



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief

May 2024

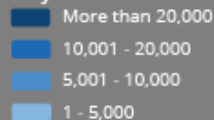


Socioeconomic integration of migrants in Bucaramanga, Colombia. © Photo/ WFP Colombia

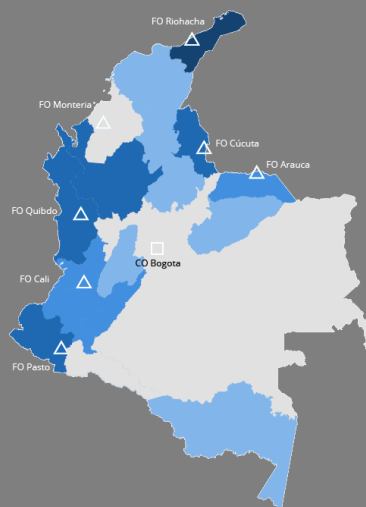
Operational Context

Despite being an upper-middle-income country, Colombia faces a complex humanitarian and food security crisis, with 13 million moderately or severely food-insecure Colombians (25 percent of the population) according to the latest WFP assessment (EFSA, 2024). Improving food security is one of the Government's priorities, together with advancing the peace process. This situation is also marked by internal violence, forced displacements, widespread presence of illegal armed groups, ongoing mixed-migration flows, severe climate-related emergencies, and economic shocks. In this context, 7.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 2023). Likewise, Colombia's decades-long armed conflict resulted in 9.5 million victims of which 90 percent are internally displaced persons (OCHA, 2024), while 2.9 million migrants are currently reported (Government, 2023), one of the largest number of migrants across the region. 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 (SDG) 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for Goals).

Number of Beneficiaries May 2024



Country office
Field office



Population: **51.8 million**

2024 Human Development Index: **89 out of 191**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **10.8 percent**

In Numbers

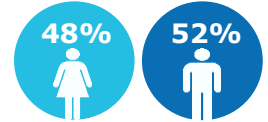
385 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 2.73 m cash-based transfers made*

USD 24.4 m six months (June – November 2024) net funding requirements, representing 30 percent of total

202,760 people assisted*

In May 2024



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

In May, WFP reached over 141,160 Colombians (including, returnees, host communities, and internally displaced persons) as well as 61,600 migrants across 17 departments. The activities through which WFP assisted them included:

- **Early Recovery** – WFP started working with USAID's Sustainable Economic Transformation project to link WFP-supported early recovery beneficiaries with long-term economic development and to strengthen community resilience. Key areas of support include market access, livelihood diversification, food transformation and the strengthening of community associations. WFP will use USD 1.5 million of the USD 30 million from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)'s supplemental contribution.
- **Emergency response** – In May, WFP assisted 55,000 people affected by disasters and the armed conflict providing over 376 mt of food across seven departments and USD 162,160 in cash-based transfers in Huila and Nariño. WFP started a three-month assistance period in La Guajira, where heavy droughts caused by La Niña phenomenon affected the livelihoods of over 26,000 people.
- **School Feeding** – This month, WFP reached 80,000 children including 12,000 migrant children.
- **Mobile Units** - Despite a volatile security situation and mobility restrictions, in May the Mobile Units' operation by the *Instituto Colombiano del Bienestar Familiar* (ICBF, for its Spanish acronym) reached 22,000 people with WFP's support.
- **Migration** – All socioeconomic integration (SEI) projects are in the targeting phase. WFP started developing a Social and Behaviour Change Communication campaign with the agency Vega & Jaramillo. It is expected to be launched by end of the year in Bogotá and Cucuta to foster social cohesion between migrants, internally displaced persons and host communities.
- **Nutrition** – In May, as part of the Territorial Development Plans formulation, WFP supported 12 prioritized territorial entities to incorporate a line of action on the right to food. WFP also engaged with the 'Together with the Territory' webinar delivered by the National Planning Department. Moreover, WFP kept supporting the Ministry of Equality in the action plan of the Zero Hunger Programme, together with other relevant entities.

Contact info: Romolo Giangregorio (romolo.giangregorio@wfp.org)

Country Director: Nils Grede

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Colombia

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
718.1 m	446.1 m	24.4 m

SDG 2 - Target 1: 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.

SDG 2 - Target 4: Sustainable Food systems

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.

SDG 17 - Target 8: Global Partnership

Strategic Outcome 4: Humanitarian and development partners have access to reliable services to support effective interventions year-round.

Activities:

- Provide on-demand supply chain, transport and digital beneficiary management and other services to humanitarian and development partners.

Monitoring

- WFP monitoring report published in May showed that people assisted under the Early Recovery and Capacity-strengthening activities improved their access to food, livelihoods and self-sustaining capacities.
- In fact, the proportion of households not using negative coping strategies for food security increased from 13 percent to 30 percent.
- Additionally, 89 percent of households interviewed in the endline survey were satisfied with the assistance received especially in terms of food production diversification and improved asset management.

Challenges

- Since 29 April, the Puracé volcano's activity has increased, raising the alert status to orange due to potential risks.
- Escalating violence and security issues led to the suspension of WFP activities in Timba and Miranda, and the postponement of a mission in El Charco.
- Heavy rains caused significant damage, displacing 7,806 people in Córdoba, Bolívar, and Sucre, and affecting 15,000 people on the Pacific coast (Nariño), threatening their food security.

Partnerships

- WFP Colombia received a supplement of USD 15 million from BHA for conflict-affected populations. Among these, USD 13.5 million will be allocated for emergency response and USD 1.5 million for early recovery.
- Sonali Korde, Assistant to the Administrator of USAID's BHA, and Anupama Rajaraman, USAID's BHA Director in Colombia, visited WFP operations in Quibdó (Chocó), where they praised WFP efforts to link humanitarian response with early recovery for displaced Indigenous communities.

Donors

Canada, Colombia, European Union (DG-ECHO), France, Germany, Italy, Korea (the Republic of), 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.

Stories from the field

- [Learn](#) how WFP's socioeconomic integration projects support migrants in Bucaramanga to allow them achieving better living conditions.
- The Innovation Hub Hzero launched a [call for proposal](#) directed to startups and companies with solutions that contribute to improved living conditions and socioeconomic integrations of migrants, returnees, and IDPs in Colombia.