



COLOMBIA



COUNTRY BRIEF

June 2026



159,932 people assisted in May 2026
(52percent female)



306 mt food distributed in May 2026



USD 3.33 M cash transferred in May 2026



USD 34.5M required in the next six months (June – November 2026)



39,133 internally displaced persons reached



16,940 migrants and refugees reached

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- As of May 2026, WFP has assisted approximately 227,500 people across Colombia, providing life-saving food and cash-based assistance to populations affected by conflict, climate shocks, and mixed migration. Operations have prioritized rural and conflict-affected areas, where violence, mobility restrictions, and displacement continue to limit access to food and basic services.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Despite being an upper-middle-income country, Colombia faces a complex humanitarian and food security crisis. WFP's joint food security assessment in the 15 most vulnerable departments found that 37 percent of households, around 7 million people, face moderate to severe food insecurity, with historically conflict-affected areas showing particularly high levels of severe food insecurity. When extrapolated nationally, overall food insecurity remains unchanged at about 25 percent, with departments such as Atlántico, Sucre, and La Guajira presenting the highest prevalence of severe food insecurity.
- 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. From January to mid-June, 754,200 people have been affected by violence and more than 568,100 have been impacted by weather-related events.
- According to the 2026 Humanitarian Response Plan, 6.9 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.6 million requiring food security and nutrition support. Colombia's decades-long armed conflict has resulted in 10.27 million registered victims, 90 percent of whom are internally displaced persons. In 2025 alone, violence affected more than 1.6 million people and added approximately 150,000 new victims to the country's official registry.
- There are about 2.8 million migrants living in Colombia, representing one of the largest figures across Latin America. By late May, about 44,597 migrants entered and transited the country irregularly, a 37 percent reduction in comparison to the same period of 2025.

Photo Caption & Credit: Leonis Hernández, a participant in the Cash-Based Transfers programme, uses one of the 236 authorized retail outlets to redeem assistance for food in the city of Montería, Colombia. Photo: ©WFP/Monica León.

- Colombia concluded its presidential electoral cycle with the runoff held on 21 June, marking the end of a highly competitive and polarized process. The elections were characterized by strong voter participation and institutional resilience, despite a context of heightened political tensions. Throughout the process, persistent security challenges—including the presence of armed groups and localized violence—continued to affect several regions, particularly rural and conflict-affected areas, posing constraints to democratic participation and stability.
- WFP operates in Colombia since 1969, and its [Country Strategic Plan](#) aligns with the Government's priorities on food security, humanitarian response, early recovery, peacebuilding, and capacity-strengthening to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for Goals).

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

- WFP continues to strengthen its emergency response while advancing resilience and early recovery in partnership with the Government of Colombia, in a context where 6.6 million people are projected to require food security assistance in 2026.

Emergency Response and Early Recovery

- In May, WFP reached over 89,000 people in response to armed conflict and weather-related events in 10 departments. Over 97 percent of beneficiaries received 270 MT of in-kind food assistance and 3 percent received CBT assistance. New emergencies have arisen, in the departments of Antioquia, Chocó, Norte de Santander, and La Guajira where the intensification of armed conflict and climatic events affected more than 188,000 individuals. WFP plans to start new distributions in those locations in the coming months
- Under the cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Equality, WFP continued advancing implementation across its three components, with progress in food assistance, local systems strengthening, and governance of the Right to Food. WFP reached significant milestones in the distribution of food baskets—delivering 4,000 emergency baskets in Bolívar, Sucre, La Guajira, and Magdalena, and 2,824 enhanced, diversified baskets in La Guajira—while also progressing in beneficiary validation, data registration, and monitoring. In parallel, preparatory work for community kitchens included diagnostics, actor mapping and socialization exercises, while 104 diagnostic assessments and the identification of 129 potential beneficiaries advanced the design of local productive systems. At the governance level, WFP strengthened institutional coordination and technical assistance,

including the delivery of 11 territorial workshops and multiple engagement spaces with government and civil society actors to support national and territorial planning for food security.

- With funding from US funded pooled funds, WFP advanced the operationalization of its emergency response across seven priority departments, establishing the logistical, technical and coordination arrangements required to reach 47 municipalities affected by climate-related shocks and compounded vulnerabilities. Early investments in prepositioning (2,847 MT of food, including strategic contingency stocks), financial service provider agreements for cash-based transfers, and partnerships with cooperating partners enabled a rapid start-up and reduced delivery timelines. Progress was also made in strengthening targeting and accountability systems through digital tools (MODA), standardized methodologies and inter-agency coordination mechanisms, including beneficiary deduplication and joint monitoring with partners. In parallel, WFP advanced shared services—including logistics and inter-agency PSEA—enhancing the collective response capacity, operational readiness and protection standards across humanitarian actors. WFP expects to start distributions in June.
- An Early Recovery project planned for May in Briceño, Antioquia was cancelled due to a critical security context marked by clashes between armed groups, the use of explosive devices, and a humanitarian crisis involving displacement and confinement. This situation, compounded by weakened institutional presence and disruptions to basic services, represents a high risk to humanitarian access.
- Between late May and mid-June, an assessment was initiated to design an early recovery strategy targeting confined populations. Based on its findings, the intervention will support 1,249 families in Mistrató (Risaralda), Bajo Baudó, Medio San Juan, and Litoral de San Juan (Chocó) through the provision of inputs, tools, and small-scale productive units adapted to limited spaces near beneficiaries' homes. The strategy aims to strengthen food and nutrition security while supporting short-term income generation, reducing dependence on mobility. It also promotes the use of locally available resources to sustain these activities over time, progressively strengthening household autonomy in contexts of confinement.

Migration Response

- In May, WFP assisted 32,900 migrants, returnees, and host community members through cash-based transfers, hot meals and food kits. About 85 percent of beneficiaries were migrants with the intention to settle in the country,

who received cash transfers; while the remaining 15 percent were migrants in-transit that received hot meals and food kits. WFP officially closed all community kitchens for in-transit migrants.

- The US Government confirmed the extension of the migrant response funding until the end of September 2026. This will enable WFP to continue its humanitarian assistance to migrants, returnees and host communities through cash-based transfers and food kits. Both modalities will remain active until all resources have been implemented. Implementation will proceed through amended agreements. No new beneficiaries will be enrolled under the cash modality, and the strategy will focus on maximizing the number of transfers to existing beneficiaries with the available resources.

Social Protection and School Feeding

- In May, the Mobile Units project, coordinated with the National Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), reached 21,956 people affected by conflict and weather-related events. 59 percent of the beneficiaries were children. Among the key actions in May, the first cash transfer was delivered to 3,598 people assisted and prioritized through Mobile Units across 40 municipalities in the departments of Nariño, Valle del Cauca, Chocó, Cauca, Norte de Santander, and Antioquia. These individuals were assisted as part of the emergency response to victims of violence and weather-related events.
- WFP reached around 74,639 children (including 6,262 migrants) by distributing more than 2.1 million school meal rations across 13 municipalities in La Guajira. In addition, WFP promoted local procurement, with approximately 38 percent of purchases made from small-scale producers contributing to the local economic development of the region.

Resilience, Livelihood Support and Socioeconomic Integration

- The Rural Women Advancing project, funded by Herbalife, continues to consolidate as a comprehensive initiative to strengthen rural women's organizations through the provision of productive assets and continuous technical support. The delivery of 100 percent of machinery and equipment to the five beneficiary organizations has been completed, establishing a strong foundation to scale their productive initiatives. Building on this, the project advanced specialized technical support, improving the production of biofertilizers and feed through the adoption of good management practices, process standardization, and strengthened organizational capacities to ensure efficiency and sustainability in the medium term. Cross-cutting gender strategies have promoted women's active

participation in productive processes and decision-making spaces, strengthening their leadership and economic autonomy. In parallel, the project has progressed in market access, enhancing commercial capacities, building linkages with potential buyers, and addressing key gaps—such as quality, volumes, and formalization—positioning organizations to access sustainable market channels.

- **The Tejidos de Sustento y Vida (Weaving Livelihoods of Life) Project** in the Colombian Amazon continues the implementation of nature-based solutions with communities in Caquetá and Putumayo, alongside the strengthening of early warning systems through the core groups established in the three departments. Technical support was provided to 13 organizations selected under the first value chain call, while proposals from new organizations were received as part of the second call for proposals.
- In May, WFP advanced in **the socioeconomic integration strategy for migrants, internally displaced people and host communities**. Entrepreneurship training was delivered to 70 participants in the cities of Cali and Medellín. In addition, seed capital for entrepreneurs was provided to 180 new participants in Cali, Medellín, Bucaramanga, and Cúcuta, each receiving COP 2,500,000 (USD 690).. An additional 287 participants received a complementary payment, as they had previously been supported with COP 2,000,000 (USD 550).

Innovation

- During this period, the Innovation Hub focused on advancing the preparation and early implementation of the NASA Lifelines initiative, including technical coordination, pitch preparation, and engagement with internal and external partners to define pilot territories and next steps. In parallel, efforts were dedicated to the co-creation and refinement of innovation-enabled socio-economic integration (SEI) proposals integrating differentiated entrepreneurship pathways, innovation components, and ecosystem articulation.
- As part of the Re-Start programme, progress was made in defining the implementation model across the target cities of Cali and Bucaramanga, including the structuring of differentiated pathways for incubation and acceleration of entrepreneurship initiatives, and the Identification and articulation of key ecosystem partners for the implementation.

Cross- Cutting Issues

- During the reporting period, WFP strengthened its response to protection risks by activating the priority response protocol in four cases across Cúcuta, Medellín, and Cali, complementing existing institutional mechanisms

and ensuring a coordinated, protection-centered response to risks such as gender-based violence (GBV), recruitment by armed groups, and street situations. This approach contributed to improved access to timely and safe assistance for highly vulnerable individuals.

- In parallel, the GPI Unit advanced the adaptation of key PSEA messages to the sociocultural contexts of rural, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant communities, improving accessibility, understanding, and community awareness of rights and reporting mechanisms, while promoting safer environments for affected populations.
- Capacity strengthening for cooperating partners also continued through targeted inductions on protection policies, accountability to affected populations, PSEA, and gender, focusing on partners engaged in early recovery, monitoring, and emergency response. These efforts supported the effective integration of protection standards into programme implementation, ensuring safer, more dignified, and policy-aligned delivery of assistance across operations.

Partnerships

- WFP secured a USD 104,790 top-up contribution from the Joint SDG Fund for Colombia under the initiative “Triggering effective access to social protection and jobs services through a strengthened universal social registry in Colombia”, which will support the strengthening of the Universal Income Registry, improve evidence-based targeting and access to social protection and employment services for vulnerable populations.
- WFP and the Government of Putumayo formalized a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen joint efforts to improve food security and nutrition for vulnerable populations in the department, promoting environmental sustainability and the progressive realization of the right to food. The agreement aligns cooperation around nature-based solutions, sustainable agri-food value chains, climate resilience, livelihoods, and emergency response.
- Government of Colombia – ETC La Guajira (School Feeding Programme): A top-up of COP 9,336 million (USD 2.57 million) was secured for the school feeding programme in La Guajira, bringing the total contribution to COP 34,336 million (USD 9.36 million) and enabling the expansion and continuity of coverage through August 2026.

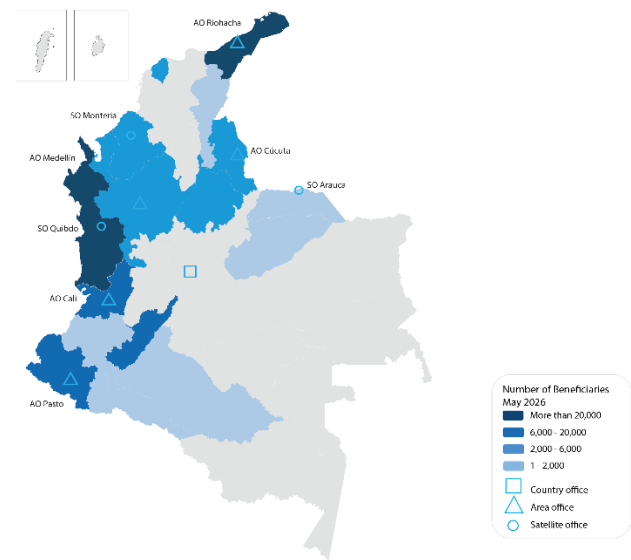
Stories from the Field

- [Learn](#) how WFP is working alongside afro descendant communities to preserve traditional knowledge and food practices. These ancestral practices, passed across generations, not only contribute to nutrition but also reflect resilience and community care. Through its interventions, WFP supports Afro-descendant communities

by strengthening food security and resilience while promoting the recognition and protection of their knowledge systems.

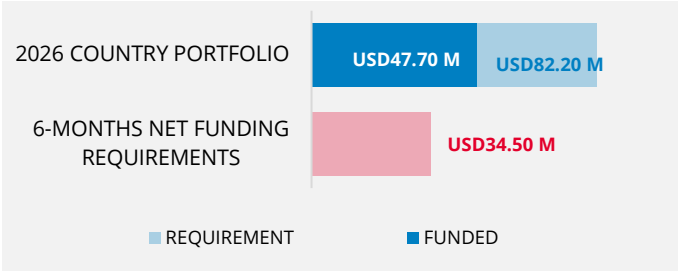
- [Learn](#) how WFP is changing people’s lives in La Guajira through the School Feeding Program, ecotourism and food security.

OPERATIONAL MAP MAY 2026



FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2025-2028)



Donors

Canada, Colombia, European Union, France, Germany, 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.

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