



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief

May 2025

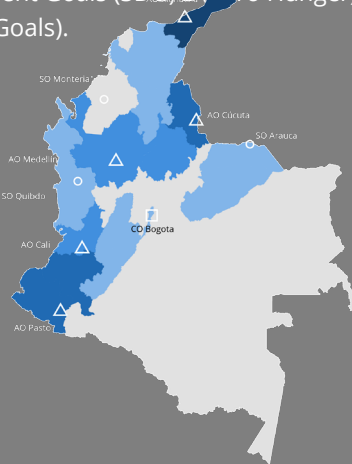
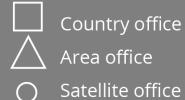
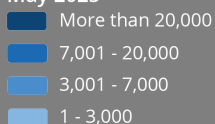


In La Guajira, WFP is working with the Governor's Office and local communities to restore mangroves and tropical dry forest, while strengthening local capacities and livelihoods to improve food security
© Photo/ WFP Colombia

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 May 2025



Population: **51.8 million**

2024 Human Development Index:
89 out of 191

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **10.8 percent**

In Numbers

347 MT of food assistance distributed*

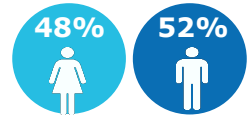
USD 2.13 million cash-based transfers made*

USD 42.6 million six months (June – November 2025) net funding requirements, representing 48 percent of total needs

160,923 people assisted*

In May 2025

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

In May, WFP reached over **120,000 Colombians** (including returnees, host communities and internally displaced persons - IDPs) and **40,000 migrants** across 14 departments.

Some of the activities to highlight include:

- **Emergency Response** - WFP assisted about **22,000 people affected by violence in five departments**. In Norte de Santander, WFP reached about **10,900 people affected by displacement and confinement in the Catatumbo subregion**. This despite access constraints and difficult security challenges amidst ongoing armed clashes between armed groups.
- **Livelihoods and Resilience** – WFP finalized two employability and entrepreneurship projects in Bogotá and Cúcuta. **847 participants finalized their trainings to strengthen employability and entrepreneurship skills**, 73 individuals in the employability component have already found a formal job. Entrepreneurships participants also received seed funds to strengthen their businesses. Also, WFP advanced in the Resilience to Climate Change project in the Amazon region. WFP led the presentation of participatory community plans in beneficiary areas, achieving joint approval of adaptation and conservation measures through nature-based solutions and the strengthening of value chains.
- **Migration** – In May, WFP reached **about 48,000 beneficiaries** in the migration response of which 35 percent received cash-based transfers. The operation finalized the in-kind food assistance in La Guajira reaching 10,560 vulnerable migrants, returnees and host communities since January.
- **School Feeding** – WFP reached more than **77,100 children** (including 7,275 migrants) by distributing more than **1.42 million school meal rations in 13 municipalities of La Guajira**.
- The Mobile Units project, coordinated with the National Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), reached **19,956 people affected by conflict and weather-related events. 59% of the beneficiaries were children**. A new agreement between the ICBF and WFP was signed to continue the implementation of the Mobile Units Modality until the end of the year.
- **Nutrition** – WFP finalized the prevention of malnutrition project in Chocó by delivering food inputs for 111 small entrepreneurs. The project benefited **309 families with children at risk of malnutrition** and further supported local entrepreneurs to complement nutrition sensitive activities.
- **Service Provision** – As part of the Colombian's government Hambre Cero (Zero Hunger) initiative, WFP have distributed **32,525 food baskets for vulnerable Colombians** in Bogotá, Cesar, and Magdalena. New distributions in five departments will begin in June.

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	83 m	42.6 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 and weather-related events in 2025 have already affected more than 953,300 people nationwide, surpassing the total number of people affected throughout all of 2024. People affected by violence have quadrupled in comparison to the same period last year.
- According to Migración Colombia since January of 2025, authorities detected about 66,800 migrants without regular status transiting through the country. Migrant flows have decreased 62% in comparison to the same period of 2024. Reverse migration flows from Panama have increased 66% since January as more migrants desists from migrating towards Mexico and the United States.
- WFP monitoring of its socioeconomic integration programmes shows that 70% of startups and entrepreneurship supported have complied with the initial project objectives. Additionally, 98% of the beneficiaries have improved their economic and social activities thanks to the project components. This demonstrates the importance of socioeconomic integration activities for vulnerable populations to build resilience and long-term self-support beyond the emergency response phase.
- Monitoring base line results for the Resilience to Climate Change project in the Amazon region show that almost half of beneficiary households depend on the informal economy for their survival, with a monthly median household income of 161,000 COP (39 USD). Furthermore, 74% of households are capable of growing food. Despite this, most of their food is not able to reach market locations due to poor infrastructure, high costs of inputs, soil pollution, environmental degradation, and extreme weather-events.

Challenges

- WFP has launched rapid response efforts to address several new emergencies in Arauca, Chocó, and Norte de Santander. However, critical funding shortfalls—especially for extreme weather-related emergencies—severely limit WFP's ability to assist affected communities, with no resources currently available for support.
- In late May, non-state armed groups issued a statement imposing restrictions on UN agency access in five departments where WFP operates. As a result, WFP has limited field missions to those locations while maintaining food assistance through local cooperating partners.

Partnerships

- WFP signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Government of Nariño and the Victims' Unit (UARIV) to strengthen joint efforts in nutrition and assistance to victims of conflict.
- WFP received a USD 9,2 million contribution from the Colombian Institute for Family Well-being (ICBF) for the Mobile Units Project to assist conflict-affected populations.

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](#) stories from women in the Colombian Pacific Region as they fight violence and extreme weather-events through food production and environmental conservation to keep their communities afloat.
- [Watch](#) how Afro-Colombian communities in Chocó are developing food security initiatives with support from WFP.