



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief

January 2025



WFP Colombia personnel with the National Government loading and delivering food in areas affected by the floods in La Guajira. © Photo/WFP Colombia

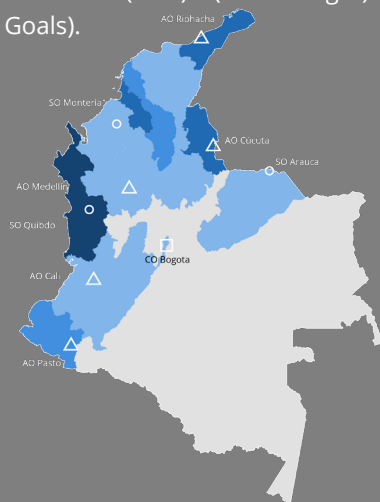
Operational Context

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). Furthermore, 37% of migrants with the intention to stay in Colombia are food insecure, while 72% of migrants in transit continue to remain food insecure. 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, 9.1 million people need humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 2025). 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, 2024) 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 January 2025

- 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

1,100 mt of food assistance distributed*

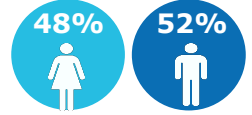
USD 9.28 million cash-based transfers made*

USD 50.5 million six months (February – July 2025) net funding requirements, representing 56 percent of total needs

171,351 people assisted*

In January 2025

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

WFP officially began the implementation of its new **Country Strategic Plan 2025-2028, aiming to reach 3.97 million people** in four years.

In January, the operation reached over **136,000 Colombians** (including returnees, host communities and internally displaced persons - IDPs) and **34,400 migrants** across 16 departments. Some of the activities to highlight include:

- **Emergency Response** - WFP assisted **99,000 victims of conflict and 17,300 people affected by weather-related events**. WFP operations in response to violence and weather events continued in Chocó, Cauca, and Sucre. A new emergency response began in Norte de Santander, where more than 90,000 people have been affected by rising violence. **In Chocó, WFP reached 94,000 people**, finalizing the three-months intervention, additional distributions will be carried out in February and March targeting 90,000 people that continue to be affected by confinement and displacement. **In Norte de Santander, WFP reached more than 2,000 confined and displaced individuals** with in-kind food assistance in two municipalities and plans to reach about 10,000 additional people affected in February.
- **Livelihoods and Resilience** - WFP advanced in the planning phase of the Rural Women Moving Forward project, conducting a capacity assessment exercise for participating organizations. The operation finalized the targeting of the beneficiaries and call for proposals were made for the selection of the cooperating partner and establishment of the baseline survey, which is key for measuring the impact of the project.
- **Migration** - WFP relocated a community kitchen in Nariño due to the closure of a shelter provided by another humanitarian agency. WFP witnessed a significant reduction in migration flows, affecting the number of people attended the community kitchen and food kit distribution points.
- **Nutrition** - WFP finalized the third redemption of vouchers for 309 families with members at risk of malnutrition (1,069 people) in Chocó. WFP also continued nutritional screening sessions for children under 5 years and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls. The process of preparing business plans for 166 small businesses was completed and the requirements for seed capital inputs were consolidated.
- The Mobile Units project, coordinated with the National Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), reached **25,200 people affected by conflict. 59% of the beneficiaries were children**. 17 Mobile Units from different regions of the country were mobilized to Norte de Santander to support the humanitarian response to the emergency in the Catatumbo region, providing comprehensive care to 8,800 victims of forced displacement.

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Country Strategic Plan (2025-2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	(in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
592.6 m	41.6 m		50.5 m

SDG 2 - Target 1: Access to Food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure and crisis-affected populations in Colombia meet their urgent food, nutrition and other essential needs and have the capacity and resources to prepare for, anticipate, respond to and recover from shocks, in the context of a more secure, inclusive and peaceful country

- Activities:**
- Provide unconditional food assistance to meet the basic needs of people exposed to or affected by extreme weather events, displaced or confined communities, victims of conflict and ex-combatants in the process of social and economic reintegration, migrants and host communities in both rural and urban areas.
 - Provide country capacity strengthening to communities and government institutions for risk preparedness and management.

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations in rural and urban areas in Colombia have improved food security, nutrition, health and education; access enhanced school feeding programmes; and benefit from strengthened social protection systems.

- Activities:**
- Strengthen social protection institutions and systems at the national and local levels, to strengthen their capacity in designing, implementing and monitoring programmes and policies.
 - Support the Government in implementing the school feeding programme in prioritized municipalities.
 - Reinforce national strategies and interventions that provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance and complementary feeding products to prevent malnutrition.

SDG 2 - Target 4: Sustainable Food systems

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable and food-insecure populations including displaced people and victims of conflict, people engaged in the peace process, migrants, returnees and host communities and people affected by climate-related and other shocks and stressors, improve their adaptive capacities, livelihoods and socioeconomic inclusion and benefit from resilient, sustainable and inclusive food systems.

- Activities:**
- Strengthen the capacities of national and local institutions, communities and relevant food system actors to develop and implement innovative strategies to address the challenges of climate change, ecosystem restoration and the management of resilience food systems.
 - Provide technical assistance to communities vulnerable to climate change and other stressors, with a focus on Indigenous and Afro-descendant people, women and young people.
 - Develop asset building programmes for smallholder farmers and other key food system actors, focusing on rural women producers

SDG 17 - Target 8: Global Partnership

Strategic Outcome 4: Government institutions, civil society and humanitarian and development partners in Colombia receive services that enable them to achieve their programmatic objectives effectively and efficiently

- Activities:**
- Provide services requested by government institutions and humanitarian and development actors, including capacity strengthening where applicable.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- WFP’s monitoring shows that 97 percent of migrants in transit that received food kits and boots were satisfied with the assistance, highlighting the usefulness during their journey.
- Furthermore, WFP’s socioeconomic integration programs have had a positive impact in the communities. 89 percent of beneficiaries rated the support as good and useful for improving their entrepreneurial and employability skills. Also, about 33 percent of people that participated in employment capacity trainings were able to find a job within the next three months, especially in the sales, cooking, and logistics sectors. In the case of entrepreneurship activities, WFP’s analysis found that at the end of programme implementation 86 percent of the beneficiaries had functioning businesses and generated income
- According to OCHA, in 2024 180,000 people were forcibly displaced, representing an increase of 185% in comparison to 2023. Also, 138,400 people were confined with an overall increase of 57% compared to the previous year. Moreover, 2 million people were affected by weather-related-events, representing an increase of 81% in comparison to 2023.

Challenges

- Challenges persist due to adverse conditions and funding constraints for disaster and conflict response in La Guajira, Chocó and Norte de Santander as entire communities have been displaced and confined, livelihoods destroyed, and access to and availability of food interrupted. Rising conflict have created significant logistical challenges, affected access to affected communities, especially in rural areas.
- As available funds are not sufficient, WFP had to prioritize assistance in affected areas, and people in extremely vulnerable situations are being excluded from much needed assistance.

Partnerships

- The Government of Colombia, through the Certified Territorial Entities of La Guajira and Maicao has contributed USD 11.2 million to the School Feeding Program. This will allow WFP to reach about 73,800 children in 2025. WFP will further reach about 7,300 migrant children complementing the government’s programme with internal funds.
- WFP continues its efforts through individual contributions. By the end of 2024 the operation received USD 55,856 through [the Share the Meal initiative](#). This funding will enable the operation to cover underfunded activities in 2025.

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

- [Explore](#) how education changes lives throughout the WFP School Feeding Programme.
- [Discover](#) how WFP and partners in coordination with local authorities provide humanitarian assistance to people affected by floods in the department of Chocó.
- [Learn](#) how WFP supports socioeconomic integration of migrant women with a gender focus.