



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief March 2025



WFP staff and partners delivering food to people displaced by violence in Catatumbo, Norte de Santander. © Photo/ WFP Colombia

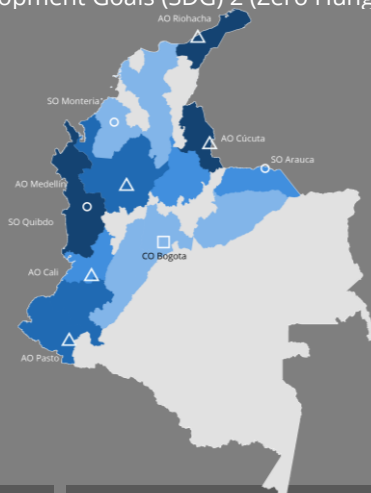
Operational Context

Despite being an upper-middle-income country, Colombia faces a complex humanitarian and food security crisis, with 13 million moderately or severely food-insecure Colombians (25 percent of the population) according to the latest WFP assessment (EFSA, 2024). Furthermore, 37% of migrants with the intention to stay in Colombia are food insecure, while 72% of migrants without a permanent place of residence 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)

Number of Beneficiaries March 2025

- More than 15,000
- 6,001 - 15,000
- 3,001 - 6,000
- 1 - 3,000

- 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

915 MT of food assistance distributed*

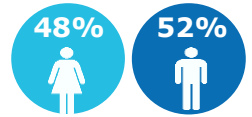
USD 1.99 million cash-based transfers made*

USD 47.6 million six months (April – September 2025) net funding requirements, representing 52 percent of total needs

235,514 people assisted*

In March 2025

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

In March, WFP reached over **194,000 Colombians** (including returnees, host communities, and internally displaced persons - IDPs) and **41,000 migrants** across 16 departments. Some of the activities to highlight include:

- Emergency Response** - WFP assisted over **55,000 victims of conflict** and **40,000 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 about 37,000 people**, expanding the three-month interventions in municipalities affected by confinement and mass internal displacement. **In Norte de Santander, WFP reached about 12,600 new beneficiaries** affected by displacement and confinement in five municipalities. **WFP reached 33,000 disaster-affected people in La Guajira** through in-kind food assistance.
- Livelihoods and Resilience** - WFP's early recovery activities reached more than **1,900 people** in seven departments through capacity strengthening of community livelihoods, complemented with food assistance. Furthermore, WFP in conjunction with the Colombian the Ministry of Mines and Energy, started a mining reconversion project through sustainable development initiatives in Cauca. The project aims to create job opportunities and food security for **70 miners and their families**. Once the assessment is completed, the implementation is expected to begin between June and November.
- Migration** - In March WFP reached about **47,400 beneficiaries** as part of the migration and socioeconomic integration response of which 34 percent received cash-based transfers. The operation reduced the distribution of food kits in Tolima due to farmers strikes during the first and second weeks of March. WFP also closed a community kitchen in Arauca and a food kit distribution point in Casanare due to decreased migration flows in the region.
- School Feeding** - WFP reached more than **73,000 children** (including 6,720 migrants) in **13 municipalities**.
- The Mobile Units project, coordinated with the National Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), reached **22,583 people affected by conflict and weather-related events**. **58% of the beneficiaries were children**. Expanded coverage of mobile units in Norte de Santander continued to support the humanitarian response to the emergency in the Catatumbo region through psychological and nutritional support to displaced communities.
- Nutrition** - WFP provided food vouchers to **309 families with children at risk of malnutrition in Chocó**. The final distribution will be delivered next month.

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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	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

- According to OCHA, the escalation of violence in the first two months of 2025 has already affected more than 695,000 people nationwide, surpassing the total number of people affected by violence throughout all of 2024, representing an increase of 462% in comparison to the same period last year. The humanitarian emergency in the Catatumbo region of Norte de Santander continues to affect about 92,000 people by mass displacement and confinement. Clashes between ELN and FARC dissident factions continue leading to the displacement of 67,000 people and more than 17,000 persons confined. Restrictions to humanitarian assistance persist in several municipalities, making it difficult for humanitarian agencies to assist confined communities.
- According to Migración Colombia, in the first quarter of 2025, authorities detected about 39,000 migrants without regular status transiting through the country. Migrant flows have increased 41% in comparison to the same period of 2024. Reverse migration flows from Panama have increased 110% as more migrants desists from migrating towards Mexico and the United States.

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.
- In mid-March WFP suspended a humanitarian food distribution in the "El Plateado" area of the municipality of Argelia, Cauca, due to the deterioration in the security context. At the end of 2024 WFP had planned to assist 9,200 people, but actual distributions were postponed four times due to continuous clashes between armed groups and the military. With security conditions further deteriorating, WFP finally decided to call off this operation.

Partnerships

- WFP received USD 1.5 million from the UN CERF Rapid Response Fund to provide live-saving food assistance to around 24,400 people affected by the escalation of conflict in the Catatumbo region.
- WFP and the Colombian National Planning Department have extended an existing agreement to strengthen exchange of information. This will allow WFP to advance in the food security analysis for populations affected by displacement and weather-related events.
- WFP and the Medellín Mayor's Office signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate access to the social protection system for populations living in poverty and vulnerability.

Donors

Canada, Colombia, European Union (DG-ECHO), France, Germany, 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 contributes to the emergency response to massive floodings in Chocó through its Mobile Emergency Centre
- [Watch](#) how WFP alongside the Colombian Department of Social Prosperity support local productive units for self-consumption in the Montes de María region.