



World Food Programme


SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP in Latin America and the Caribbean

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the **world's largest humanitarian organization** saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity, for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change. Moreover, for WFP **the pursuit of women's empowerment is central to fulfilling its mandate** to save lives and change lives by ending global hunger.

In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), **WFP is responding to multiple and intertwined crises that are driving hunger**. The region is grappling with climate events (such as hurricanes and droughts), insecurity, a sluggish pandemic recovery and debt distress, and the ripple effect of armed conflicts which have driven up prices of food, fuel, and fertilizer. These crises have devastating consequences on vulnerable people struggling to meet their food, nutrition, and other essential needs, with millions opting to migrate as a surviving mechanism.

As of February 2024, WFP estimated that:

 **28.5 million people faced acute hunger in the 13 countries where WFP has offices in LAC.**


Of these, 9.8 million people are severely food insecure and require humanitarian assistance. **Women are more affected than men** by moderate or severe food insecurity in the LAC region, the largest disproportion in the world.

In 2024, WFP aims to provide immediate food and nutritional support to 10 million people in the region. WFP is also implementing a growing number of initiatives with governments and intermediaries, including the private sector, making a difference in the lives of millions of other people, to strengthen and expand social protection programmes, and reinforce national and local institutions, systems, and policies.



NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED IN 2023

7.7 M DIRECT

 **72 k mt of food in kind**

 **US\$ 178 M in cash transfers distributed**

 **Trainings, counselling provided**

35 M INDIRECT

Initiatives with governments and partners to strengthen and expand social protection programmes and reinforce local institutions, systems, and policies.



WHAT WE DO IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



SOCIAL PROTECTION

WFP supports governments in strengthening and scaling up social protection programmes, including a growing cash-based transfers portfolio, to improve people's food security and nutrition, and their ability to respond to shocks.

School meals: School meals programmes improve families' food security and encourage them to keep their children in school, supporting them to become better learners and to improve their overall wellbeing. School meals can benefit the whole community by strengthening the local food systems and economies, and by creating jobs.

Nutrition: 133 million people cannot afford a healthy diet. This contributes to the double burden of malnutrition, which results in high losses for countries' economies (up to 16 percent of the national GDP). WFP improves people's access to better diets with cash-based transfers and by strengthening governments' social protection programmes.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

WFP supports countries on the frontline of the climate crisis to build people's resilience through scalable and transformative solutions as part of WFP's changing lives agenda.

Community adaptation and resilience: Combine the expansion of livelihood opportunities (including smallholders support, income diversification) with the promotion of nature-based solutions, such as soil and water conservation, to allow families and communities to build their resilience to environmental degradation, and climate change.

Systems responses to climate events: Build the institutional capacities of government and communities to enable emergency, food, and social protection systems to deliver scalable solutions to reach food-insecure communities. This includes connecting these systems with innovative tools such as early warning systems, anticipatory action, micro/macro-insurance products, and shock-responsive social protection.

GUATEMALA

"I want my son to continue to improve and grow up without any disease"



Marcela's son, Ludvin, has been treated through a government-run nutrition scheme after he was diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition in January 2023.

Rates of stunting among children up to age four in Guatemala are the highest in the region. WFP supports the government-backed nutrition brigades to identify and treat cases of acute malnutrition.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE & RECOVERY

WFP assists communities to mitigate the impact of multi-layered crises resulting from climate-related disasters, economic shocks, and conflict.

Preparedness: Reinforcement of early warning systems, rapid risk analysis, preparedness measures with prepositioned humanitarian stocks, and advancing anticipatory action are crucial. The strengthening of national social protection is also key to preparedness and response to shocks.

Response: Distributions of life-saving food and cash transfers provide affected individuals with dignity and flexibility for their food and essential needs, whether they are affected by an emergency at home or forced to migrate. WFP is also the lead agency for the Emergency Telecommunications and the Logistics clusters, UNHAS (air service), and manages the UNHRD support hub in Panama serving the entire humanitarian community.

Recovery: After shocks, such as the pandemic, hurricanes, floods, droughts or conflicts, WFP supports countries and communities to rebuild their assets, their food security, and their lives. This includes the socioeconomic integration of people who were forced to migrate in their countries of destination.

