

Interim Country Strategic Plan Revision

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Interim Country Strategic Plan, revision 1

Gender and age marker code: 3

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 March 2023 – 31 December 2025	No change	1 March 2023 – 31 December 2025
Beneficiaries	1,299,995	95,661	1,395,656
Total cost (USD)	569,866,678	- 114,037,790	455,828,888
Transfer	447,688,596	- 98,607,697	349,080,899
Implementation	63,885,586	- 9,061,962	54,823,625
Direct support costs	24,023,460	359,255	24,382,715
Subtotal	535,597,643	- 107,310,404	428,287,239
Indirect support costs	34,269,036	- 6,727,386	27,541,649

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL: RD

1. RATIONALE

1. Fifteen months after operationalizing the ICSP, food security remains a national priority for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereinafter referred to as Venezuela), considering challenges related to the availability of and access to food, among other things. Although the country is in a phase of gradual economic recovery, it has been affected by economic problems and external factors such as rising global food prices, climate risks and global supply chain disruptions, as well as limited access to international markets and investment.
2. Leveraging schools as a key entry point for its food security programmes, WFP managed to gradually scale up its school-based programme geographically, included new beneficiary groups, and expanded its integrated interventions on emergency response, climate shocks, livelihood support, and food assistance to vulnerable households.
3. WFP's scale-up has been more gradual than expected, mainly due to its relatively recent presence in the country. Key efforts were required to consolidate the various interventions in all targeted states, strengthen the capacities of cooperating partners, establish coordination with national institutions, and explore partnerships with food suppliers and service providers to identify the most cost-efficient options to manage rising prices. During the first five months of 2024, WFP reached about half the planned beneficiaries. However, in the second semester of 2024, WFP significantly increased its operational capacity and plans to meet and exceed the planned beneficiaries.

4. This budget revision aligns the ICSP more accurately with WFP's current operational framework in terms of activities, beneficiaries, budget requirements, and available resources¹. It considers implementation adjustments within transfer modalities for 2024 and 2025. Although the required budget has decreased to reflect current needs, the overall number of beneficiaries has increased mainly as a result of incorporating beneficiaries in primary schools. Furthermore, associated costs have been adjusted considering WFP Venezuela's current implementation rates.

2. CHANGES

Strategic orientation

5. There is no change in the strategic orientation.

ICSP outcomes

ICSP Outcome 1

6. Under ICSP Outcome 1, Activity 1, WFP continues to progressively expand the coverage of the school-based programme to assist over 990,000 beneficiaries in ten states by December 2025, through the distribution of food rations in pre-primary, primary and special education schools. The number of beneficiaries has increased with the inclusion of primary schools – a new beneficiary group as of 2024. WFP has adjusted food rations to reflect the current commodity voucher transfer value, introduced a tailored ration for beneficiary group for primary schools, and added Super Cereal to the rations provided to pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls to ensure that the assistance provided meets their nutritional needs. Food requirements were adjusted according to the specific needs of each beneficiary group, particularly pre-primary and primary school groups. WFP also adjusted the number of beneficiaries of food for training activities under this outcome to better reflect implementation figures and funding projections. Hence, the number of men and women above 18 years was reduced.
7. During the first half of 2024 (and following a successful pilot in the State of Falcon in 2023) WFP progressively shifted (where access and infrastructure conditions permitted) from in-kind rations to the use of commodity vouchers to implement onsite meals. The shift was first implemented by providing a food basket which combined in-kind transfers of non-perishable food with commodity vouchers composed of locally produced perishables. As a result, the number of beneficiaries assisted with this transfer modality increased. For the 2024-2025 school year, as of October 2024, the use of commodity vouchers will be further expanded, with the majority of the onsite school meals food basket provided through commodity vouchers.
8. In 2025, WFP plans to further expand the use of commodity vouchers by piloting market-based assistance as the source for take-home rations in two states. This approach will apply both to schools where onsite meals are not feasible and to take-home rations. The initiative aims to support local producers and provide a more diverse food basket, thereby significantly increasing the number of beneficiaries assisted through this transfer modality.

¹ The correct budget figure, as reflected in this budget revision, is USD 569,866,678, rather than the USD 573,785,715 stated in the approved [Venezuela ICSP document \(March 2023 – December 2025\)](#).

- Blanket supplementary feeding for children aged 6 to 36 months with Super Cereal Plus will be maintained as an in-kind food transfer and reduced for both 2024 and 2025 to align with the planned reach of the 6-36-month-old beneficiary population in pre-primary schools.

ICSP Outcome 2

- Under ICSP Outcome 2, Activity 2, the capacity strengthening transfer has been reduced to reflect more moderate funding trends. Investing in this Outcome remains strategically important for WFP to increase implementation levels during 2025.

ICSP Outcome 3

- Under ICSP Outcome 3, Activity 3, WFP will continue to strengthen institutional capacities for emergency preparedness related to natural disasters and climate adaptation. In particular, WFP has consolidated coordination with the Ministry of Environment and established a roadmap to support climate adaptation at the community level. In 2025, WFP will expand its integrated intervention coverage in emergency preparedness and response, resilience, and livelihood diversification for the most vulnerable communities. As a result, WFP plans to increase the beneficiary caseload for its food for training activities. The inclusion of additional communities has increased the number of planned beneficiaries, and the activity statement has been adjusted to reflect this inclusion, considering other adverse factors affecting food security, such as epidemiological situations. The revised activity statement is as follows, with adjustments highlighted in *italics*: "Improve food security and nutrition for women, men, boys, and girls affected by natural disasters *and other adverse factors* and strengthen national capacity to respond to and mitigate the effects of natural disasters and climate change."

ICSP Outcome 4

- Under ICSP Outcome 4, Activity 5, the provision of services to national actors and institutions has been reduced in line with the current implementation experience.
- Transfer modalities: The budget revision does not foresee significant changes in the total tonnage of commodities required from 2024 through December 2025. However, it entails a slight redistribution of the planned coverage across years and assistance modalities, following adjustments in the commodities needed to implement school-based activities, resilience building, and emergency preparedness and response interventions. WFP has also adjusted the amount of commodity vouchers to better reflect planned implementation levels and immediate response food assistance needs. The value voucher will be reduced to a pilot in 2025 to better reflect the feasibility for implementing these modalities according to the country context and identified beneficiary preferences. Capacity strengthening and service delivery transfers have been reduced to reflect more moderate funding trends, staff costs and scope were reduced according to implementation trend.
- Supply chain: there are no changes to the Supply Chain strategy. However, to maximize resources and test the feasibility and effectiveness of different distribution models, a pilot will be launched in 2025, with fully outsourced distribution of all rations in two states through a retailer. The expectation is to reduce operational costs, support the local market, and strengthen the local private sector, in line with the overall Supply Chain strategy, and to continue prioritizing national procurement over international/regional procurement, where the market allows.

15. M&E: There are no changes in the Monitoring and Evaluation strategy. To better estimate the impact of institutional capacity strengthening on climate adaptation, WFP included a new indicator under Output 4:

- "G.10 Number of people benefiting from assets and climate adaptation practices facilitated by WFP's risk management activities".

Beneficiary analysis

16. Under Activity 1, the number of beneficiaries increased due to the inclusion of primary school students as a new beneficiary group.

17. Under Activity 3, the total number of beneficiaries increased due to the expansion of general food distribution, mainly due to the inclusion of beneficiaries assisted with Food for Training.

ICSP Outcome	Activity ²	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total
ICSP 1	1	Current	185,874	125,499	296,639	323,639	931,651
		Increase/decrease	-20,385	-26,302	47,139	62,312	62,764
		Revised	165,489	99,197	343,778	385,951	994,415
ICSP 3	3	Current	62,948	66,578	117,442	147,992	394,960
		Increase/decrease	7,839	8,259	12,461	15,689	44,248
		Revised	70,787	74,837	129,903	163,681	439,208
TOTAL (without overlap)		Current	248,581	191,820	402,087	457,507	1,299,995
		Increase/decrease	-14,388	-19,997	56,342	73,704	95,661
		Revised	234,193	171,823	458,429	531,211	1,395,656

Transfers

18. Table 2: For easy reference, please see the attached Excel file, exported from COMET with detailed rations by ICSP Outcome and modality. The table has too many columns to fit in this document.

	Current budget		Increase/decrease		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	33,980	53,404,016	6,041	6,416,879	40,021	59,820,895
Pulses	30,225	53,966,771	- 1,975	1,227,385	28,250	55,194,156
Oil and Fats	3,972	15,889,352	581	709,367	4,554	16,598,719
Mixed and blended foods	3,020	5,682,233	-885	-1,063,633	2,135	4,618,600
Other	10,913	29,838,149	-3,101	-5,496,497	7,811	24,341,651
TOTAL (food)	82,110	158,780,521	661	1,793,500	82,771	160,574,021
CBT (USD)	-	106,249,576	-	-49,810,392	-	56,439,184
TOTAL (food & CBT USD)	82,110	265,030,097	661	-48,016,892	82,771	217,013,205

3. COST BREAKDOWN

TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)					
WFP strategic outcomes	SO 2	SO 4	SO 1	SO 5	Total
CSP outcomes	ICSP 1	ICSP 2	ICSP 3	ICSP 4	
Focus area	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	Resilience Building	
Transfer	-64,934,413	-8,583,596	-21,814,936	-3,274,752	
Implementation	-3,997,006	-2,440,600	-2,217,641	-406,715	-9,061,962
Direct support costs					359,255
Subtotal					-107,310,404
Indirect support costs					-6,727,386
TOTAL					-114,037,790

TABLE 4: OVERALL ICSP COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)					
WFP strategic outcomes	SO 2	SO 4	SO 1	SO 5	Total
ICSP outcomes	ICSP 1	ICSP 2	ICSP 3	ICSP 4	
Focus area	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	Resilience Building	
Transfer	287,153,637	13,284,945	43,969,804	4,672,513	
Implementation	45,521,852	832,030	7,834,228	635,515	54,823,625
Direct support costs	20,131,361	857,237	3,083,670	310,447	24,382,715
Subtotal	352,806,850	14,974,213	54,887,701	5,618,475	428,287,239
Indirect support costs	22,932,445	973,324	3,567,701	68,180	27,541,649
TOTAL	375,739,295	15,947,537	58,455,401	5,686,655	455,828,888