



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bolivia Country Brief October 2024



October 16th World Food Day with FAO and MDRyT. © WFP

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: **11.3 m (2024)**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

Contact info: wfp.lapaz@wfp.org
Country Director: **Alejandro López-Chicheri**
Further information: [WFP Bolivia](https://www.wfp.org/countries/bolivia)

In Numbers

USD 5.5 m six-month (November 2024 – May 2025) net funding requirements, representing 93 percent of the total.

Operational Updates

- WFP joined the COEN (National Emergency Operating Committee) managed by the VIDECI (Ministry of Defense) to support as a first emergency responder the current multi-hazard emergency declared by the Bolivian Government.
- In response to the wildfires and drought emergency impacting the country, WFP has signed an UN2UN agreement with UNWOMEN to help them supporting 1,250 people (250 women-led household families with indigenous origin) through CBT assistance.
- WFP Bolivia Country Director joined the COP16 in Cali, Colombia, and supported the Ministry of External Relations/the Chancellor of Bolivia with the set-up of a side event in the blue zone to discuss about Food Systems, Biodiversity and Amazonia.
- WFP finalized the Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) process in the Chiquitania area, Ascension de Guarayos, bringing together a plethora of representatives from the municipality as part of its 3-Pronged Approach.
- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS) to reinforce its coordination regarding data analysis, evidence generation and foster knowledge sharing regarding food security and nutrition.
- WFP finalized a national Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) to support the Government collecting information on Food Security and Nutrition with regards to the changing context occurring in Bolivia.

Monitoring

- A Post Distribution Monitoring or PDM was carried out on the field in two municipalities of Oruro. This time it was done face to face, giving the chance to collect more data than on previous PDMs that were done over the phone due to logistics and cost restrictions.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD) as of September 2024	Allocated Contribution (in USD) as of September 2024	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
18.8 m	7.8 m	5.5 m

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

Country 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

Country 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

Country 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

- After previous month cash-based transfer or CBT distributions, a Post Distribution Monitoring or PDM was carried out on the field in two municipalities of Oruro Department. This time it was done face to face giving the chance to collect more data than on previous PDMs that were done over the phone due to logistics and cost restrictions.

Challenges

- Wildfires season in Bolivia came to an end with the worst damage in history to the Amazonian Basin in the country. Latest reports talk about more than 10 million hectares burned a 50% more than 2019 year, the previous worst in record. Nevertheless, drought is still present all around the country having figures of affectation ten time more than the ones related to fires.
- According with Vice ministry of Civil Defence VIDECI, October report, 131 municipalities from all 9 Departments are disaster and 13 in emergency. 289,013 families affected (ten percent more than the previous report dated September 27th) and 110,248 families reporting damages on their livelihoods, 1,105 houses lost in different locations, 253,871 hectares of lost crops (15 percent more than on September 27th).
- Political unrest reflected on blockades lasting three weeks, and still going, in different points over the main road that connects mayor urban areas (La Paz – Cochabamba - Santa Cruz) that conform the industrial and commercial backbone of the country, is affecting goods transportation but mostly fuel movement across the country.
- Inflation rate climbed to 7.9% for October and food inflation alone finished at almost 11.9%, figures. According to WFP Hunger Map data, in October ´s last week, 100,000 people had adopted critical food survival strategies, such as consuming less preferred foods (85%) or reducing the number of meals (61%). This numbers show a notable increase compared to the weeks before the protests, where the figures were 59% and 29%, respectively.

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