



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, **WFP is responding to multiple and intertwined crises that are driving hunger**. The region is grappling with climate shocks (such as El Niño phenomenon), insecurity, a sluggish pandemic recovery and debt distress, and the ripple effect of the Ukraine war 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.

In December 2022, WFP estimated that **40 million people faced acute hunger in the 13 countries where WFP has offices in LAC**. Of these, 11 million people faced emergency levels of food insecurity and required humanitarian assistance. The **gender gap** on moderate or severe food insecurity in the LAC region is the largest in the world.

This year, **WFP aims to provide immediate food and nutritional needs of nearly 10 million people in the region with 133,000 mt of food and the equivalent of US\$418 million (90 percent more than in 2022) in cash-based transfers**. 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.

All these programmes contribute to the 'Zero Hunger' objective and other Sustainable Development Goals.

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: During the pandemic, the region experienced a long period of school closure with dramatic consequences on the cognitive and socio-emotional development of children. School meals programmes improve families' food security and encourage them to keep their children in school to build better futures through education.

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 a national GDP). WFP improves people's access to better diets with cash-based transfers and by strengthening governments' social protection programmes.

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.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE - SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

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

Community adaptation and resilience: Combine the expansion of livelihood practices (including climate-smart agriculture, 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 climate change.

Systems responses to climate change: Build the institutional capacities of government and private sector actors to enable emergency, food and social protection systems to deliver scalable climate action to reach food insecure people. This includes connecting these systems with innovative tools such as anticipatory action, micro/macro-insurance products, and climate-responsive social protection.

HAITI EMERGENCY

"I had nothing to feed my children before I left home this morning. My dream is that we can live in peace."

Ulissane received FP emergency food assistance in Cité Soleil, a deprived area of Port-au-Prince, detected with "catastrophic" levels (IPC5) of food insecurity in 2022.

Hunger is at record levels in Haiti, as insecurity, violence and deepening economic woes are driving a complex emergency.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED BY WFP IN THE REGION IN 2022



7.9 M

DIRECTLY

Provision of:

- 58k tons of food in kind
- US\$184 million in cash-based transfers
- Trainings and tools

19.6 M

INDIRECTLY

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