



WFP Colombia Country Brief

April 2024

World Food Programme

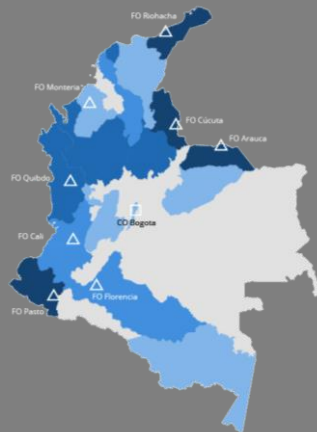
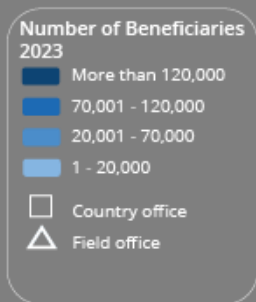
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



From the project *Oportunidades Pacificas Mujeres Rurales* in Tumaco, Nariño. © Photo/ WFP Colombia

Operational Context

Despite being an upper-middle-income country, Colombia faces a challenging food security situation. The levels of food insecurity among Colombian households are concerning as some 30 percent (15.5 million) are food insecure. The food security of the migrant population and host communities has also deteriorated. According to WFP's Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (Dec 2022), 1.3 million migrants are food insecure, equivalent to 52 percent 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.



Population: **51.8 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **10.8 percent**

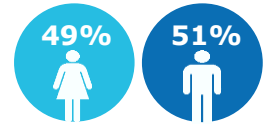
In Numbers

418.38 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 2.5 m cash-based transfers made*

USD 46.1 m six months (May – October 2024) net funding requirements, representing 51 percent of total

220,200 people assisted* in April 2024



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- In April, WFP assisted more than 148,800 Colombians, returnees and host communities (including 58,200 internally displaced persons) as well as 71,400 migrants across 17 departments. The activities through which WFP assisted them include:
 - School Feeding** - This month, WFP reached 80,150 children including 12,000 migrant children.
 - Mobile Units** - Despite a volatile security situation and mobility restrictions, the mobile unit's operation supported 18,200 people (5,460 girls, 5,550 boys and 5,400 women) and coordinated a psychosocial support to these beneficiaries.
 - Women's empowerment** - April marked the conclusion of the 4-year project *Oportunidades Pacificas Mujeres Rurales*, upporting rural women's empowerment. The project involved organizations including more than 1,600 people (90 percent rural women and 50 percent Indigenous and Afro-Colombian people). An average of 23,400 m2 of land was sown and harvested for self-consumption, while more than 5,500 people were trained on sustainable production practices and market access.
 - Socio-economic integration (SEI)** - WFP finalised the implementation of 7 SEI projects in Antioquia, Valle del Cauca, Bolivar, La Guajira and Santander while starting new projects focused on entrepreneurship and employability in Arauca, Antioquia, Santander and Valle del Cauca. In Bogotá and Norte de Santander, WFP started a new SEI pilot that promotes an integrated approach to respond to migrants, IDPs and host populations' challenges by supporting the transition from dependence on humanitarian assistance to sustainable livelihoods.
 - Additionally, WFP launched a **Communication with Communities** strategy in its cash-based transfer projects related to assistance of migrants.
 - In April, in line with WFP's fast-track protocol for protection cases, WFP provided immediate assistance to 8 survivors of **gender-based violence**.
 - WFP also worked on fostering compliance with corporate ethical guidelines among its operations with **ethnic groups** through target training in field offices.

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
606.2 m	442.6 m	46.1 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

- In April, the Decentralized Evaluation team of the Binational Climate Adaptation Project (Colombia-Ecuador) gathered crucial insights on the Ecuador-Colombia border. The team engaged directly with Awá and Afro-descendant communities, capturing their stories, challenges and tailored solutions developed together with WFP.

Challenges

- The escalation of violence by armed groups and the precarious security environment posed significant challenges to WFP, resulting in restricted access to conflict-affected areas.
- In April, WFP was unable to access the municipalities of Zaragoza and Tarazá (Antioquia) for the targeting process resulting in delayed assistance for 7,000 people in urgent need of food.
- In the Pacific region, these constraints resulted in significant challenges in implementing emergency response activities.
- Moreover, heavy rains affected WFP operations on the ground posing access constraints due to rural roads and infrastructure degradation. This situation impacted mainly the Pacific, Andean and Plains areas.

Partnerships

- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to foster social and economic integration of affected populations. This collaboration is expected to facilitate access to the Colombian's social protection system for refugees, migrants, Colombian returnees, internally displaced persons and host communities. This MoU also aims at implementing joint strategies to strengthen their employability, as well as nano and micro businesses.
- Additionally, WFP signed a MoU with the Government of La Guajira to join efforts against food insecurity.
- The Colombian Institute for Family Well-Being provided a top-up of USD 3.7 million for the Mobile Units programme to assist conflict-affected populations.

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

- For Earth Day, learn how [WFP protects our planet, promoting sustainability](#) and helping to strengthen food security.
- Watch how [WFP operates in Colombia](#) to save and change lives in emergencies.