



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief

February 2025

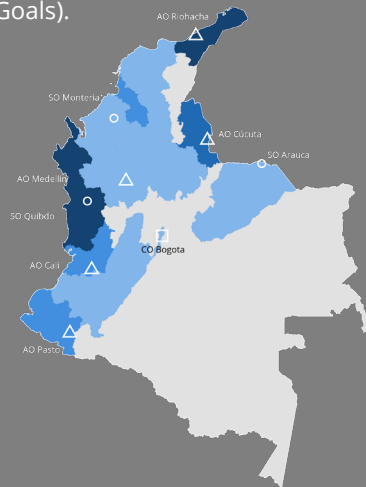
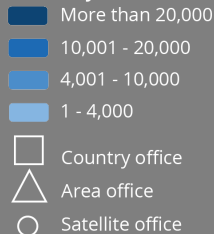


A student girl in La Guajira who benefits from the School Feeding Programme implemented by WFP on behalf of the Colombian Government. © Photo/ WFP Colombia

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, 2.8 million migrants are currently reported (Colombian Government, 2025), 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 February 2025



Population: **51.8 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **10.8 percent**

In Numbers

817 mt of food assistance distributed*

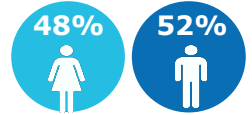
USD 1.80 million cash-based transfers made*

USD 44.6 million six months (March – August 2025) net funding requirements, representing 49 percent of total needs

211,173 people assisted*

In February 2025

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

In February, WFP reached over **170,000 Colombians** (including returnees, host communities and internally displaced persons - IDPs) and **40,000 migrants** across 17 departments. Some of the activities to highlight include:

- **Emergency Response - WFP assisted over 68,000 victims of conflict and 23,000 people affected by weather-related events.** WFP operations in response to violence and weather events continued in Chocó, La Guajira, and Norte de Santander. **In Chocó, WFP reached 59,000 people**, finalizing the three-months intervention in affected municipalities affected by confinement and mass internal displacement. **In Norte de Santander, WFP reached about 7,000 new beneficiaries** affected by displacement and confinement in three municipalities. WFP further reached 2,200 people through early recovery of livelihoods in six departments.
- **Livelihoods and Resilience** – WFP's feeding peace fund launched two calls for proposals to select productive initiatives for 11 municipalities in Antioquia, Cesar, Cundinamarca, La Guajira, and Norte de Santander, in collaboration with the Colombian government. In the process, WFP selected 24 organizations out of 91 applications. As of February, 12 entities are in the implementation phase, while the other 12 are in formalizing preparation process. These initiatives will benefit a total of 1,341 people, of whom 49% are peace signatories.
- **Migration** – In February, WFP reached 9,400 new beneficiaries in the migration response. WFP closed the community kitchen in the Temporary Migrant Care Center in Norte de Santander due to the closure of several interventions by other humanitarian actors. Additionally, the Reina Isabella Community Kitchen in Nariño was moved to Las Lajas Ipiales due to closure of humanitarian spaces.
- **School Feeding** – WFP started the implementation of its School Feeding Programme in La Guajira for 2025, reaching more than **65,000 children** (including 5,722 migrants) in **13 municipalities**. The operation will last until the end of the school year in November.
- The Mobile Units project, coordinated with the National Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), reached **28,300 people affected by conflict and weather-related events. 57% of the beneficiaries were children.** 18 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 6,950 victims of forced displacement mostly children.

Contact information: Sergio Bayona (sergio.bayona@wfp.org)

Country Director: Nils Grede

For further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Colombia

Country Strategic Plan (2025-2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
592.6 m	73.7 m	44.6 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

- The humanitarian emergency in the Catatumbo region of Norte de Santander continues to worsen, reaching 92,000 people affected by conflict by the end of February. Clashes between ELN and FARC dissident factions continue leading to the displacement of 56,000 people and more than 36,000 persons confined. This emergency has become one of the worst humanitarian crises in the last 28 years. Restrictions to humanitarian assistance persist in several municipalities, making it difficult for humanitarian agencies to provide assistance for confined communities.
- According to OCHA analysis, the coming rainy season and the probability of the development of La Niña phenomenon could potentially impact about 1 million people in 13 departments. Models from the Colombian Institute of Meteorology and Environmental Studies indicate that March will have high precipitation levels, especially in the Caribbean, Orinoco, Pacific, and Andean regions. High precipitation levels could lead to floods and sudden increases, leading to crop and livestock losses, destruction of transport infrastructure, and less availability of food.

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.
- Increasing violence and humanitarian restriction access continue in the Cauca department, affecting several UN and other humanitarian agencies. As a result, WFP postponed in-kind food distributions for people affected by conflict in the El Plateado municipality of the department of Cauca.

Partnerships

- WFP signed two Memorandum of Understanding with the Governorship of Cauca and the Municipality of Cucuta to coordinate efforts aiming to improve food and nutrition security and advance in the implementation of Human Right to Food policy.
- In February, WFP led a workshop to facilitate discussions and coordination to advance the territorial implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and ensure alignment with local priorities and fostering synergies between UN agencies and government institutions.
- A donor mission was carried out in La Guajira, with the participation of representatives from Germany, Australia, Canada, Ireland, France, and Switzerland. The mission aimed to strengthen partnerships and assess ongoing initiatives to enhance food security, nutrition, and resilience.

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

- [Discover](#) how WFP coordinates with local governments to protect ecosystems and build resilience in the Amazonas department.
- [Watch](#) how WFP support rural women in Nariño and transforms communities with sustainable agricultural and infrastructure projects.