



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief October 2024



Families receiving chickens as part of a peace and social cohesion project in Tibú, Norte de Santander © Photo/ WFP Colombia

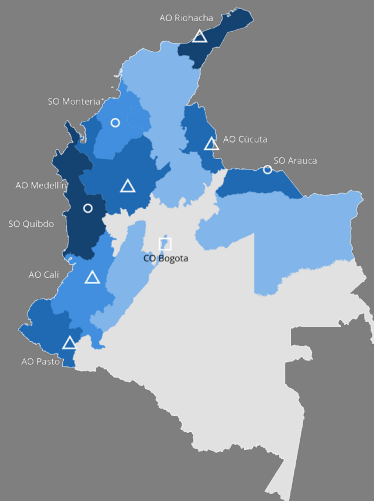
Operational Context

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. 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 October 2024

- More than 20,000
- 10,001 - 20,000
- 5,001 - 10,000
- 1 - 5,000

- Country office
- Area office
- Satellite office



Population: **51.8 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **10.8 percent**

In Numbers

810 mt of food assistance distributed*

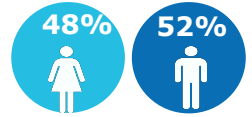
USD 2.31 m cash-based transfers made*

USD 33.6 m six months (November 2024 – April 2025) net funding requirements, representing 43 percent of total needs

256,202 people assisted*

In October 2024

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

In October, WFP reached over **204,844 Colombians** (including returnees, host communities and internally displaced persons - IDPs) as well as **51,358 migrants** across 19 departments. Some of the activities to highlight include:

- Emergency Response - WFP has assisted 101,004 victims of conflict and 16,332 people affected by weather-related events** as the humanitarian situation in Colombia continues to deteriorate in several regions due to escalating armed conflict and increased rainfall leading to floods and loss of livelihoods. The operation started distributing in-kind food assistance to about 30,000 victims of conflict in Bolívar, Chocó, Casanare, Vichada, Huila, Nariño and Valle del Cauca.
- Livelihoods and Resilience** – WFP continued the implementation of early recovery projects in Arauca, Valle del Cauca, Norte de Santander, Córdoba, Chocó, and Magdalena, reaching about 2,900 people. In addition, the operation started targeting possible beneficiaries for early recovery interventions in La Guajira and Putumayo expected to begin in January 2025.
- Migration** – In October, WFP finalized the provision of boots made by ex-combatants to migrants in transit in Norte de Santander, with around 1,600 pairs distributed. Distributions continue in Nariño with 513 pairs of boots provided in October. WFP is phasing out the community kitchen for migrants in transit in Berlin, Norte de Santander, as the shelter closed on October 1st. WFP is now providing only lunch in the community kitchen which is expected to close at the end of January 2024.
- School Feeding** – In October, WFP provided school meals to 79,858 children in La Guajira.
- The Mobile Units project, which is coordinated with the National Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), reached **19,609 people affected by conflict, 58% of the beneficiaries were children.**
- Nutrition** – In October, WFP continued providing food and nutritional assistance to 101 people living with or at risk of HIV and their families in Buenaventura, Cauca. WFP also strengthened capacities by training beneficiaries on business plans development, GBV prevention and awareness, and good eating habits.

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Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
795.7 m	490.2 m	33.6 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

- According to OCHA, between January and September **171,700 people were forcibly displaced, representing an increase of 269% in comparison to the same period in 2023**. Also, 104,800 people were confined with an overall increase of 80% compared to same period in 2023. Moreover, **224,600 people** were affected by weather-related-events, representing an increase of **51%** in comparison to the previous year.
- The R4V platform has recently published the Refugee Migrant Needs Assessment (RMNA) for 2024. **Results show that 1.98 million migrants, returnees and host communities need humanitarian assistance**, the highest number of any country in the Latin American region. Of those, **1.26 million (64%)** need emergency food assistance and an additional **152 thousand** need nutrition assistance.

Challenges

- Severe rainfall has affected several regions of the country, including La Guajira and Chocó departments, where WFP maintains operations. WFP is actively coordinating efforts alongside the government and other humanitarian agencies to respond to the emergency. However, disaster response continues to be underfunded. This will hamper WFP’s ability to provide life-saving assistance to affected communities.
- Several models indicate that La Niña phenomenon will exacerbate these hazards, with an 80% probability that extreme weather conditions will affect various regions in the coming weeks. The IDEAM issued a red level alert for 19 departments due to intense rainfalls.

Partnerships

- During the COP 16, WFP shared the achievements and lessons learned from the Binational Adaptation Project along the Colombia-Ecuador border. Also, WFP officially launched the new project “Weaving of Livelihoods and Life: Improving resilience to Climate Change of Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon Rainforest.” Funded by the Government of Canada, the project will be implemented for 5 years reaching 12,000 beneficiaries in three departments.
- WFP signed agreements with the governments of Antioquia and Atlántico to jointly strengthen food and nutrition security for vulnerable populations in these departments, advancing efforts toward the progressive fulfilment of the Human Right to Food.
- WFP received USD 113,263 from Stop Hunger for Colombia’s school feeding programme. Also, WFP received USD 43,014 in flexible funding through the Share the Meal campaign for 2024.

Donors

Canada, Colombia, European Union (DG-ECHO), France, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea, 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, the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Peacebuilding and the SDG Fund.

Stories from the field

- [Watch](#) the launch of the project “Weaving of Livelihoods and Life: Improving resilience to Climate Change of Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon Rainforest of Colombia,” funded by Canada, as part of the COP-16 in Cali.
- [Discover](#) how WFP is supporting rural communities thanks to the project *Oportunidades Pacíficas - Mujeres Rurales*, funded by KOICA.