



WFP Colombia Country Brief October 2023

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

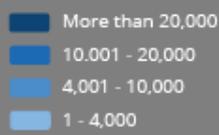


Community workshop during the implementation of a livelihood project in the department of Bolivar. © WFP

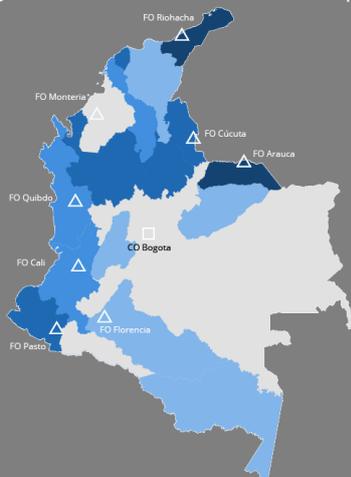
Operational Context

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% of the total migrant population in Colombia. Improving food security is one of the Government's priorities, together with advancing the peace process. Colombia 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 decades-long armed conflict resulted in 7.8 million internally displaced people (IDPs), while the country hosts the largest number of migrants from Venezuela. Around 2.9 million are now 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.

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

414.59 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 3.8 m cash-based transfers made*

USD 87.2 m six months (November 2023- April 2024) net funding requirements, representing 76 percent of total

257,677 people assisted*
in OCTOBER 2023



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP opened a new community kitchen in the municipality of Turbo, Antioquia to attend 1,500 migrants in transit per day. The operation will continue for three months.
- WFP started to support an Action Against Hunger (ACH) project aimed at improving and preventing undernutrition in La Guajira. WFP will deliver in-kind food baskets to families where ACH detects children with severe and/or acute malnutrition status.
- WFP assisted 257,677 vulnerable Colombians and migrants with various interventions: around 129,000 migrants with the intention to settle, Colombian returnees and host communities received assistance in 14 departments. Nearly 31,000 in-transit migrants and Colombian returnees received hot meals; over 15,000 received ready-to-eat food rations in eight departments.
- Within the framework of a socioeconomic integration programme, 1,100 migrants, returnees, and host communities have taken part in capacity-strengthening activities aimed at generating employability or creating microenterprises.
- WFP reached over 91,795 children through the National School Feeding Programme this month, of those, 68,549 were Colombian and 23,246 were migrant children. The number of beneficiaries increased since the programme now covers all schools in Maicao municipality.
- WFP assisted over 20,000 people affected by conflict and climate-related disasters this month in six departments. About 37 percent of the beneficiaries were either Indigenous or from Afro-descendant communities.
- About 10,000 small-scale farmers were assisted through early recovery and capacity-strengthening activities in nine departments. Furthermore, around 700 people received Climate Change adaptation training in Nariño.
- WFP reached more than 2,100 people to prevent malnutrition in the departments of La Guajira and Atlántico, almost 73 percent of whom were children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls.

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
856.3 m	362.5 m	82.5 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

- Learn how WFP supports communities through the [Livelihood Restoration Project](#) in Cordoba, Bolivar, Cauca, and Nariño to promote sustainable development and food security.
- Watch how WFP works to ensure the [human right to food](#) to vulnerable communities.

Monitoring

- According to [the Food Security and Nutrition Cluster](#), about 14.6 million people are food insecure and 8 million more are susceptible to food insecurity due to the impacts of El Niño. Furthermore, 21.300 children currently suffer from acute malnutrition, and an additional 2.300 are at risk. The most affected departments by food insecurity and malnutrition are La Guajira, Chocó, Arauca, Sucre, and Magdalena.
- During October, about 78 violent and 12 natural hazards were registered in the country, according to OCHA, affecting about 115,000 people. Most affected areas are concentrated in municipalities of La Guajira where extended floods due to strong rainfall have left more than 60,000 people affected. WFP is actively coordinating with national and local institutions to bring emergency assistance to affected communities.

Challenges

- In October, rains of varying intensity caused the overflowing of watercourses and flooding in the municipalities of Riohacha, Uribia, Manauare, Maicao, and San Juan del Cesar, affecting the implementation of the asset creation project for migrants in La Guajira.
- Due to expected increased violence from armed groups one week prior to October elections, WFP delayed in-kind food distributions to 30 percent of victims of displacement and violence. The Ombudsman's Office of Colombia reported every third municipality to be exposed to high risks of electoral violence.

Partnerships

- Building on years of successful partnership, WFP and Howard G. Buffett Foundation are launching the Colombia Peacebuilding Fund. Over the course of four years, this Fund will be providing direct assistance and financing for livelihood projects that will directly benefit 3,000 individuals who reside in municipalities significantly affected by violence, including ex-combatants involved in reintegration processes each project year.
- WFP and Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) delivered 8,350 food baskets and nutrition education sessions to families with children under 5 years across the La Guajira department for three months. This scale-up complements the government's efforts to fight malnutrition in children.

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.