurity (WFP Colombia, June 2023)

Population: 51.1 million
Income Level: Upper middle
Chronic malnutrition: 10.3%

Operational Updates

- On 9 June, the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army (ELN) agreed to a six-month ceasefire starting on 3 August. Zones with ELN presence show high levels of food insecurity among in-transit migrants, displaced, Indigenous and Afro-descendant populations. WFP will monitor the levels of violence that may hinder vulnerable people’s access to food.

- On 13 June, WFP started its school feeding operations in Barranquilla for 11,025 schoolchildren. Moreover, the municipal government of Maicao requested WFP’s assistance in implementing its Zero Hunger strategy, funded by the government. WFP distributed 20-day food baskets to 30,595 children to cover the July school break.

- Due to reduced funding levels, WFP closed 14 community kitchens for migrants in transit along the migration route this month.

- WFP started surveying vulnerable populations in pagadiarios (day-to-day shelters) to enable their first steps in registering for Colombia’s social protection system. The agency referred 25 cases to humanitarian partners to facilitate aid provision.

- WFP assisted 305,600 vulnerable Colombians and migrants with various interventions: 169,600 migrants with the intention to settle, Colombian returnees and host communities received assistance in 16 departments. 33,500 in-transit migrants and Colombian returnees received hot meals. 18,840 received ready-to-eat food rations in nine departments.

- WFP reached 77,460 children through the National School Feeding Programme this month. Of those, 54,850 were Colombian and 22,600 were migrant children.

- WFP assisted 70,000 people affected by conflict and climate-related events this month in 11 departments, mostly in Choco. Most beneficiaries were Indigenous and Afro-descendant populations (60 percent). WFP also provided cash assistance to 1,500 people supporting government response efforts for those evacuated on 2 June in Puerto Escondido.
### WFP Country Strategy

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Outcome</th>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Outcome 1: Everyone has access to food</td>
<td>856.3 m</td>
<td>344.9 m</td>
<td>84 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Strategic Outcome 1: Everyone has access to food

- **WFP's recent monitoring revealed that** women and children receiving nutrition support significantly improved their consumption of protein-rich foods, consumed a more diverse diet, and resorted to fewer strategies to stretch food resources. WFP's latest nutrition programme has yielded promising results, combining food assistance and nutrition education. WFP aims to expand these programmes to support children and women at risk of malnutrition.

### Challenges

- **WFP currently responds to only 31 percent of the actual food needs of displaced populations across the country (69 percent gap) and 72 percent of those affected by climate-induced events (28 percent gap).**
- **Unless additional funds are mobilized, this reduction will gradually increase the gap of unmet food needs of displaced populations.** WFP predicts that 154,000 people with unmet food needs may not receive emergency assistance.

### Partnerships

- **On 29 and 30 June, WFP facilitated the visit of a Cuban Government delegation to the Colombian Social Protection authorities to exchange experience in vulnerability analysis, targeting, and several kinds of transfers in food and nutrition security. As a result, the Cuban delegates expressed interest in Colombia's experiences, including its Social Registry and social protection targeting tool (SISBEN).**
- **Thanks to cooperation with the Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) and the reach of its Mobile Units, WFP reached 315 displaced people with cash assistance in Risaralda this month for the first time.**
- **With the International Labour Organization, WFP advocates for people's duties and rights to health, pension and family support via the campaign and its informative toolbox #todosderechosambienmigran.** This campaign gives local authorities across the country useful information for people on how to better access Colombia’s social protection system.
- **On 27 June, the National Geological Service lowered the alert level of the Nevado del Ruiz Volcano, after nearly three months of “orange alert” monitoring. WFP remains on standby to respond and support the Government in its contingency planning.**
- **WFP received USD 800,000 to provide lifesaving food assistance to vulnerable communities affected by conflict in Colombia’s Pacific region for 12 months, as part of the inter-agency Central Emergency Response Fund emergency response.**

### Donors

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

### Monitoring

- **WFP's food vulnerability model revealed that up to 2.2 million people could be at very high risk of deteriorating food and nutrition security from the impacts of the ongoing El Niño season (see map above).** Agriculture-dependent households in Huila, Santander, La Guajira, Bolívar, Magdalena, Córdoba, Cesar, and Chocó are projected to be the most impacted. The model complements Colombia’s meteorological predictions.