



World Food Programme

# 13 JOURNEYS OF CHANGE

WFP in Latin America and the Caribbean





# 2024 in numbers

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

12 country offices and 1 multi-country office in the Caribbean supporting 22 countries and territories

8.1M people reached with life-saving and life-changing food assistance

51% of people were women and girls

412k assisted people living with disabilities

79k metric tons of food distributed

People reached by programme areas:

- 3.7M school-based programmes
- 3.7M unconditional resources transfers
- 347k malnutrition prevention programme
- 240k asset creation and livelihoods
- 133k action to protect against climate shocks
- 14k smallholder agricultural market support




FIND THE FULL  
2024 ANNUAL  
COUNTRY REPORTS  
HERE

# 13 stories of lives changed in 2024


	04	<b>WFP BOLIVIA</b>
	08	<b>WFP CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY</b>
	12	<b>WFP COLOMBIA</b>
	16	<b>WFP CUBA</b>
	20	<b>WFP DOMINICAN REPUBLIC</b>
	24	<b>WFP ECUADOR</b>
	28	<b>WFP EL SALVADOR</b>
	32	<b>WFP GUATEMALA</b>
	36	<b>WFP HAITI</b>
	40	<b>WFP HONDURAS</b>
	44	<b>WFP NICARAGUA</b>
	48	<b>WFP PERU</b>
	52	<b>WFP VENEZUELA</b>


# Food and culture in Bolivia

## BOLIVIA IN NUMBERS

 Indigenous Peoples, Ancestral Knowledge, Natural Flavors **Summit** was held in Cochabamba with more than a hundred participants sharing experiences.

**FFA** **45,945** people in rural areas received USD **967,486** through Food Assistance for Assets.

 **26,010** people received emergency cash transfers in response to wildfire.

 **14,779** people in **7** municipalities in the Highlands indirectly benefitted from drought-response assistance.



**FIND THE FULL  
2024 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT  
HERE**

[WEB](#) | [PDF](#)



WFP/Elio Rujano

# Food and culture in Bolivia



## CULTURAL IDENTITY: FUNDAMENTAL PILLAR OF FOOD SYSTEMS

“The lake is our **Qochamama** (mother water)”, says Germán Choque, a respected elder of the Uru Indigenous Nation. “We are fishermen, and we feed ourselves with fish and more than 30 species of birds that used to come to the lake”, he states, as his gaze sweeps over the grey space once covered by Lake Poopó. With its incredible ecological diversity, Bolivia offers a unique lens through which to understand food systems, inviting us to discover a perspective deeply rooted in cultural identities, ancestral knowledge, and the biodiversity of the territories. The country is home to 36 Indigenous Nations and Peoples, each with its relationship with food and land, enriching culinary traditions and their connection to nature.

Bolivia’s diverse ecosystems have great potential for sustainable food systems; however, small rural farmers, particularly Indigenous women, remain the most vulnerable. Dependent on subsistence agriculture, they face increasing food insecurity, aggravated by the effects of climate change. They often rely on traditional farming practices that are threatened by changes in climate, and biodiversity loss.

In this context, in a spirit of collaboration, WFP has been fostering spaces for dialogue that highlight the food heritage of Indigenous Nations. These spaces recognize that local foods, agricultural practices, and traditional knowledge are crucial for environmental and cultural preservation and strengthening food security. Key regional, national, and international actors involved in gastronomy, climate change, and food production participate in these discussions, with Indigenous representatives taking centre stage. The shared themes of diverse foods, vibrant colours, flavours, and aromas emerge from the experiences of men and women who are responsible for their families’ nutrition, while also facing significant challenges.

As Germán from the Uru Nation expresses pride in basing his diet on local foods like fish, Teodora Alá from the Quechua Nation highlights the importance of her region’s traditional diet. “Our diet is rooted in seasonal and festive foods. Some foods, such as **Achacana**, an edible cactus native to the Andean region that grows in rocky soils at altitudes between 3,400-4,100 m above sea level, are particularly important during drought or frosts. This resilient plant thrives in extreme climates and becomes a vital source of nutrition when potato or vegetable harvests are low,” she explains.

Germán is one of **71,955** people reached by WFP Bolivia



## TO SHARE CULTURE IS TO SHARE FOOD

In 2024, the First Plurinational Summit: Food Systems, Indigenous Peoples, Ancestral Knowledge, Natural Flavors in Cochabamba brought together over 30 Indigenous Nations and Peoples to discuss local experiences related to food systems and actions taken from the territories to strengthen the resilience of Indigenous communities. The Summit promoted collaboration on urgent issues such as food sustainability, climate change adaptation, and the commercialization of traditional foods. Discussions focused on how identifying local food heritage, bioindicators, climate risk management, and digital tools can help Indigenous communities improve family nutrition and integrate their food products into national and international markets, celebrating local gastronomy and its potential.

Participants shared dishes made with unique ingredients like quinoa, native potatoes, and native fish species, showing how traditional foods can nourish both body and spirit. Dayana Angola from the Afro-Bolivian community notes that her culture, known for its dances, links rhythms with flavours like chocolate, racacha, and coffee, echoing the importance of music. Germán Choque highlighted how Uru melodies sung by children in schools reinforce the connection between the population and fishing activities. Despite the ecological crisis, the community’s resilience remains strong, and they are rebuilding their food systems, including fish farming projects by WFP.

In 2024, a significant increase in school enrolment was recorded in Uru communities, signalling community revitalization. According to the director of the Puñaca Tinta Educational Unit, many families have returned to the area, supported by WFP initiatives providing access to water for consumption and irrigation. “With water and solar tents, my grandchildren can now eat vegetables at school.” emphasized Germán.

The Summit concluded with the Manifesto on Food Systems and Indigenous Peoples, framed within the Nationally Determined Contributions, setting out principles to promote food security, sustainability, and preservation of traditional knowledge. Looking ahead, the event strengthened the movement to integrate Indigenous food systems into national food policy, highlighting their role in building resilient and sustainable food futures.

“After many years, we can eat our ancestral food again: fish, as was our custom, thanks to the fish farms built by WFP.”

- Germán Choque, Director of the Puñaca Tinta

Indigenous communities in Bolivia have always been guardians of the land, protectors of biodiversity, and custodians of valuable ancestral knowledge. By recognizing their contributions to food security and the importance of traditional food systems, Bolivia is making significant strides toward a more inclusive and sustainable food system for all its citizens.

# WFP sparks hope after Beryl

## CARIBBEAN MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICE IN NUMBERS

-  **1.5 million** men, women, boys and girls benefitted from strengthened institutional capacity in social protection and disaster management.
-  WFP distributed **63** metric tons of pre-positioned food to disaster-affected people.
-  **1,465** metric tons of cargo transported for emergency response in Grenada, Jamaica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
-  WFP and Saint Lucia's government launched a pioneering anticipatory hurricane action system.



**FIND THE FULL  
2024 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT  
HERE**

[WEB](#) | [PDF](#)



WFP/Kaneal Gayle

# WFP sparks hope after Beryl

Sporting his iconic pirate hat, 58-year-old tour guide Coris Dember – better known as Captain Harris to his fans – has long been a colourful fixture among local residents and foreign visitors in tiny Union Island, where he lives.



WFP/Bryanna Hadaway

Union Island is one of the many islands that make up **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**.

“I wanted to be a pirate so the guests could have a laugh,” says Dember of his boat tours around his native St Vincent and the Grenadines - themed after the swashbuckling Pirates of the Caribbean movie series filmed in the area. “I’ve always recognized myself as Captain Harris.”

In July 2024, his sunny slice of paradise was left a tangled mess of flattened houses, uprooted trees, and downed power lines—the vestiges of **Hurricane Beryl**, which barreled through parts of the Caribbean and coastal United States.

The most powerful July hurricane on record, the storm demolished **90** percent of Union Island’s buildings.

“Everyone’s place was totally destroyed,” Dember says. “It’s amazing. I never expected something like that.”

On Mayreau, another of the islands that make up Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Jady Forde described Beryl’s impact, saying, **“I don’t know how to explain it, but I know for a fact that it won’t be forgotten. When I saw the island, it was a strange place to me; where there were houses, everything had disappeared.”**

They both received World Food Programme (WFP) **food kits** just days after the storm pummeled the region.

Packed with tuna, peas, beans, rice, oil and corned beef, the kits provided them with ten days’ worth of food - and helped them stay positive as they awaited additional help and began cleaning up the hurricane’s debris.



WFP/Bryanna Hadaway

## JADY RECALLED THE JOY OF HER FAMILY AS THEY ATE THE FIRST MEAL PREPARED FROM THE FOOD KITS.

This was despite standing in the waters of a flooded kitchen to do the cooking. In the days after, those food kits were critical to keep spirits positive as they put the pieces of their lives back together.

With Beryl’s crippling impact felt across the Caribbean, WFP reached thousands of affected people with food and cash assistance. People were able to enjoy nutritious meals and address critical needs such as shelter with the support they received. Also, WFP telecommunications teams assisted with much-needed connectivity, allowing people to share messages and hope with loved ones elsewhere. WFP partnered with governments and humanitarian actors to provide needed power and streamline logistics to access and deliver relief items where they were most needed.

For many like Dember, it will be hard to forget the hurricane’s fury.

“I saw one of my brothers hanging onto a window,” Dember recalls **surviving Beryl’s 210 km/h winds** that tore through the Grenadines. “The whole house’s contents started going up and whirling into space because of the winds. It was the first time I’d seen that in my life.”

When the winds lightened up, sheets of rain beat down. “Inside the house, it was like a blender full of dirt and grass,” Dember says. “Everything was totally destroyed.”

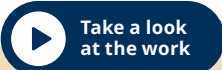
He managed to take his 84-year-old mother to shelter at an Anglican church rectory - one of the few buildings left standing. He is grateful his family is still alive.

Before the storm, Jady was a budding entrepreneur selling sweet treats to locals and tourists. “People on the island used to buy from me. Now, I don’t expect them to because tourism is our main income here in Mayreau, and with the business places being blown away, nothing has been operating.

The storm pummeled the region’s key fishing and tourism sectors, which many people depend on. “I feel very shaken,” Dember says. There is massive work ahead to rebuild and repair, including the destroyed motors of his blue and white tour boat.

While the physical debris has been cleared, life on Union Island and Mayreau still bears the scars of Hurricane Beryl. Homes without roofs and vegetation are slowly coming back, but many people still lack regular work. With reconstruction underway, Forde and Dember are both especially hopeful for renewed activity in the tourism sector.





Dember is eager to resume his Captain Harris identity. “I’m looking forward to taking people around the Grenadines and show them our hospitality,” he says. “They’ll love to see I’m back on the top again.”



Dember is one of **26,764** people reached by WFP in the Caribbean in 2024

# A commitment to saving and changing lives in La Guajira

## COLOMBIA IN NUMBERS

-  Over **1,000** metric tons of humanitarian assistance were mobilized by WFP's logistics service provision project in the Pacific region.
-  **230,772** migrants, returnees, and host communities assisted in 15 departments.
-  WFP reached over **68,000** children through the regular school feeding programme in La Guajira.
-  **1,236** people were reached with prevention of malnutrition initiatives; **62** percent of whom were children.



**FIND THE FULL  
2024 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT  
HERE**

[WEB](#) | [PDF](#)



WFP/Daniel Torres

# A commitment to saving and changing lives in La Guajira

When the rains came to La Alta Guajira, life as Juan Epiayu knew it was swept away. Nestled in the remote northernmost tip of Colombia, this arid region bordering Venezuela turned into a landscape of broken roads and flooded homes.

"Food is scarce," Juan shares, leaning on his crutches while waiting for an emergency food basket from the World Food Programme (WFP). "The trucks bringing supplies take too long or don't arrive. Our house is made of clay, and the roof collapsed. Now the floodwaters are melting the walls."

Juan, who lost a leg to illness, is one of 22,000 people WFP reached through an emergency response that has become a lifeline for the Wayuu people. Intense rains in November 2024 left thousands stranded, their livelihoods washed away by floods. Together with the Colombian government, UN agencies, and the local government in La Guajira, WFP acted swiftly to deliver food and restore hope in a place where crisis feels constant.

La Guajira, marked by its stunning desert landscapes and Wayuu culture, also bears Colombia's highest rate of food insecurity.

A recent WFP report revealed that 59 percent of its population struggles to meet their basic food needs. With temperatures soaring to 40°C and water in scarce supply, farming is nearly impossible. For many, daily survival hinges on external support.

This is the backdrop for Sara Silva's work. A **WFP field monitor and proud Wayuu woman**, Sara knows her community's struggles firsthand. "In La Guajira, there's no such thing as normal. If it's not droughts, it's floods," she says. Fluent in Wayuunaiki, Sara connects with communities in ways that go beyond words. "Being Wayuu means the people trust me, and I carry that responsibility with pride. I'm here to help."



WFP/Daniel Torres



WFP/Daniel Torres

"Being Wayuu means the people trust me, and I carry that responsibility with pride. I'm here to help."

- Sara Silva, WFP field monitor and proud Wayuu woman

WFP staff like Sara are central to the agency's mission to save and change lives. Her dedication was on full display during November's floods. As roads became impassable, she spent 12 days circling the peninsula by boat, delivering food to families like Juan's. Her commitment exemplifies WFP's mission: saving lives while restoring dignity. "For me, it's about bringing smiles to people's faces—the mothers, the children. This is my way of giving back to my homeland."



WFP/Daniel Torres

WFP's work in La Guajira spans emergency responses to climate shocks, support for migrants and host communities, peacebuilding initiatives, and early recovery programs. The national School Feeding Programme, a cornerstone of WFP's operations, benefits **63** percent of participants in the region and is tailored to Indigenous peoples' and migrants' needs. Between January and October 2024, WFP reached **127,000** people through school meals, emergency food assistance, livelihood support, and nutritional training to improve diets.

## COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL PARTNERS IS KEY

Collaboration with local partners is key to these achievements. Together with the local government, WFP established the Food Security Fund, an initiative designed to guarantee the right to food while strengthening local capacity. The fund supports school feeding programs, improves emergency response, and invests in water access and sustainable livelihoods.

For Juan, WFP's commitment means more than just food—it's a chance to rebuild after disaster. In a region where the odds are often stacked against them, the people of La Guajira find hope in the shared goal of a future free from hunger.







Juan is one of **722,677** people reached by WFP Colombia in 2024



# Emergency response in Guantánamo

## CUBA IN NUMBERS

-  **1,068,076** people in shock affected areas and living in vulnerable conditions received food assistance.
-  **3,259** mt of food distributed to shock-affected and people in vulnerable conditions in **15** provinces.
-  **141,341** children (6-36 months) and **8,113** elderly people received micronutrient powders to help improve their nutritional status.
-  **23,838** people benefitted from locally produced food and capacity-strengthening activities aimed at building more resilient local food systems.



**FIND THE FULL  
2024 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT  
HERE**

[WEB](#) | [PDF](#)



WFP/Norberto Roll

# Emergency response in Guantánamo

When floodwaters began rising in her home, Arys Santos felt helpless. **“I called my children to tell them I was drowning, that I was losing everything,”** she recalled. Alongside her husband, she swam to the roof of their house, where they waited in darkness for four hours until neighbours arrived at dawn with ropes to pull them to safety.

Orbis Enrique Estévez, whose two-story house became a lifeline for his community, waded into the surging floodwaters to rescue neighbours. **“I helped about 30 people,”** he said.

For Sandra Céspedes, the losses were staggering. **“Everything was gone—mattresses, TV, kitchen utensils. Even the food was ruined. When you’re trying to survive, you don’t think about food,”** she said.



WFP/Yursys Miranda

These are just three of the countless stories from Guantánamo, Cuba, where Hurricane Oscar struck on October 20th.

The storm left eight people dead and devastated the eastern municipalities of Baracoa, San Antonio del Sur, Imías, and Maisí.

Thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed, leaving entire communities reeling<sup>1</sup>.

Norberto Roll has spent 17 years as a field monitor for the World Food Programme (WFP) in Guantánamo, but the aftermath of Hurricane Oscar was unlike anything he had experienced. **“Reaching the disaster site and seeing the extent of the damage was incredibly tough,”** he said.

**“The last one was the hardest—the current was so strong; I was scared for both of us.”**

*- Orbis Enrique Estévez, a lifeline for his community*

Now 57, Norberto described the moment as both a professional and personal challenge. **“It pushed me to grow and reaffirmed my commitment to helping others.”**

Within two days of the hurricane, Norberto and his team were in the field, navigating swollen rivers and blocked roads to reach the hardest-hit areas. **“The conditions were extreme, but we knew people were counting on us”** he said.

WFP’s response was swift. Mobile warehouses were set up in the worst-affected areas, and pre-positioned food supplies—rice, peas, and oil—were distributed to those in need. **“We also provided non-food items like tunnel tents and kitchen kits to help families get back on their feet,”** Norberto explained<sup>2</sup>.

In collaboration with the government, **WFP established a distribution network within 48 hours, ensuring that emergency food baskets reached the entire population of Guantánamo in just 15 days.**

**“The scale of the loss was devastating,”** Norberto said. **“Walking into homes and seeing families left with nothing was heartbreaking. Years of work, gone in a matter of hours.”** He recounted giving away nearly everything in his backpack to people who had lost everything. **“It was a small gesture, but it felt like the least I could do.”**

For Norberto, the response to **Hurricane Oscar** was the most defining moment of his career. **“The trust we’ve built with the community over the years was crucial,”** he said. **“Arriving when we did made all the difference. People saw us and knew they weren’t alone.”**

The hurricane’s impact was severe—over 11,000 homes were damaged, and many families are still grappling with the psychological toll. However, amidst the destruction, the coordinated efforts of WFP and local authorities brought immediate relief and a path forward.

**“We assume risks in this work because we know what’s at stake,”** Norberto said. **“Seeing people recognize us as a reliable presence in their lives is the most rewarding part.”**

Recovery will take time for the people of Guantánamo. But thanks to the community’s resilience and the swift response of organizations like WFP, rebuilding has already begun.




Oscar is one of **1,320,867** people reached by WFP Cuba in 2024

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cubadebate.cu/especiales/2024/11/02/desde-la-presidencia-como-impacto-el-huracan-oscar-en-guantanamo-video/>  
<http://www.cubadebate.cu/noticias/2024/10/31/sistema-de-las-naciones-unidas-en-cuba-presento-plan-de-accion-en-respuesta-al-huracan-oscar/>

<sup>2</sup> As part of the emergency response in Guantánamo Province, WFP transferred 2 light towers with generators, 2 mobile warehouses, 550 kitchen sets, 1,832 pallets, 200 tunnel tents and 3 (42m2) tents to counterparts. Some of these items were used to facilitate food storage and distribution, while others were handed out directly to affected families.

# When inclusion and development meet

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN NUMBERS

-  **2,012** households assisted with food kits and nutrition awareness in response to severe flooding.
-  **240** people living with HIV assisted with urban gardens and trained in agricultural practices, diversified food consumption and healthy cooking.
-  **1.3** million children benefited indirectly through the expansion of national policies and programmes related to nutrition.
-  **277** organization leaders trained to strengthen food security and resilience capacities.



**FIND THE FULL  
2024 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT  
HERE**

[WEB](#) | [PDF](#)



WFP/Esteban Barrera

# When inclusion and development meet

From the beginning of the project, Ruth showed a marked interest in learning how to grow her own food. The gardens have become an aid to her nutritional sustenance, a tool to channel her emotions and socialize her knowledge about food and nutrition with her neighbours.

In 2024, as part of the government's efforts supported by WFP to register people with HIV in the beneficiary system, Ruth has the support and access to strengthen her food and nutritional security, as part of the key actions to ensure equitable access to essential services. Alongside these efforts, Ruth contributes to her economic development by participating in rural markets, where she sells surplus produce from her gardens.

In 2011, when Ruth went for tests for an ankle surgery she had scheduled, the last thing she expected was to get an HIV-positive result. At the moment, she felt her life was over, thinking about her underage children and the rejection that this population has in society.

When her best friend saw how sad she was because of the diagnosis and her low productivity at work, she went to seek psychological help, and that is where she was invited to participate in the project coordinated by the WFP "Strengthening the Comprehensive Response to HIV, from a Nutrition and Food Security Approach".

In addition to contributing to the strengthening of food and nutrition security through the development of urban and community gardens, nutritional counselling and training workshops on nutritious recipes, the project promotes improved eating and nutrition habits and practices among people living with HIV.



## AN EXAMPLE OF RESILIENCE

Not only does she benefit from a healthy diet through her own production, but she also generates income.

Ruth says that joining this project— which also includes local organizations such as Fundación Grupo Paloma, Clínica de Familia, the Ministry of Agriculture, and CONAVIHSIDA— changed her perspective on life. It taught her how to nourish herself according to her condition and helped her feel like a productive person. Cultivating the gardens became an excellent opportunity, serving as both occupational therapy and a way to form meaningful friendships. "When I eat salad, I feel like I eat better," she added.

"I have tomatoes, lettuce and spinach planted in my gardens, and I have already harvested beets, eggplants, greens and carrot".

- Ruth, beneficiary

Today, Ruth is an example of resilience and self-improvement, always grateful for the opportunity to continue to develop and to be treated the same as others.

Ruth is one of

**19,515**






people reached by WFP in DR



WFP/ Carolyn Ureña

# Nourishing communities and minds

## ECUADOR IN NUMBERS

-  USD **333,000** com WFP provided hot meals to **109,497** migrants and host community members in shelters and canteens.
-  **26,152** students in **166** schools received a daily nutritious school meals.
-  **773** smallholder family farmers (61% women) supplied food for the programme.
-  **15,800** hectares of mangrove and ancestral forest have been restored and conserved.
-  **18.03** MT of cargo transported to enhance emergency response and logistical support.



**FIND THE FULL  
2024 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT  
HERE**

[WEB](#) | [PDF](#)



WFP/Gonzalo Ruiz

# Nourishing communities and minds

In the highlands of Ecuador, the introduction of the Homegrown School Feeding Programme (HGSF) is transforming lives, uniting parents, teachers, local smallholder farmers and students in a shared mission to nourish young minds and stimulate the local economy.

At Honorato Vasquez School in the province of Carchi, 12-year-old Allison Reina is one of over **26,000** children benefiting from the programme, which reaches 166 schools in the country.



WFP/Gonzalo Ruiz

Allison describes the difference the programme has made to her personally: "I feel good. I'm full of energy. It's easier to learn and listen to the teachers. Before the programme, I wasn't so energetic. **Now, I am happier and more motivated to concentrate on my studies.**" Her classmates share similar enthusiasm, appreciating the daily nutritious meals that support their learning and well-being.

## THE PROGRAMME'S SUCCESS IS ROOTED IN THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

Miriam Simbaña, a parent whose son Christian also attends Honorato Vasquez, is part of the parent's committee in charge of the organization and preparation of the nutritious menus.

She sees firsthand how the meals benefit the children. "**When the food is prepared by people they know and trust, it makes a difference. The kids enjoy the food, and I can see how it keeps my son healthy and supports his learning,**" Miriam shared.

Local smallholder farmers are at the heart of this initiative, supplying fresh, high-quality produce that forms the foundation of the meals. Carmen Moreno, a smallholder farmer, has discovered new opportunities through the programme. Before partnering with WFP, Carmen often struggled to sell her produce, sometimes earning less than the cost of production, or being forced to give it away. Now, she receives a fair and consistent price, made possible by a shorter supply chain, which ensures she has access to a stable and rewarding market. **"My financial situation has improved a lot. I have a guaranteed market, and the fair pricing allows me to produce and supply more food,"** Carmen shared. This initiative also empowers women, enabling them to make decisions and take on leadership roles within their communities, thereby strengthening their contributions to local economies and food security.

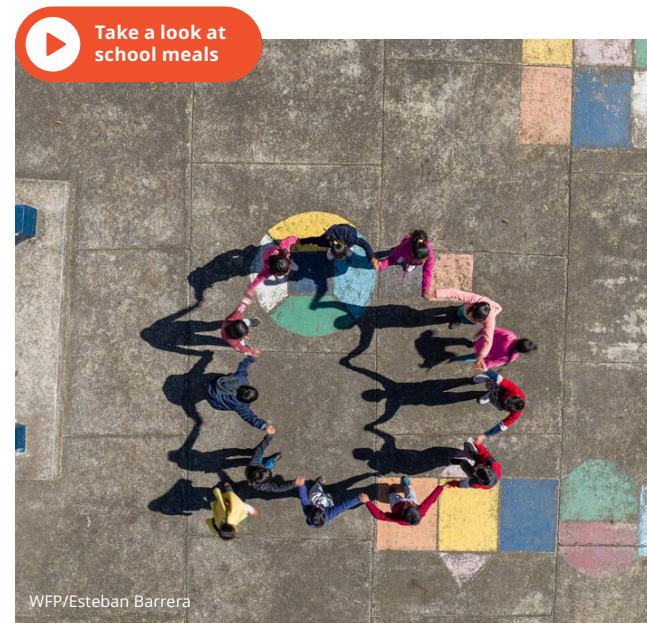
Carmen is part of Producampo, an association of smallholder farmers comprised of 30 women and three men. Producers, just like Carmen, supply freshly picked blackberries, spinach and peas to schools, motivated by a 42 percent increase in their

monthly income. This success has inspired them to expand their production, ensuring a consistent supply of high-quality, nutritious food.

The programme is much more than a nutrition initiative, addressing critical health and nutritional challenges. Nationally, **35.4** percent of children aged 5 to 11 and **29.6** percent of adolescents aged 12 to 19<sup>1</sup> are affected by overweight and obesity. In rural areas like Carchi, stunting impacts **23** percent of children under five<sup>2</sup>. By providing meals to children aged 3 and above in educational units, the programme promotes better dietary diversity, improving nutritional outcomes for primary and secondary school-age children. This supports healthy growth, enhances concentration, and fosters better learning outcomes.

Beyond its **nutritional impact**, the programme also drives **economic growth** by creating stable markets for smallholder farmers, encouraging the production of diverse, nutritious food. This collaboration between parents, teachers, smallholder farmers and local governments strengthens community ties and fosters a sense of collective purpose.

For families in Carchi, and the other eight provinces in which the programme is running, the HGSF represents hope and opportunity. This data-driven programme, powered by innovative private sector technology, optimizes operations, ensures meal traceability and enhances nutritional design. These innovations enable scalability in partnership with local and national governments. It truly takes a village to raise a child, and in Carchi, this village is thriving.







1 <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0296538>  
2 <https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-022-14327-x>

Allison is one of  
**244,622**  
people reached by WFP Ecuador

# Driving innovation and growth!

## EL SALVADOR IN NUMBERS

-  USD **333,000** commercialized by smallholder farmers' organizations through the sale of **359 mt** of staple grains
-  **50,000** food-insecure people reached through cash-based transfers to cover their immediate food needs
-  **3,500** people in shelters, including 350 Indigenous individuals, received emergency assistance
-  **4,902** schools nationwide received the Biofortified beverage



**FIND THE FULL  
2024 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT  
HERE**

[WEB](#) | [PDF](#)



WFP/Citric Media

# Driving innovation and growth!

WFP El Salvador implements Innova, an initiative that promotes using maize and sorghum as nutritious alternatives to traditional bakery products. By collaborating with producers, WFP supports them in selling their sorghum products to bakeries, making these nutritious items available to the Salvadoran population. Sorghum is naturally gluten-free, rich in fibre, nutrients, vitamins, and minerals, and resistant to droughts.

## SORGHUM GRAIN: OPENING DOORS FOR BAKERS AND SMALL PRODUCERS

“Like a true Salvadoran, I am always looking for new sources of income. I began my bakery with just a small table at the entrance of my house, and gradually expanded it,” shared Morena, a 53-year-old mother of three from San Salvador.

Morena Cervellón is one of the **100 Innova beneficiaries**<sup>1</sup> whose lives have changed thanks to the programme. After her husband’s passing, Morena found herself in a critical moment and decided to pursue the business vision she shared with him. Enrolling in Innova marked a turning point in her entrepreneurship and a step forward to achieving that vision.

“We started the programme with some knowledge, but we left with an open mind to new products, different flours like sorghum, and innovative ways of selling. Our business evolves as we discover new products and recipes. Nowadays, most people seek

healthier, gluten-free bread, and we are constantly adapting to meet our customers’ preferences,” reflected Morena. With the knowledge acquired during the programme, she expanded her product portfolio by introducing nutritious and delicious sorghum-based gluten-free bakery products.

Morena participated in theoretical and practical training in bakery techniques and business management in the bakery industry, cooking, professional barista services, nutrition and food safety. She created a business plan and received equipment to increase her production. During classes, she met a group of other participants and entrepreneurs eager to innovate by including sorghum in their products through a “By Salvadorans, for Salvadorans” approach. “We are a very close-knit group, sharing knowledge and experiences,” Morena added. Entrepreneurs like Morena and her group are essential for El Salvador’s economy. A few of Innova’s entrepreneurs who shared the same business joined their efforts and created associative businesses. According to the State of Small and Medium Enterprises, in 2024 small and medium-sized enterprises generated approximately 70 percent of formal employment, playing a crucial role in job creation and diversification of the national economy<sup>2</sup>.

Since Innova adopts a **food systems approach**, it integrates all actors in the value chain—from food production to processing, distribution, and consumption. Smallholder farmers have learned to cultivate sorghum using climate-friendly techniques and understand the crop’s nutritional benefits. They are connected with local bakery micro-entrepreneurs to position their crops within the institutional market, including Biofortik’s production, a fortified drink served in the School Feeding and Health Programme.

The agricultural sector is key to the country’s economy and food security. According to the Household and Multipurpose Survey (2023), 30 percent of the economically active population works in agriculture-related activities<sup>3</sup>. However, according to the Global Climate Risk Index, El Salvador ranks 28th among the countries most affected by climate disasters<sup>4</sup>, reflecting the erratic weather conditions, such as droughts or floods, which affect agricultural production. In this context, initiatives such as Innova promote sustainable agricultural practices, such as the production of sorghum, a **drought-resistant grain**, which is crucial to increasing communities’ resilience and strengthening food security.

Morena is one of **729,746** people reached by WFP El Salvador

Hadid Sánchez, a smallholder farmer and participant in the programme, remembers drinking atol<sup>5</sup> as a little girl, a sweet breakfast beverage that her mother made with sorghum. Now, as an adult, she understands that the sorghum she grows in eastern El Salvador is much more versatile. “After attending a WFP cooking and nutrition workshop, we learned how to make sorghum pizza and sorghum biscuits, and the children love them,” says Sánchez.

Through Innova, WFP El Salvador and individual donors are offering Salvadorans sustainable and scalable solutions that contribute to strengthening the country’s nutrition and resilience.



WFP/Diego Santamaría

<sup>1</sup> Innova Bakery supports micro-entrepreneurs in the bakery industry between 18 and 65 years of age, who have been operating a bakery business for at least one year. Within five months, the participants learned innovative bakery techniques (with new raw materials such as sorghum) and received seed capital in supplies and kitchen equipment for their businesses. They all made a business plan as part of the training process before receiving the seed capital. Training includes business capacity building, interpersonal skills, nutrition, gender, safety and hygiene, and professional barista services. In 2024, 100 people benefited, 75 percent of them women. In addition, this project has a food systems approach and seeks to develop local product consumption and strengthen local economies with products such as sorghum. WFP linked 50 smallholder farmers to this project in 2024 so that they could sell sorghum flour.






<sup>2</sup> Micro and small enterprises in El Salvador contribute to more than 35 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and are responsible for 70 percent of national employment. The State of Micro and Small Businesses 2024, Micro and Small Business Observatory of the Integral Support Foundation (FUSAL), 2024.  
<sup>3</sup> Multipurpose Household Survey (EHPM), Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador, 2023.  
<sup>4</sup> Global Climate Risk Index, Germanwatch, 2021 [https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/germanwatch.org/files/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202019\\_2.pdf](https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/germanwatch.org/files/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202019_2.pdf).  
<sup>5</sup> A hot drink made from corn flour dissolved in water or milk, to which sweetening flavours may be added.



# Microinsurance as a lifeline

## BUILDING RESILIENCE IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

### GUATEMALA IN NUMBERS

-  USD **1.1 million** saved by **13,879** women in **596** savings and loans groups
-  Parametric insurance covered **14,731** smallholder households at risk of drought and excess rainfall
-  **86,511** people covered through emergency response and early recovery
-  **11,173** people supported by **8** nutrition brigades across **92** communities
-  Over **2 million** people reached through social and behavior change communications



**FIND THE FULL  
2024 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT  
HERE**

[WEB](#) | [PDF](#)



WFP/Nelson Pacheco

# Microinsurance as a lifeline

## BUILDING RESILIENCE IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES



WFP/Nelson Pacheco

In a world reshaped by climate change, WFP’s parametric climate insurance programme stands as a beacon of hope. It exemplifies the transformative power of education, innovation and collaboration, ensuring that no one is left behind as they face the challenges of today and tomorrow.

In the heart of Guatemala, unpredictable weather patterns are reshaping the lives of countless families. **Droughts scorch the land**, limiting crop production and value chain development, while heavy rains wreak havoc on fragile communities. For many, the question is no longer if a disaster will strike but when and where. Amid this uncertainty, WFP launched a parametric microinsurance programme in 2021 and has been scaling it up ever since. This initiative serves as a lifeline, empowering families and governments to better withstand climate challenges and rapidly rebuild livelihoods in the aftermath of natural disasters.

In 2024, this innovative programme reached over **14,700 smallholder producer households** (approximately 73,500 people), across **26 municipalities** in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Chiquimula, Izabal, Jalapa, Quiché, and Zacapa, with women comprising an inspiring 88 percent of the beneficiaries. For a modest annual premium of USD 46, families gain financial protection against the dual threats of drought and excess rainfall. Each **disaster triggers a payout of USD 250**, with a maximum combined payout of USD 500 per year. These funds often spell **the difference between sliding deeper into poverty or taking the first steps** towards recovery. But the programme offers more than financial aid; it instils hope, security, and empowerment.

Women, often the linchpins of their households, also receive contextually and culturally appropriate financial literacy training, equipping them with the skills to make informed decisions and better manage future risks. As part of the programme’s smart subsidy efforts, 64 percent of insured

individuals contributed 16 percent of their premiums in 2024, showcasing a growing culture of self-reliance and positive acceptance of such financial tools. Local savings and loans groups, led predominantly by women, have played a pivotal role in the programme’s success and sustainability, with members pooling their own resources to cover premiums. Their commitment reflects a shared belief in the transformative power of disaster risk finance to build climate resilience.

In Camotán, a municipality in the drought-prone Chiquimula department in Guatemala’s Dry Corridor, the impact of this programme is profound. Here, farming is the backbone of most families’ livelihoods, but the erratic climate patterns have made their future increasingly uncertain. Each season brings the fear of losing livelihoods, particularly to droughts. In 2024, the local municipal government provided a **USD 10,000 subsidy**, enabling over **200 families** to gain or maintain access to microinsurance policies for the productive period from May 2024 to May 2025. This contribution demonstrates strong local ownership and commitment, fostering buy-in that supports the long-term sustainability of the initiative. The effort was implemented within the framework of the PRO-Resilience Programme, supported by the European Union.

María Antonia García, a smallholder producer and programme beneficiary from Camotán, shared her journey. *“Before, every season felt like a gamble. One disaster could take away everything we had worked for. Now, I have the confidence that if something happens, we will have the means to recover. The microinsurance is a lifeline and a source of hope.”*

WFP Guatemala is now working to replicate Camotán’s success in other municipalities in the Dry Corridor and beyond, building a network of communities committed to scaling up microinsurance coverage and climate resilience.

## EMPOWERING WOMEN, TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

One of the programme’s most inspiring aspects is its focus on empowering women, particularly Indigenous ones. As it is a product not related to a specific productive activity or even land ownership, it opens possibilities for vulnerable rural women to access a financial service, offering them tools to protect their livelihoods and secure their families’ futures. With financial literacy training, women are empowered to make decisions about their homes, farms and other productive assets, as well as longer-term investments, while microinsurance acts as a critical safety net.

María, like many others, has learned how to manage financial risks and safeguard her farm against the shocks of climate change. *“Now, I plan for the future, not just hope the rains come,”* she says. *“I feel empowered, knowing I can protect my family, no matter what happens.”*





By integrating microinsurance, financial education, local multi-stakeholder collaboration, and innovative technology, the programme provides a scalable and lasting socio-economic solution. The benefits of empowering women ripple through entire communities, strengthening their ability to adapt to unpredictable climate conditions.



María Antonia is one of **211,578** people reached by WFP Guatemala

# WFP's IDP integrated response

## HAITI IN NUMBERS

-  **1.15 million** people supported under WFP's crisis response assistance programme
-  **3.2 million** hot meals distributed to over **180,906** internally displaced people and **172,779** deported/repatriated
-  **602,713** children in Haiti received food in **1,994** schools through WFP's school meal programmes in 2024
-  This includes **411,865** children who received **4,554 mt** of locally procured food through the home-grown school meal programme



**FIND THE FULL  
2024 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT  
HERE**

[WEB](#) | [PDF](#)



WFP/Luc Junior Segur

# WFP's IDP integrated response

Amid Haiti's escalating food security crisis, the challenges have only intensified in 2024, driving a surge in humanitarian needs. By the end of the year, over **1 million people were displaced** due to violent armed groups, more than three times the number from December 2023<sup>1</sup>. Children made up over half of the displaced population<sup>2</sup>.

The latest Integrated Food Security (IPC) analysis<sup>3</sup> revealed that about 6,000 people in internally displaced persons (IDPs) sites were experiencing catastrophic food insecurity (IPC 5). Additionally, 75 percent of IDPs in sites faced acute food insecurity (IPC 3+). A WFP vulnerability assessment showed that 82 percent of IDPs resorted to crisis survival strategies, such as reducing meal sizes and prioritizing children's nutrition over that of adults. Moreover, 5 percent of IDP households had poor food consumption, a rate 22 percentage points higher than the metropolitan average<sup>4</sup>. These challenges were further aggravated by dire living conditions that worsened food insecurity.

In response, WFP launched a comprehensive approach to the crisis, expanding emergency interventions and integrating IDPs into longer-term safety net programmes. These efforts included nutritional support through partnerships with government agencies like the Directorate for Civil Protection and the Fond d'assistance économique et sociale.

**In 2024, WFP distributed 2.9 million hot meals to 180,906 IDPs across 156 sites in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area.** All fresh ingredients were locally sourced, supporting the local economy and minimizing logistical costs<sup>5</sup>, in line with WFP's 2024-2028 Country Strategic Plan, which emphasizes local sourcing.

WFP also focused on young children's nutritional needs. As part of the initial emergency response, approximately **297,360 hot meals tailored for children aged 6 to 24 months were provided**. In addition, **14.9 metric tons** of specialized nutritious foods for the prevention of acute malnutrition were distributed to **2,172 children**. These distributions were carried out through mobile clinics in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, ensuring a simultaneous approach to acute malnutrition prevention and the management of both severe and moderate cases. The mobile clinics were complemented by nutritional screenings and the promotion of infant feeding practices, hygiene, and proper nutrition. In partnership with the Ministry of Health's community health workers, WFP conducted awareness sessions for caregivers and pregnant and breastfeeding women. **11,310 children** were reached with malnutrition screening, while **42,161 parents and caregivers** were given counselling and health promotion sessions<sup>6</sup>.

One such beneficiary, Stenfeson Paul, received WFP's nutritional support. His mother, Merlindie Marthy, had been displaced in January 2024. She shared that feeding her family had been their greatest challenge since her husband's employment ended when his company shut down. However, thanks to WFP's assistance, her son received **"mamba"**, a highly nutritious product, which helped him stay well-nourished. Merlindie expressed gratitude, saying, *"I am very happy that after the malnutrition test, the results showed my child is well-nourished, thanks to the 'mamba.' He likes it and eats it regularly. I hope he continues receiving it to stay healthy."*

To address ongoing food and nutrition insecurity, WFP provided three cycles of cash transfers, worth USD 120 each, to around **46,500 IDPs** following hot meal distributions. This was aimed at integrating them into longer-term solutions. Additionally, **10,091 households**, including pregnant women and children under five, received an extra USD 31 to facilitate access to nutrition-dense foods and prevent acute malnutrition.

WFP complemented synergies between its emergency and social protection programmes by transferring 20,235 IDPs into a temporary safety net programme, in line with its CSP, providing USD 88 monthly for six months to help families meet basic needs as they seek to relocate to more stable settings and rebuild their livelihoods.

The violence from armed groups also led to the temporary closure of schools in the capital. **Of the 102 IDP sites, 38 were schools.** In response, WFP adapted its school meals programme to ensure that students in relocated schools still received essential nutrition. With funding from Education Cannot Wait, WFP worked alongside UNICEF to transition students from receiving snacks to full hot meals by early 2025.



Stenfeson is one of **2,038,105** people reached by WFP Haiti

WFP's analysis following the second USD 120 cash transfer showed that **its assistance helped mitigate the deterioration of food security among IDPs**, especially when compared to those who had not received WFP's support. However, the situation remained critical, as territorial control of armed groups over the capital increased<sup>7</sup>. This continued insecurity prevented any significant improvements in IDPs' food security, leaving them vulnerable to further shocks during WFP's interventions. In response, WFP adjusted its strategy, extending the assistance to a third cycle of cash transfers and mobilizing resources to transition as many IDPs as possible to safety nets following the emergency intervention. The strategy revision was supported by various donors, including the U.S. Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and the Inter-American Development Bank.

[Read more on WFP in Haiti](#)

1 IOM report on internal displacements in Haiti in 2023, January 2024 : Haiti: More than 60% of forced displacements happened in 2023, a | IOM Haiti  
 2 IOM report on internal displacements in Haiti, January 2025. Haiti-Rapport sur la situation de déplacement interne en Haïti- Round 9 (Décembre 2024) | Displacement Tracking Matrix  
 3 Haiti: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for August 2024 - February 2025 and Projection for March - June 2025 | IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification  
 4 Furthermore, 95 percent experienced economic activity cessation, 75 percent of displaced children were out of school, and 29 percent reported severe water, hygiene, and sanitation issues. The impact of the security situation in mid-November on household food security - Haiti: Metropolitan Area of Port-au-Prince (Nov. 2024) - Haiti | ReliefWeb  
 5 WFP provided local partners with commodity vouchers to cover meal costs or dry rations supplemented with vouchers for ingredients when meals were prepared in local kitchens.  
 6 out of the 11,310 children screened, 14 percent were found to have moderate acute malnutrition and 3 percent suffered from severe acute malnutrition. All were treated on-site by the partner. In addition, out of the 42,161 people who participated in the awareness-raising sessions, 13,020 were men and 28,710 were women.

7 Final report of the Panel of Experts on Haiti, 30 September 2024 (published on 29 October 2024) s-2024-704\_panel\_of\_experts\_report.pdf

## WFP HONDURAS

[WEB](#) | [PDF](#)

# A beacon of hope: Aracely's story

### HONDURAS IN NUMBERS

-  **165,769** people received food assistance from WFP's emergency response programme.
-  Approximately **1.2 million** children reached through the National School Feeding Programme.
-  WFP developed Honduras' **first parametric microinsurance** to protect smallholder farmers' investments from extreme climate events.
-  WFP reached over **9,000** pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and approximately **21,000** children.



**FIND THE FULL  
2024 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT  
HERE**

[WEB](#) | [PDF](#)



WFP/Eliazar Castro

# A beacon of hope: Aracely's story

In 2024, WFP Honduras embarked on a mission to enhance further the efficiency and effectiveness of its assistance programmes in Honduras. This initiative was more than just a technological upgrade; it was a lifeline for thousands of families in need.

In November, **Tropical Storm Sara** formed over the central Caribbean Sea, landed on 14 November near the Honduras-Nicaragua border with winds of 65 km/h and ravaged the region. It caused severe flooding, particularly in northern Honduras, and **affected more than 247,000 people across 17 departments**, including Aracely and her family. The storm's slow movement and heavy rains significantly damaged road infrastructure, drinking water and sanitation systems, and electricity services.

Aracely, a young woman in her fifth month of pregnancy, lived in Marion, a community in Tela, a peri-urban region of Atlántida. Her husband, a construction worker, earned less than USD 15 per day, and with Aracely unable to work due to her pregnancy, their situation was dire.

The storm had left their home surrounded by mud and mosquitoes, but hope arrived in the form of WFP's food voucher distribution. WFP was able to reach Marion and other affected communities, providing much-needed assistance to more than 19,000 households, including Aracely's.

Early one morning, Aracely stood in line with her daughter, Beverly, who wore a pink dress and muddy shoes. The anticipation was palpable as they waited to receive their food assistance. When their turn came, Aracely and Beverly received a food ration valued at USD 150. They carried it back to their modest home, a single space that served as both their bedroom and kitchen.



WFP/Ana Lam

## DESPITE THE CHALLENGING CONDITIONS, THE AID BROUGHT A SENSE OF HOPE AND RELIEF.

Beverly's eyes lit up as she unpacked the food items on a small wooden table. "Spaghetti is delicious. I will have some of that oat-based drink," she said with a smile.

This was the **first time WFP used digital registers in Honduras**, allowing for a faster and more efficient response.

A critical aspect of this implementation was the training provided to cooperating partners involved in all operations. This included training in the use of the systems but also guidance on interpreting the data and making informed decisions at a central level. The training sessions covered both technical aspects, with instructions on system use, and operational aspects, addressing rapid response protocols based on system-provided information.

WFP corporate systems<sup>1</sup> ensured that assistance was delivered swiftly and efficiently. The digitalization of these processes allowed for real-time data collection and analysis, significantly reducing response times. This meant that aid could be distributed faster and more accurately, reaching those in need without delay.

Aracely's story is a testament to the impact of WFP's mission to save lives and change lives. Through the combined efforts of dedicated teams and supportive partners, hope was restored to a family in need, proving that even in the face of adversity, **compassion and innovation can make a world of difference**. The swift response enabled by digitalization demonstrated that technology when properly used by a trained team, can be a decisive factor in anticipatory actions and emergency responses. WFP was able to assist 5,000 people with a cash-based transfer anticipatory action scheme, thanks to timely preparation and the early registration of people at risk in areas of recurrent impact.



Aracely is one of **1,389,140** people reached by WFP Honduras in 2024

WFP/Esteban Barrera

<sup>1</sup> SCOPE is WFP's beneficiary information and transfer management platform. mPOS is an app used to record the redemption or delivery of the benefit. NEST is a file management/secure file transfer solution. SharePoint is a platform developed by Microsoft that allows organizations to create websites for storing, organizing, sharing, and accessing information from any device.



## WFP NICARAGUA

CSP 2019-2024 [WEB](#) | [PDF](#)

CSP 2024-2029 [WEB](#) | [PDF](#)

# Transforming challenges into triumph

### NICARAGUA IN NUMBERS

-  **3,694** smallholder farmers organized in cooperatives supported in climate and economic resilience-building
-  **92** percent of smallholder farmer households assisted by WFP have an acceptable food consumption score
-  USD **1.1 million** invested in food procured from smallholder farmers
-  WFP contributed to the national school feeding programme delivering **21 million** meals to **190,413** children



**FIND THE FULL  
2024 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT  
HERE**



WFP/Sabrina Quezada

# Transforming challenges into triumph

Timotea Perez Muñoz, a resident of the Rio Arriba Community in the Municipality of San Lucas in Madriz department, Nicaragua, overcame a life of limited opportunities to transform her circumstances.

Growing up in a humble family during the 1980s and 1990s, Timotea was unable to complete her primary education due to economic hardships. Today, she lives with her husband and ten-year-old son, nurturing dreams for his future to become a doctor or an agronomist —opportunities she never had.

Despite these obstacles, she devoted herself to her family as a homemaker. Timotea and her husband relied on cultivating beans and corn on a small, rented plot of land. Their livelihood depended entirely on the blessings of the land, with water access often scarce and requiring great effort to collect from distant sources, especially during the dry season.

## A TURNING POINT

Timotea's life took a transformative turn in 2022 when she joined a smallholder farmers' organization as part of the "Climate Resilience of Rural Households in the Dry Corridor" project implemented by WFP.

Before she had never joined any organization or had taken any community leadership. Always interested in gardening but limited by resources, she began attending workshops on "Bio-Intensive Gardening and Food Security."

The initiative provided seeds, tools, and training to help community members create sustainable family gardens.



WFP/Nicaragua

## BUILDING SUCCESS, ONE STEP AT A TIME

With dedication, she built a **32-square-meter garden**, protected it from chickens using sorghum stalks, and diligently nurtured her plants. Technical assistance improved her methods, and additional resources, such as mesh for protection and a micro-irrigation system, significantly enhanced her garden's efficiency.

Timotea's garden flourished. Her production of tomatoes tripled, and she grew a variety of vegetables, including lettuce, onions, bell peppers, cilantro, carrots, squash, cucumbers, beets, and radishes. Her efforts not only provided her family and other households with a more diverse and nutritious diet, but also opened up a new source of income. For the first time, **she began generating income**—earning approximately C\$120–150 córdobas daily (about USD 3-4) from selling surplus produce. The project also improved access to potable water for **68** community members, ending her and other family's decades-long struggle of hauling water over 300 meters daily.

In 2024, the project provided Timotea with a 3x6m micro-tunnel for growing seedlings and vegetables. This innovation enabled her to manage pests more effectively and produce high-quality seedlings. Selling seedlings for C\$ 3–4 córdobas (about USD 0.9), each has become another income stream, showcasing her ingenuity and hard work.



Today, she has been cultivating her bio-intensive garden for over two years. Her work has improved soil quality, increased crop yields, and created a sustainable source of food and income. With 150 meters of soil conservation structures— building barriers and dikes with her own hands —she has become a role model for her community.




Timotea reflects on her journey as a blessing, grateful for the opportunities that have lifted her family from hardship. **Her journey is a powerful reminder of how determination and the right support can lead to profound transformation.** She has built a more sustainable livelihood, proving that with resilience and the right tools, challenges can be turned into success stories.

Timotea is one of  
**1,199,742**  
people reached by WFP  
Nicaragua in 2024



# Bringing fresh produce from fields to homes and schools

## PERU IN NUMBERS

-  **621** pre-primary and primary students in **two** urban schools in Lima received **84,397** hot meals.
-  **9** food rescue organizations financially and logistically supported, reaching indirectly **883,753** people improving food access.
-  Over **500** smallholder farmer associations documented across **50** districts to map food supply and demand dynamics to link farmers to markets.
-  Over **1,500** tons of food and non-food items transported across **20** emergency-affected departments, reaching **213,312** people in crisis.



**FIND THE FULL  
2024 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT  
HERE**

[WEB](#) | [PDF](#)



WFP/Gianfranco Murillo

# Bringing fresh produce from fields to homes and schools

Orlando and Eudosia have always farmed their small family garden with dedication and care. Like many smallholder farmers in Peru, they work tirelessly to ensure a steady supply of fresh produce for their family while hoping to generate additional income by selling surplus produce. **Smallholder farming plays a crucial role in Peru's food system, supplying 80 percent of the food consumed nationwide<sup>1</sup>.** This sector not only supports local economies but also helps preserve the country's biodiversity and environment.

Despite this vital contribution, smallholder farmers face persistent challenges. In 2024, poverty among these households reached 41 percent<sup>2</sup>, and **one in five children suffered from malnutrition.** In 2023, approximately 82 percent of agricultural production was limited to household subsistence<sup>3</sup>, with small farmers struggling to scale up due to inadequate financial resources, limited market access, and poor transportation.

In response, **WFP's Compartiendo la Mesa (Sharing The Table) project** aims to reshape Peru's food systems by promoting smallholder-based agricultural production and supplying nutritious food to programmes.

A key focus is supporting the National School Feeding Programme, which serves four million schoolchildren nationwide every day<sup>4</sup>. By incorporating locally sourced, fresh, and nutritious food into school meals, the project enhances child nutrition while fostering economic opportunities for farming households.

Peru's public procurement law mandates that at least 30 percent of the public budget for food-based social programmes be allocated to purchases from smallholder farmers. This legal framework **provides smallholder farmers like Orlando and Eudosia with access to formal markets, allowing them to sell their produce directly to schools.** With WFP's support, they have been able to enter this commercial supply chain, ensuring a stable income while contributing to better nutrition for schoolchildren.

To achieve this, WFP collaborates with key government institutions, including the ministries of Agrarian Development and Irrigation, Social Development and Inclusion, and Production, as well as regional and local governments. This partnership works to strengthen farmers' productive capacities, address barriers to market access and better align local food supply with demand. By integrating smallholder farmers into public procurement systems, these efforts improve food security and provide rural households with pathways to financial autonomy.

## THIS INITIATIVE HAS BROUGHT RENEWED HOPE

Smallholder farmers now see a viable path forward - one that rewards their hard work and fosters economic opportunities and stability and benefits their whole community. More importantly, their children, including Loan, benefit directly from these improvements. Loan starts each school day with a nutritious, hot breakfast provided by WFP's hot meals pilot initiative. He eagerly looks forward to these meals.

Generating data to demonstrate the impact of fresh and healthy foods on children's diets is crucial for shaping future policies. The Hot Meals pilot project, coordinated by WFP and the National School Feeding Programme, has provided valuable evidence to support reforms in Peru's school feeding regulations.

In 2024, this initiative served **621 children**, ensuring they received warm, nutritious meals in schools every morning. The introduction of fresh ingredients into school menus has been well received by students, parents and teachers alike, who appreciate the quality and health benefits. Diana Ponte, a primary school teacher at the República de Nicaragua school, has observed significant improvements in her students: *"Their punctuality has improved because they are excited to eat at school. Students' attention and concentration are better because when they are well-nourished, they can have better capacities and learn more effectively. School dropout rates have also decreased dramatically, because the children tell their families that they come to school to eat healthy and learn"*.



**"I eat nutritious food here. If I didn't eat well, I would get sick and even go to the hospital".**

*- Loan, student receiving hot breakfast*

Through initiatives like Compartiendo la Mesa and the Hot Meals pilot project, WFP is paving the way for a policy shift in Peru's food systems. These efforts have demonstrated the potential of smallholder farmers to supply fresh, nutritious produce for school feeding programmes, improving access to healthy diets for millions of children while creating sustainable economic opportunities for farming households.


Looking ahead, scaling these initiatives could redefine Peru's approach to public food procurement for school feeding, tailored to people's needs, sustainable and beneficial for rural communities. By integrating smallholder farmers into formal supply chains, Peru can build a resilient food system that not only uplifts its agriculture sector but also ensures that future generations grow up healthy and well-nourished. With WFP's continued support, these programmes are laying the groundwork for lasting change, demonstrating how local solutions can address global challenges.


Loan is one of **74,976** people reached by WFP Peru


1 El Peruano (2021), 80 percent of food consumed in Peru comes from family farming. Retrieved from <https://elperuano.pe/noticia/123359-80-de-alimentos>  
 2 Instituto Peruano de Economía. (2024). Informe económico: Día del campesino 2024. Retrieved from <https://www.ipe.org.pe/portal/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Informe-IPE-EC-Di%C3%81a-del-campesino.pdf>  
 3 Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (2023), Agricultural producers: Key findings of the National Agricultural Survey (ENA) (2018, 2019, 2022, 2023). Retrieved from <https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/7176575/6152298-productores-agropecuarios-principales-resultados-de-la-encuesta-nacional-agropecuaria-ena-2018-2019-2022-y-2023.pdf?v=1731532580>  
 4 REDinforma - Repositorio Digital de Información - Reporte de Indicadores de PPSS.


# Navigating the Orinoco River with school meals


## VENEZUELA IN NUMBERS

 **830,535** people received food assistance through school meals in **2,800** schools in **9** states

 **356,000** early education children received nutritious meals

 **18,400** students with disabilities supported through food assistance

 **390,000** family members and personnel received food assistance

 **+74,000** personnel participated in the school-based programme



**FIND THE FULL 2024 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT HERE**

[WEB](#) | [PDF](#)



WFP/Matias Delacroix

# Navigating the Orinoco River with school meals

The Orinoco River is home to many indigenous families in Venezuela, mostly Warao. Over the past year, the World Food Programme (WFP) has increased its support in these communities and extended school meals further down the river to ensure no community is left behind.

The *Warao* communities are considered one of the oldest indigenous populations in Venezuela. For generations, they have lived along the banks of the Orinoco River, relying on fishing, handicrafts, and agriculture.

In recent years, however, challenges related to the country's economy, social dynamics and climate change have led to profound changes in their livelihoods and income sources. Because most of these communities can only be reached by river, they are further from public services and markets - and even from those who used to buy their products and handicrafts.

**“Heading to Tucupita [closest city] used to be easier when there were more frequent river transits. Now it is more difficult due to the transport and fuel costs”,** says Zenaida Florin, a Warao teacher who receives support from WFP. “We could spend weeks, even a month, if we use the curiaras [traditional, non-motorized boats] to travel there and get food”.

The families and teachers we have talked to in these communities see food as a starting point, one that fosters their opportunities, creativity and resilience.

“Children live too far from the school. Some of them must sail in their curiaras for a few hours, so they come more often when there is food when they get back home”, the teacher explains.

Zenaida and other families are fixing part of the school's infrastructure, mostly roofs and the wooden pillars that support the whole structure over the river.

She is convinced that there is a strong link between food and education, and that “it is the way children will have a future here, in these communities...”.

This year, WFP has built on this conviction. The food assistance programme has expanded to reach further down the river. Schools continue to be the main distribution points and the most reliable way to identify the families most in need, talk to them, understand their challenges and motivations, and deliver food every two months.

## FOOD IS NOT AN END, IS A BEGINNING

Delta Amacuro is one of the regions prioritized by the UN agencies and partners in Venezuela to support vulnerable communities and families in areas such as food, health, access to water, nutrition, and protection. A work we coordinate with communities and authorities, especially at the local level.

WFP's focus has been on over **180 schools** located along the Orinoco River, where we strive to deliver food baskets to more than **67,000 people**—mostly children. WFP teams and partners spend days on the river, carrying the food from one point to another.

“We plan everything in detail and optimize resources to go each time further, regardless of the river conditions,” says Omar Mendoza, WFP logistic officer.

“As the Warao people say here, we [humans] have the clock, but the river owns the time. We have learned to make the water our ally.”

The journey is complex and comes at a high human cost to the distribution teams. Although the route is long, one hour of navigation for the WFP motorized boat represents eight hours for a Warao family if they use their curiaras to reach the nearest mainland food markets.

“The greatest reward is when we see the boat empty on our way back home,” says Omar. “We are tired, yes, after hours and days in the river. But we know that we left none of these families and schools behind, and they know we will be back in exactly two months.”

Zenaida is one of **880,535** people reached by WFP Venezuela in 2024

Take a look at Delta Amacuro



WFP/Matias Delacroix



WFP/Matias Delacroix

## **World Food Programme**

Edificio 128, C. Arnoldo Cano Arosemena,  
Ciudad del Saber, Panamá

**[es.wfp.org](https://es.wfp.org)**