



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

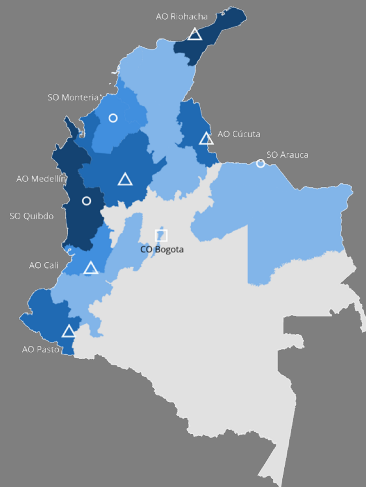
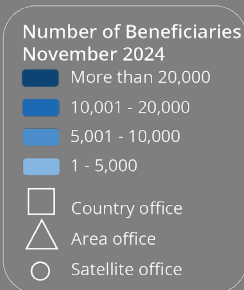
# WFP Colombia Country Brief November 2024



WFP staff delivers food assistance to isolated communities in La Guajira affected by flooding © 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).



Population: **51.8 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **10.8 percent**

## In Numbers

**777 mt** of food assistance distributed\*

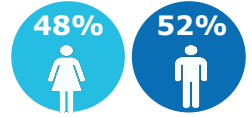
**USD 2.78 m** cash-based transfers made\*

**USD 42.0 m** six months (December 2024 – May 2025) net funding requirements, representing 51 percent of total needs

**227,200 people** assisted\*

In November 2024

\*Preliminary figures



## Operational Updates

In November, WFP reached over **176,077 Colombians** (including returnees, host communities and internally displaced persons - IDPs) as well as **51,123 migrants** across 18 departments. Some of the activities to highlight include:

- **Emergency Response** - WFP has assisted **70,078 victims of conflict and 24,006 people affected by weather-related events**. WFP operations in response to extreme flooding continue in La Guajira and Chocó, where more than 414,950 people have been affected. **In La Guajira, WFP has resorted to maritime deliveries reaching 12,000 people** through the first out of three in-kind assistance distributions in four isolated communities. Phase 2 of the distribution of humanitarian assistance through the naval vessel is underway. With the support of the Government of La Guajira, **WFP will provide additional 10,000 rations**. The second round also includes the distribution of humanitarian items provided by the National Disaster Risk Management Unit, Family Welfare Institute, and Uribia Municipality to ensure a multisector response.
- **Climate Change Adaptation** - WFP finalized the binational climate change adaptation project in border communities with Ecuador. **Among the most outstanding achievements were the restoration of 4,700 hectares of mangroves and 14,800 hectares of tropical rainforest**, contributing to the recovery of ecosystems. **More than 24,000 people participated in training sessions on climate change**, gender, risk management, and food security, with 53% female participation. These results reflect the project's success in strengthening local capacity to face the challenges of climate change, improve food security and manage natural resources more sustainably.
- **Migration** - WFP finalised the distribution of 895 kits of boots and socks to migrants in transit in Nariño. This was the last batch of a total of 2,500 kits that were manufactured by a cooperative of peace signatories, linking WFP's work on livelihoods with the migration response. WFP initiated cash transfers for the acquisition of assets to strengthen migrant population entrepreneurship in Bucaramanga, Arauca, Cali, Cucuta, and Medellin.
- **School Feeding** - In November, WFP reached 74,234 children in La Guajira. The operation finalized the school meal programme for 2024, reaching a total of 82,591 children.
- The Mobile Units project, which is coordinated with the National Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), reached **29,824 people affected by conflict, 62% of the beneficiaries were children**.

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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	491.9 m	42.0m

### 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

- WFP carried a massive messaging pilot using RapidPro to monitor the distribution of cash for socioeconomic integration projects for migrants. This tool was used to send 189 text messages that included a perception and satisfaction survey on the assistance provided. As a result, 32 completed surveys were received which included thank you notes, confirmation of money withdrawal, and its use in strengthening migrant entrepreneurs.
- WFP carried out a 72-hour Emergency Food Security Assessment to evaluate the evolving needs in La Guajira and Chocó. Results findings indicate that over 203,000 people need urgent humanitarian assistance.

## Challenges

- Challenges persist due to adverse conditions and funding constraints for disaster response in La Guajira and Chocó, as entire communities have been isolated, livelihoods destroyed, and access to and availability of food interrupted. Continuous rains have created significant logistical challenges, affecting road access to loading ports as well as the final delivery of food from ports to communities.
- WFP has had to prioritize assistance in affected areas, funds are not sufficient and people in extremely vulnerable situations are being excluded from much needed assistance. While intense rains and flooding continue to devastate the country, particularly the Northeast, the country is facing escalating violence nationwide, as of November 2024, 481,900 people have been affected by violence.

## Partnerships

- On Tuesday, November 26, WFP and the Disaster and Risk Management Unit (UNGRD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate humanitarian assistance, enhance technical capacities, strengthen risk management efforts, and consolidate joint initiatives. This step is key to supporting the response to the current humanitarian emergency in the country.
- WFP signed a cooperating agreement with the Ministry of Mines for the implementation of an employability and resilience project in Nariño. The project will benefit about 500 people in 11 months.

## 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](#) how WFP is distributing humanitarian assistance in La Guajira to people affected by flooding.
- [Discover](#) how WFP support humanitarian organizations, national government and local governments through logistics and transport services to reach people in remote places and save lives.