



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Bolivia Country Brief October 2023



Urus Indigenous girl can access safe drinking water. Photo: Puñaca Tinta María, Oruro - Bolivia

Operational Context

The Bolivian economy has been traditionally based on the exploitation of natural resources, and it was always classified among poor countries until the World Bank raised Bolivia's classification from a low-income to a lower-middle-income country since 2010. Despite sustained growth, there is still marked inequality between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, especially among indigenous groups and women who have historically been relegated. To date, these groups remain living in highly vulnerable areas with food insecurity, have very low incomes, are subsistence producers, and do not have access to markets that allow them to maintain adequate nutrition or develop their economic activities. During the implementation of its current CSP 2023-2027, WFP Bolivia will continue supporting national and local governments and its vulnerable populations in emergency responses and strengthening their capacities to make them more resilient, especially to the effects of climate change. WFP will also provide technical support to link smallholders to markets. WFP has been in Bolivia since 1963, and its current interventions align with the Bolivian Economic and Social Development Plan 2021-2025, which focuses on the social development of vulnerable indigenous populations.



Population: **12.0 m (est. 2022)**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2022 Human Development Index: **118 out of 191**

Chronic malnutrition: **16% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 2.8 m six-month November 2023 – April 2024) net funding requirements, representing 61 percent of the total

Operational Updates

- On 26 October, WFP met with the Oruro government to discuss the increasing number of people affected by natural hazards such as drought. As a result, WFP will provide additional assistance to the most vulnerable families (25 percent) among the 40,000 reported affected families.
- WFP continued to receive requests for assistance from other municipalities to support those affected by the drought and related fires.
- On 31 October, WFP staff participated in a full-day workshop organized by the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) to enhance staff's knowledge and capacity about Indigenous people. The workshop focused on the activities of the second outcome of the current WFP Bolivia Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027).

Monitoring

- WFP conducted a field visit with the Urus Original Nation to the Resilience project in the Oruro department. The results of this visit will help WFP tailoring its programming to adequately respond to people's needs.
- As part of its monitoring activities, in October, WFP continued its work as part of the United Nations Emergency Team (UNETE) in Bolivia and the Humanitarian Country Team.
- At the same time, WFP kept participating in the ad-hoc meetings on the El Niño phenomenon and the National Government Steering Committee.

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Further information: [WFP Bolivia](https://www.wfp.org/bolivia)

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (In USD) as of October 2023	Allocated Contribution (in USD) as of October 2023	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
18.8 m	4.5 m	2.8 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food. SDG 2.1

Country Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure and vulnerable households affected by shocks in Bolivia benefit from anticipatory action, prevention, emergency preparedness, coordination, and response support to meet their diverse emergency food and nutrition needs and quickly recover.

Focus area: *Crisis Response.*

Activities:

- Provide cash-based transfers to food-insecure households exposed to shocks in Bolivia.
- Provide technical assistance to local institutions to strengthen emergency preparedness and response, including through evidence-based advocacy.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes. SDG 2.3

Country Strategic Outcome 2: Food insecure smallholder farmers, indigenous communities, and particularly rural women in Bolivia are more resilient to climatic and other shocks and stresses, including through sustainable livelihoods, consistent incomes, improved productivity, and market access and demand.

Focus area: *Resilience Building.*

Activities:

- Provide cash-based transfers to food insecure smallholders and indigenous communities, in particular rural women; and access to climate adaptation services, including technical assistance.
- Facilitate links between food insecure smallholders, particularly indigenous and women, to sustainable and reliable markets.

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs. SDG 17.9

Country Strategic Outcome 3: Local, regional, and national level institutions have improved capacity, coordination, programme, and policy coherence related to supporting most vulnerable groups in Bolivia by 2027.

Focus area: *Root Causes.*

Activity:

- Develop and implement a sustained strategy with national institutions to address food insecurity in a holistic and gender-transformative manner among the most vulnerable communities, based on advocacy, communications, and improved coordination at local, regional, and national levels.

Challenges

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration updated its forecast for a "strong" El Niño event, reporting a 35 percent chance of it becoming historically strong from November to January. As a result, drought is the most impacting consequence of El Niño in Bolivia.
- Furthermore, the number of people affected by droughts increased by 60 percent compared to September, with 150 affected people reported in September to 204 people in October 2023.
- In the same way, the total population affected had increased by 25 percent in just two weeks, from 580.000 families (12 October) to 737.300 families (28 October).

Donors

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, China, European Union (DG-ECHO), Sweden (Ministry for Foreign Affairs).