



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Bolivia Country Brief February 2024



Vegetables harvested and ate at Uru Murato communities, from WFP greenhouses installed at their schools. © WFP 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 Peoples and rural and Indigenous 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**

2023 Human Development Index: **120 out of 193**

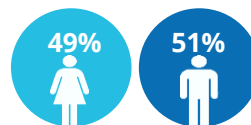
Chronic malnutrition: **16% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**USD 324,293** cash-based transfers made\*

**USD 1.5 m** six-month (March – August 2024) net funding requirements, representing 72 percent of the total

**16,225 people assisted\***  
in FEBRUARY 2024



\*Preliminary figures

## Operational Updates

- On 6 February, the Humanitarian Country Team agreed to operationalize the preparation of response proposals to support the Immediate Drought Response Plan and the Post-Fire Recovery Plan, through thematic groups and technical tables. This served to identify priority areas and guidelines. On this occasion, the Country Humanitarian Team prepared a Strategic Lines document in synergies with the Vice Ministry of Civil Defense (VIDECI, for its Spanish acronym).
- On 26 February, the Humanitarian Country Team published the first situational report (SITREP) for the 2024 rain emergencies. Based on this, they met to prepare a rapid and timely response to VIDECI in relation to the Post Fire Recovery Plan. The meeting resulted in the decision that the response will focus on humanitarian activities.
- On 28 February, responding to an UNDP initiative, UNETE team met to coordinate the request to support emergency response following Cobija's disaster declaration. In the meeting, WFP along with OCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, PAHO/WHO and UNDP agreed to deliver field evaluation missions and provide technical assistance in various thematic areas, including management and compilation of information, evaluation of impacts and gaps, as well as health and shelters. Also, it was agreed to hold coordinated meetings with counterparts.

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**Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contribution (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>18.8 m</b>	<b>6.8 m</b>	<b>1.5 m</b>

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

**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

**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

**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.

## Monitoring

- WFP carried out Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA) in Altiplano, Valleys, Llanos and Chaco regions carrying out 1,338 surveys in more than 130 communities for all the 9 departments of the country.
- The Preliminary Document on Bolivia's Risk Management Policy and Strategy was concluded and training for the Info-SPIE Tool was carried out in February, both in the framework of the European Union's Project "Improving drought preparedness and social protection against crises in areas and populations prone to food insecurity in Central America and Bolivia".

## Challenges

- The rainy season continued at its peak in the country, escalating the situation from the previous month. According to VIDEI, 11,509 families have been affected in all nine departments of Bolivia, with 33 deaths, of which 14 were from La Paz.
- As an example of the dire situation, only in Cobija, the capital of the Pando department, the river level increased by 14.5 meters, affecting the lower areas of the city close to the Acre River and escalating the current situation to disaster levels.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration stated that there is an 83 percent chance of a transition from current "El Niño" to a neutral status by April-June 2024 and forecasting a "La Niña" for June-August 2024.

## Donors

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, China, European Union (DG-ECHO), Russian Federation, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Sweden (Ministry for Foreign Affairs).