



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Colombia Country Brief July 2023



People from the Indigenous Arhuaco community receiving assistance, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (Colombia) © WFP

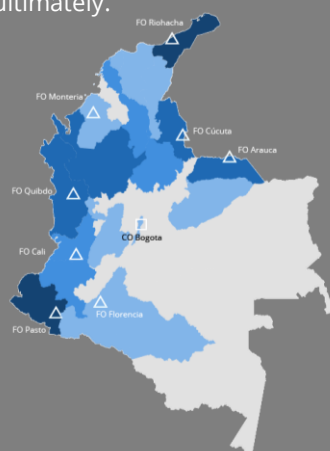
## Operational Context

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 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, together with 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, 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 2.89 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 Goals 2 and 17 ultimately.

### Number of Beneficiaries



Country office  
Field office



Population: **51.1 million**

2015 Human Development Index:  
**88 out of 191**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **10.8%**

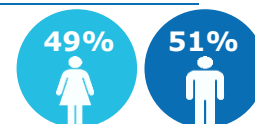
## In Numbers

**672.1 mt** of food assistance distributed\*

**USD 2.71 m** cash-based transfers made\*

**USD 79 m** six months (August 2023- January 2024) net funding requirements, representing 68 percent of total

**309,749 people assisted\***  
in JULY 2023



\*Preliminary figures

## Operational Updates

- On 2 July, the Government of Colombia issued Decree 1085 declaring an emergency in the La Guajira department until 1 August to address the food and water crisis that is also exacerbating the conflict dynamics. WFP is coordinating with the President's Office, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) and the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) to complement emergency activities, especially in fighting malnutrition.
- Funded by the local government, WFP supported the Government's "Zero Hunger" strategy, by distributing 20-day food baskets to 30,595 children in Maicao this month to provide meals during school holidays, thereby supporting food security and encouraging nutritious eating habits.
- WFP assisted 309,749 vulnerable Colombians and migrants with various interventions:
  - 134,000 migrants with the intention to settle, Colombian returnees and host communities received assistance in 14 departments. Nearly 23,000 in-transit migrants and Colombian returnees received hot meals while 16,000 received ready-to-eat food rations in nine departments.
  - WFP assisted 60,700 people affected by conflict and climate-related events this month in 10 departments, one third of them in Choco department. Mostly Indigenous (22 percent) and Afro-descendant people (42 percent).
  - WFP assisted 4,900 people affected by conflict and climate events through early recovery activities in Amazonas, Arauca, Caquetá, and Cauca (78 percent Indigenous people).
  - WFP assisted 1,200 small-scale farmers through capacity-strengthening exercises in five departments. Another 900 people from Afro-descendants and Indigenous communities received Climate Change adaptation training.
  - WFP surveyed 500 vulnerable families in *pagadarios* (daily paid housing) for social-protection-related data. This data-gathering process will help identify new solutions to allow these families opportunities to be included in Colombia's social protection system, in coordination with Bogota's Planning Secretariat.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Colombia](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Colombia)

## Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD) as of June 2023	Allocated Contributions (in USD) as of June 2023	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
856.3 m	344.9 m	79 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

- Watch how [Indigenous communities](#) in Colombia modernize their food production ways while preserving traditional agricultural practices (video in Spanish).

## Monitoring

- On 10 July, the Government of Colombia, and the National Liberation Army (ELN) discussed the guidelines of the bilateral ceasefire, to be in effect on 3 August. The next round of peace talks is scheduled on 14 August in Venezuela.
- The official number of people crossing the Darien Gap every day to Central America doubled in July, as according to *Migracion Colombia*. In particular, the number of unaccompanied children has spiked. WFP is monitoring the situation and is ready to deploy assistance if deemed necessary by local authorities.
- WFP's monitoring of its Mobile Wallets initiative shows beneficiaries are overall satisfied with the service as it provides more flexibility and empowers families in making purchases as needed. The initiative was piloted in May this year with the Davivienda Bank.

## Challenges

- In the department of La Guajira, increasingly more security incidents challenge the delivery of services via the Mobile Units, operated by WFP on behalf of ICBF. Mitigation measures are being taken but may affect the implementation of services.
- Due to lack of funding, on 1 August, WFP will stop emergency assistance to migrants in transit in 14 community kitchens in Casanare, Nariño, Norte de Santander, and La Guajira. On average, 1,000 migrants per day receive hot meals in these kitchens.

## Partnerships

- On 6 July, WFP's Regional Innovation Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean, hosted a [Demo Day event](#) to celebrate 10 innovative projects from six countries contributing to "Zero Hunger". These projects from Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru have made a positive impact on 85,000 people.
- Alongside ministries and specialized agencies, WFP continues to advocate for concrete and concerted efforts to pre-empt El Niño-induced impacts on access, availability and production of food for populations that are most susceptible to loss of incomes and deteriorating food security.
- Thanks to its yearlong partnership, the Municipality of Maicao this month funded WFP's operation to provide meals to 30,595 children during holidays, supporting the government's "Zero Hunger" strategy.

## Donors

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

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