



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief September 2024



People affected by armed conflict participating in a community pot in Tibú, Norte de Santander © WFP Colombia

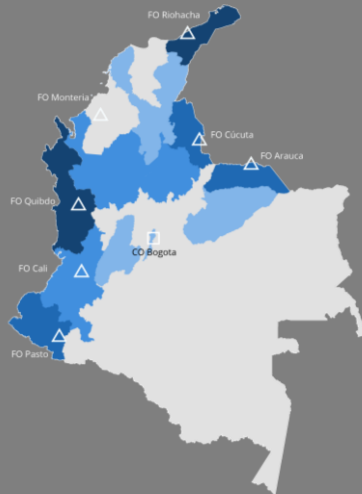
Operational Context

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. The situation in Colombia 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 need 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). At the same time, 2.9 million migrants are currently reported (Colombian Government, 2023) representing one of the largest figures across the region concerning migration. WFP operates in Colombia since 1969 and its strategy aligns 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 August 2024

- More than 20,000
- 9,001 - 20,000
- 2,001 - 9,000
- 1 - 2,000

- 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

740 mt of food assistance distributed*

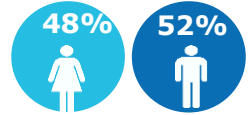
USD 2.18 m cash-based transfers made*

USD 22.8 m six months (October 2024 – March 2025) net funding requirements, representing 69 percent of total needs

215.899 people assisted*

In September 2024

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

In September, WFP reached over **163,500 Colombians** (including returnees, host communities and internally displaced persons - IDPs) as well as **52,321 migrants** across 13 departments. The activities through which WFP assisted them included:

- Emergency Response** - The humanitarian situation is worsening in several regions due to escalating conflict and increased rainfall, leading to floods and loss of livelihoods. WFP has **assisted 63,600 victims of violence** and **16,207 individuals affected by weather-related events**.
- Livelihoods and Resilience** - WFP has launched the "Rural Women Advancing towards Food and Nutritional Autonomy" project in four municipalities of the Pacific Region. This initiative aims to enhance agricultural production, improve local organizations' capacities, facilitate market access and empower 172 participants, primarily women.
- Migration** - A national truckers' strike from September 1 to 6 led to road blockages. With migrants unable to continue their journey, the number of beneficiaries receiving food kits and hot meals doubled in Nariño and Norte de Santander. WFP continues to strengthen capacity-building activities for participants in five employability and entrepreneurship projects in Cali, Medellín, Bucaramanga, Tolima and Arauca as well as in the socioeconomic integration pilot carried out with the Social Protection Unit and the Innovation Hub in Bogotá, Cucuta, Cali and Medellín.
- School Feeding** - In September, WFP provided meals to 80,177 children in La Guajira.
- Mobile Units** - In coordination with the National Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), WFP's Mobile Units reached **18,577 people affected by conflict, 59% of whom were children**.
- Zero Hunger Hub** - WFP's innovation hub has completed the technical capacity phase for 30 startups in its acceleration program. Of these, 15 were selected for financial support to scale their solutions for migrants, returnees, and displaced populations. Additionally, an incubation programme for 150 startups has begun in Bogotá, Medellín and Cali, with boot camps completed and technical advisory ongoing.

Contact information: Sergio Bayona (Sergio.bayona@wfp.org)

Country Director: Nils Grede

For 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)
795.7 m	487.9 m	22.8 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 and Evaluation

- *Migración Colombia* reported a 34% **increase in irregular migration** from Venezuela to Colombia in September compared to August. Regular migration has also risen by over 50%.
- The Colombia Ombudsman's Office has noted a 30% **increase in child recruitment by non-state armed groups** in Cauca, with over 190 cases reported since January. This figure may be higher due to underreporting, as communities fear reprisals.
- As of September 2024, the National Institute of Health has detected **20,156 cases of acute malnutrition** (severe and moderate) **among children under five**, marking a **9% increase** from the same period in 2023. The highest rates are in La Guajira (13%), Bogotá (12%), Antioquia (12%), and Valle del Cauca (6%). The **prevalence of acute malnutrition stands at 0.55 cases per 100 children**.

Challenges

- IDEAM reported low water levels in rivers nationwide. In Amazonas, at least 20,000 people, primarily from indigenous communities, are affected by lowered water levels in the Putumayo, Caquetá and Amazonas River basins.
- Several models predict that the La Niña phenomenon will exacerbate these hazards, with a 71% likelihood of impact in multiple regions over the coming weeks. While in La Mojana WFP is assisting 12,000 beneficiaries across the municipalities of Guaranda, Majagua and Ayapel, the crisis has also spread to nearby municipalities, where 15,000 people are seeking food aid. WFP lacks funding to meet these additional disaster-related needs.

Partnerships

- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Governorate of Antioquia. In the initial phase, this partnership will strengthen school feeding programs and enhance community resilience through local purchases supporting women's cooperatives that produce and sell food in the area.
- On September 18 and 25, the Higher School of Public Administration (ESAP) and WFP held two pre-COP16 events focused on public administration's role in fostering peace with nature. The outcomes highlighted the crucial role of social protection in mitigating climate change shocks and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities by integrating adaptation strategies like Nature-Based Solutions (NbS). Social protection also serves as a pathway to conserving biodiversity and improving community well-being.

Donors

Canada, Colombia, European Union (DG-ECHO), France, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United States of America, private donors. Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, WFP Innovation Accelerator, United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Peacebuilding and SDG Fund.

Stories from the field

- [Learn](#) how WFP is working with the Colombian government to support 9,300 families in five departments through productive units for self-consumption.
- [Discover](#) how WFP is supporting the transformation of territories affected by conflict and climate change through food security and social cohesion projects.