

Project Number: 200917 | Project Category: **Emergency Preparedness Activity**
Project Approval Date: November 19, 2015 | Planned Start Date: November 19, 2015
Actual Start Date: December 18, 2015 | Project End Date: February 19, 2016
Financial Closure Date: September 30, 2016

Contact Info
Andrea Marciandi
andrea.marciandi@wfp.org

Country Director
Elisabeth Faure

Further Information
<http://www.wfp.org/countries>
SPR Reading Guidance



Special Preparedness Activity in Bolivia to improve preparedness capacities

Standard Project Report 2016

World Food Programme in Bolivia, Republic of (BO)



World Food Programme

Table Of Contents

Country Context and WFP Objectives

Country Context

Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

Achievements at Country Level

Supply Chain

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

Capacity Strenghtening

Project Objectives and Results

Project Objectives

Project Activities

Operational Partnerships

Results/Outcomes

Visibility

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Project Indicators

Country Context and WFP Objectives



Country Context

Bolivia is a land-locked country with over 10 million people. Over the past ten years, under the government of President Evo Morales, the country has experienced important achievements, particularly in the area of human rights, and the social inclusion of the indigenous groups. Bolivia has included the rights of indigenous people into its constitution and has adopted the UN declaration on indigenous rights as a national law.

Between 2004 and 2014, extreme poverty fell from 34 percent to 17 percent (Social and Economic Policy Analysis Unit-UDAPE, 2015). However, overall poverty rates remain at 58 percent in rural areas, where 36 percent of households still cannot afford a minimum food basket (Health and Nutrition Assessment Survey-ESNUT 2012). Inequality persists in rural areas, indigenous people, in particular women and children, being the most vulnerable to social and economic exclusion.

Despite the reduction of poverty, further efforts are needed to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2, "Zero Hunger". The prevalence of stunting in children under five remains high (up to 25 percent in rural areas) and the rate of undernourishment is 16 percent (National Demographic and Health Survey-ENDSA 2008), the highest in South America (SOFI, 2015). The prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies, particularly anaemia, is among the highest in the region, affecting 61 percent of children aged 24-59 months and 38 percent of women of reproductive age (ENDSA 2008). On the Global Hunger Index, Bolivia stands at a moderate level with a score of 17, the highest in the region after Haiti and Guatemala. Obesity is a growing public health problem in Bolivia, affecting 60 percent of mothers. According to the National Health and Nutrition Survey (ESNUT, 2012), stunting among children aged 24-59 months dropped from 27 percent in 2008 to 18 percent in 2015. The gross primary school enrolment rate was

93 percent in 2015, with a net enrolment rate of 82 percent, while the dropout rate was only 3 percent (UDAPE, 2015).

Bolivia is located in the El Niño/La Niña area of influence, which results in extreme weather patterns with droughts and floods becoming more intense and frequent since 2006. These climatic events affect the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people, mostly subsistence farmers and indigenous people who depend on agriculture for their main livelihood. In the past three years, major climatic events, including droughts (2013 and 2016) and floods (2014), affected more than 650,000 people (Vice Ministry of Civil Defence-VIDECI). In 2016, Bolivia experienced its worst drought in 30 years according to government statistics. Its effects will continue to be felt throughout 2017, with an estimated loss of more than 50 percent in grain production (Ministry of Rural Development and Land, 2016).

Bolivia relies heavily on imports to meet its food requirements: around 70 percent of wheat and wheat flour are imported (Oilseed and Wheat Producers Association of Bolivia-ANAPO, 2015). To stabilise food prices, the Government created two institutions (Insumos Bolivia and EMAPA) which apply protection policies including subsidies, limitation to food imports, and control of food prices and exports. In 2016, a drop in oil prices reduced the economic growth rate to 3.8 percent (World Bank).

Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

The Government is actively promoting various initiatives to improve the food security and nutrition status of the population, including social safety net programmes.

For the design of its Country Programme, WFP engaged in close consultations with the Government, to align its activities with national development strategies. In particular, WFP activities contribute to the goals of the recently approved Economic and Social Development Plan 2016-2020 (PDES), which aims to promote the social advancement of vulnerable populations. It also contributes to the goals of the Patriotic Agenda 2025 that stresses the importance of food sovereignty and the need to work towards ending poverty.

WFP's operations complement government assistance in the most vulnerable areas of the country. In particular, WFP is consolidating its position as a key partner to support the achievement of objectives under pillars 1, 3 and 8 of the Patriotic Agenda:

Pillar 1 "Reduction of extreme poverty", stresses the importance of social programmes based on cash, vouchers, or subsidies (Renta Dignidad, Renta Solidaria, Bono Juancito Pinto, Bono Juana Azurduy, "Carmelo" nutritional complement, and the pre-natal subsidy "Por La Vida"). WFP contributes to these programmes by providing cash-based transfers to vulnerable populations;

Pillar 3 relates to comprehensive human development, including health and nutrition, with the 2020 target of reducing the prevalence of chronic malnutrition to 9 percent, reducing child mortality by at least 30 percent and maternal mortality by 50 percent. WFP supports this pillar with school meals and assistance to pregnant and lactating women;

Pillar 8, focuses on food sovereignty, stressing the importance of supporting local producers and local markets, and better means to produce and access nutritious foods. WFP promotes the creation of school gardens and greenhouses, and supports linkages between schools and local farmers. The provision of vouchers also contributed to the stimulation of local markets, as beneficiaries redeemed vouchers in local shops selected by WFP. Moreover, WFP's in-kind food assistance was based on locally-purchased products.

WFP supported key government social protection strategies such as the decentralised Complementary School Meals Law to enhance access to education and the local economy. In 2016, WFP encouraged local governments to purchase from local producers, while enhancing capacities of municipalities, such as the Chuquisaca Commonwealth of Municipalities for School Feeding (Mancomunidad de Alimentación Escolar Chuquisaca - MAECH). WFP also strengthened government capacity to respond to droughts, by transferring to local partners its expertise in cash-based transfers.

WFP strengthened local capacities of municipalities and the MAECH in implementing **school meals programmes**, by supporting the creation of an efficient and effective system for programme management. WFP also contributed to the sustainability of the programme by providing continuous technical assistance to local institutions. The exchange of expertise in local purchases was promoted between WFP Bolivia and Paraguay. Experts from the MAECH shared best practices on local procurement and its inclusion into the school meals programme.

Regarding **disaster risk reduction**, WFP worked together with local governments in the building and improvement of assets to enhance resilience and reduce risks in case of droughts or floods, especially in the departments of Tarija and Oruro. Activities were carried out within the national framework for disaster risk reduction and emergency

response and WFP strengthened its relationship with the Vice Ministry of Civil Defence.

WFP activities are aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013-2017. WFP actively participated in the formulation of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the UNDAF. In addition, WFP is an active member of the Country Emergency Humanitarian Team, co-leading the food security cluster with FAO. Regular coordination meetings led by the Strategic Coordination Committee with the participation of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) and the Donors Group, were organised on the drought and on disaster management and prevention. All UN initiatives are coordinated and implemented in close collaboration with the Government of Bolivia.

Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

In 2016, WFP focused on three major areas, identified in consultation with the Government: (i) strengthening food and nutrition interventions, particularly for the most food-insecure populations; (ii) disaster-risk reduction, humanitarian assistance and climate change adaptation; and (iii) promoting diversified food production, dietary diversity and marketing conditions favorable to small farmers.

Country Programme 200381. Approved budget: USD 12.8 million. Duration: 5 years (2013-2017).

The country programme is in line with Strategic Objectives 3 (Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs) and 4 (Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger) of WFP Strategic Plan for 2014-2017. The overall objective of the Country Programme is to strengthen local and national capacities in order to break the inter-generational cycle of hunger. Specifically, WFP aims to enhance food and nutrition security by improving education, nutrition and health throughout the life cycle; to strengthen communities' resilience by mitigating shocks and adapting to climate change; to link the demand of local food-based assistance programmes to small farmers, thereby transforming food and nutrition assistance into productive investments in local communities; and to strengthen government capacity to design, manage and implement tools, policies and programmes for assessing and reducing hunger.

Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) 201021. Approved budget: USD 1,315,100. Duration: three months (September 2016 - December 2016).

Upon government request, WFP assisted drought affected families in the department of Oruro through an IR-EMOP with the objective to save lives and protect livelihoods.

Emergency Preparedness Activity (IR-PREP) 200917. Approved budget: USD 104,000. Duration: three months (December 2015 - February 2016).

This project aimed to improve the government preparedness and response capacities to El Niño/La Niña phenomena.

Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) 200902. Approved budget: USD 992,000. Duration: four months (September 2015 - January 2016).

In line with WFP Strategic Objective 1 (SO1), the IR-EMOP objective is to protect lives and livelihoods while enabling safe access to food for the households affected by floods.

Trust Fund 200797, Food assistance to vulnerable people in the departments of Pando, Chuquisaca and Tarija. Approved budget: USD 669,000. Duration: eighteen months (January 2015 - June 2016).

The objectives of this project were to enhance immediate and medium term food security of beneficiaries; to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures within natural resources management at family and community level; and to enhance resilience and economic sustainability of local production.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

WFP Bolivia maintains important partnerships with the private sector, which has been the main contributor for school meals activities in 2016. Namely, Fundación Repsol and YUM! Brands donated more than USD 1 million to WFP in 2016, enabling WFP to assist more than 37,000 schoolchildren in almost 600 schools.

As no contributions were received for nutrition and disaster risk reduction, activities had to be suspended in the first quarter of 2016, which negatively affected the food security of vulnerable populations. Therefore, planned results for 2016 were compromised by the lack of resources. The IR-EMOP 200021 and the IR-EMOP 200902 were funded with internal WFP resources.

WFP Bolivia is elaborating a new resource mobilisation strategy, with a focus on the private sector and non-traditional donors. At the beginning of 2016, a review was conducted to align staffing structure to resourcing levels.

The lack of funds affected the achievement of planned results, only 23 percent of planned beneficiaries could be assisted through livelihood development and disaster risk reduction activities. Given the high prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition, additional funding need to be secured urgently.

Achievements at Country Level

In rural Bolivia, recurrent droughts and floods jeopardise the food and nutrition security of almost half of the population. To face such challenges, WFP combined development and emergency response to enhance communities' resilience and assist in adapting to climate change.

While financial shortfalls hindered the adequate implementation of nutrition and disaster risk reduction activities, school meals were provided to more than 37,000 schoolchildren in almost 600 schools. Additionally, the WFP supported local authorities in increasing local purchases of nutritious food for the school meals programme in order to help boost local economic development with a multiplier effect on the whole community. WFP has also provided food processing equipment to local producers.

WFP strengthened the relationship with the Vice Ministry of Civil Defence and successfully responded to the needs of 40,000 drought-affected people in the department of Oruro. The monitoring of voucher distributions indicated a reduction of severe food insecurity, a decrease in food expenditures and an increased spending on education, health, home improvements and food for animals. Thanks to the assistance provided, beneficiary food consumption had stabilized, despite the worsening of the drought during the three months of the intervention.

WFP strengthened government preparedness and response capacities to El Niño/La Niña phenomena through the Emergency Preparedness Activity (IR-PREP) 200917. 100 tablets were delivered to the Vice Ministry of Civil Defence and distributed to shock-prone municipalities in order to support remote data collection and on-line input of data for the national 24/7 situation room. Also, a mobile warehouse was installed in the Sub-Government of Yacuiba. The local government is already using it to store food and non-food items for the assistance of drought-affected populations. The warehouse can store up to 200 mt of food.

Finally, in the framework of a Trust Fund for disaster risk reduction financed by the Italian Cooperation Agency, WFP Bolivia was the first country in Latin America to rely on SCOPE, WFP's digital platform for beneficiary registration and transfer management. For its distribution of voucher transfers to over 10,000 people, WFP issued smart cards based on SCOPE. Beneficiaries used these cards to purchase food in selected local shops that had previously been trained by WFP in the handling of POS terminals.

In addition, the Guaraní People's Assembly (APG) asked WFP to distribute additional vouchers, thus allowing for an extension of the project and an increase in the number of beneficiaries. The APG had previously worked with WFP using the CBT modality, and now offered to contribute own funds received from the departmental government. An agreement was signed between WFP and APG and the local government of Yacuiba, which participated in the process through its social protection network. The APG and the local government of Yacuiba were trained on the CBT modality. Beneficiaries of the additional voucher distribution were indigenous communities that were part of the APG. In addition to transfers, WFP and the local government provided communities with technical assistance to increase productivity and nutrition training in order to sustainably improve their food security and nutrition.

The introduction of new crops such as potatoes and peas was part of the training modules for communities, and irrigation systems built contributed to improving drought resilience of crops. Furthermore, with WFP support, communities could also increase the size of cultivated areas. Individual and community-level resilience to drought improved by introducing new income-generating activities such as the communal livestock farming, and livelihoods diversification to reduce dependence on agriculture. Women participated in training activities, and as communities' leaders, in the management of the project.

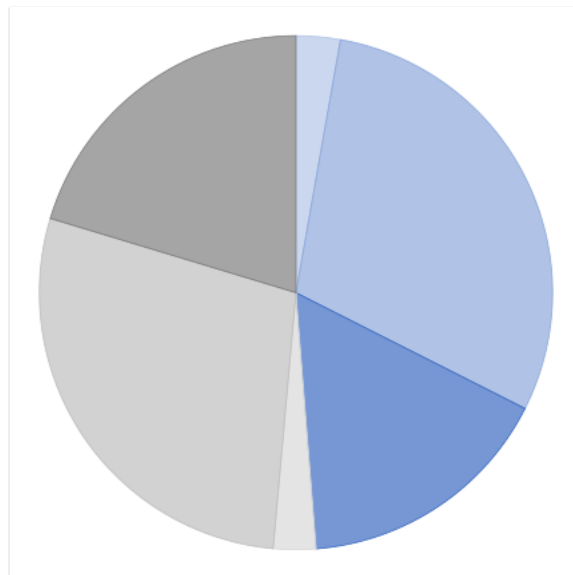
Beneficiaries greatly appreciated the voucher for assets system, which fostered empowerment, especially among women in productive and managerial roles. Community organization has also improved, and the APG, in its new role, shared greater responsibilities in the monitoring and execution of the activities, and the sense of ownership of the community grew. Ultimately, APG acquired the necessary skills to carry out cash-based transfer distributions without the assistance of WFP.

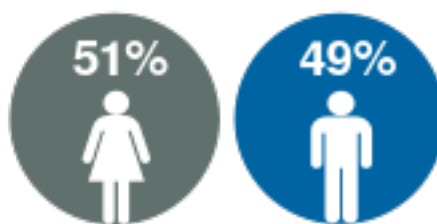
 **Annual Country Beneficiaries**

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	2,178	2,099	4,277
Children (5-18 years)	23,238	22,132	45,370
Adults (18 years plus)	12,770	15,930	28,700
Total number of beneficiaries in 2016	38,186	40,161	78,347

Country Beneficiaries by Gender and Age

-  Children (under 5 years)
-  Children (5-18 years)
-  Adults (18 years plus)
-  Children (under 5 years)
-  Children (5-18 years)
-  Adults (18 years plus)





Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Country Programme	569	123	-	-	17	709
Total Food Distributed in 2016	569	123	-	-	17	709



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Country Programme	87,200	-	-
Single Country IR-EMOP	-	1,016,255	-
Total Distributed in 2016	87,200	1,016,255	-

Supply Chain

As Bolivia is a middle income country, the Government is expected to cover all logistics costs, including local storage, transport and handling. Food transport and handling costs were covered by targeted municipalities.

The Government of Bolivia does not allow international organisations to import food, but encourages local purchases to promote national production. As Bolivia is a land-locked country, local purchases can shorten the lead-time for food deliveries. Therefore, in line with WFP policies and following competitive processes, food was purchased locally, emphasizing traditional diets to the extent possible.

There have been minimal post-delivery losses in Pando (corresponding to 0.05 percent of the total amount of wheat flour), where conditions of the storage provided by the departmental government counterpart were inadequate. While WFP invested a considerable amount of time to train counterpart staff in warehouse and commodity management, various challenges remain, including high staff turnover and insufficient resources invested by the Pando government for warehouse management.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Iodised Salt	17	-	17
Vegetable Oil	106	-	106
Wheat Flour	492	-	492
Total	614	-	614
Percentage	100.0%	-	

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

Although no evaluations have taken place in 2016, a number of monitoring activities were carried out.

In order to create evidence on its sustainability, WFP carried out a review of the school meals model that has been promoted in the past years. The exercise focused on technical assistance provided by WFP to local partners, which generated an important level of knowledge and technical skills that eventually resulted in the complete appropriation of the model by the local authorities. The study will be finalized in 2017 and will present suggestions on how to replicate this best practice.

The adoption of the cash-based transfers (CBT) modality within the food assistance for assets programme increased the proportion of female participants in the assets creation to 90 percent, while it was well under 50 percent when the transfer modality was in-kind. Adopting the CBT modality also increased women's decision-making power at household level, and resources were used to improve the diets of their families.

The role of women within communities changed, as more and more women decided to be part of the working committees. A positive gender dynamic was witnessed in the targeted rural areas, including those with a high proportion of indigenous communities, with men recognizing the important role of women in ensuring household food security.

Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise showed the multiple advantages of using cash transfers compared to in-kind food distributions. Cash transfers reduced logistics costs and eliminated potential commodity losses; allowed for strict and transparent monitoring of the delivery, especially when associated with the SCOPE platform. Beneficiaries could purchase of a wider range of food and other items according to their necessities. Reports show that cash transfers provided beneficiaries with a renewed sense of dignity, as they offered choice instead of a pre-determined and limited food basket.

As departmental governments could not always fulfill their obligations as per agreements made, WFP considers to sign formal annual agreements or operational plans with detailed budgets, in order to make sure all parties meet their commitments. The same is being considered for municipalities and local associations, to ensure a better implementation of activities.

Capacity Strengthening

As the overall objective of the country programme was to strengthen local and national capacities in order to break the intergenerational cycle of hunger, all components included support to the Government in managing national food-based safety nets and in implementing food security and sovereignty policies. WFP supported key national social protection strategies such as the Complementary School Feeding Law to enhance access to education and boost the local economy, and the Bono Juana Azurduy programme to support the health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating women and infants.

WFP strengthened local capacities of municipalities and the MAEACH in implementing **school meals programmes**, by supporting the creation of an efficient and effective system for programme management. WFP also contributed to the sustainability of the programme by providing continuous technical assistance to local institutions. The exchange of expertise in local purchases was promoted between WFP Bolivia and Paraguay. Experts from the MAEACH shared best practices on local procurement and its inclusion into the school meals programme.

In order to support **food assistance for assets**, WFP trained the staff of the municipal government of Yunchará on cash-based transfers and provided assistance, guidance, and technical assistance, especially in relation to the creation of assets, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

WFP and the local government provided the communities of the Guaraní People's Assembly (APG) with technical assistance to increase productivity and nutrition training in order to sustainably improve their food security and nutrition. The APG and the local government of Yacuiba were also trained on the cash-based transfer modality, so that in the future they will be able to implement it without WFP assistance. Community organization has also improved and the APG took over responsibilities in the monitoring and execution of the activities.

WFP strengthened government's **preparedness capacities** to respond to El Niño/La Niña phenomena through the Emergency Preparedness Activity (IR-PREP 200917), by purchasing equipment to support remote data collection and on-line input of data for the national 24/7 situation room. Through this operation, WFP further strengthened the relationship with the Vice Ministry of Civil Defence.

Project Objectives and Results

Project Objectives

Starting mid-2015, there was widespread concern in Bolivia about the impact of a strong El Niño phenomenon in 2015/16, which could lead to modified rainfall patterns causing floods in the northern lowlands and drought in the highlands and in El Chaco region. The recurrence and dimension of the phenomenon has considerably increased in magnitude over recent years, exacerbating food insecurity in parts of Bolivia.

The Government started preparation activities in October 2015. The Vice Ministry of Civil Defense (VIDECI), responsible for emergency response and rehabilitation, prepared a contingency plan for various scenarios along with key government sectors, including agriculture, health, education, and infrastructure. The plan identified 110 municipalities at risk, corresponding to 4.4 million people. As part of the Immediate Action Plan towards El Niño-2016, USD 1.3 million would be needed for preparedness activities. WFP and VIDECEI jointly identified gaps in government operational response capacity to inform this project.

Aligned with WFP's Strategic Objective 1, the main objective of the Immediate Response Preparedness (IR-P) operation was to strengthen WFP and VIDECEI preparedness and response capacity towards the potential impact of El Niño in 2015/16.



Approved Budget for Project Duration (USD)

Cost Category	
Capacity Development and Augmentation	78,600
Direct Support Costs	18,300
Indirect Support Costs	6,783
Total	103,683

Project Activities

Strategic Objective 1: Save Lives and Protect Livelihoods in Emergencies

Goal 3: Strengthen the capacity of governments and regional organizations and enable the humanitarian community to prepare for, assess and respond to shocks

Activity 1. Simulations of response for different El Niño scenarios, in order to adjust emergency protocols and ensure adequate and fast response. This activity was carried out in 2015.

Activity 2. Design of a warehouse control system to track humanitarian items and provision of IT equipment for warehouse management, including computers, printers, network connections, and software licenses. This activity was replaced with a donation of tablets in 2016. By the time the software development company should have been contracted, VIDECEI informed WFP that the system was no longer needed.

Activity 3. Provision of a mobile warehouse to be installed in the city of Rurrenabaque, to address the lack of storage space and transportation experienced during the 2014 floods. As specified in the results/outcomes section, the warehouse was eventually set up in another location.

Operational Partnerships

The Vice Ministry of Civil Defense (VIDECI) was WFP's main partner in this project. With the inputs and the technical assistance provided, VIDECEI is now able to manage the storage and transportation facilities in support of the humanitarian response in the country, including WFP.

Results/Outcomes

All activities planned for 2016 were effective in terms of strengthening government capacity to assess and respond to shocks. WFP trained government staff in disaster and climate risk management and provided equipment and technical assistance.

Strategic Objective 1: Save Lives and Protect Livelihoods in Emergencies

Goal 3: Strengthen the capacity of governments and regional organizations and enable the humanitarian community to prepare for, assess and respond to shocks

Activity 1. Simulations of response in different El Niño scenarios, in order to adjust emergency protocols and ensure adequate and fast response. This activity was carried out in 2015.

Activity 2. Despite the change in the warehouse control system, WFP achieved important results through the delivery of 100 tablets to the Vice Ministry of Civil Defense. The tablets were distributed to shock-prone municipalities in order to support remote data collection and on-line input of data for the national 24/7 situation room.

Activity 3. As local authorities had not concluded engineering tasks related to the foundation of the warehouse in Rurrenabaque, WFP, in coordination VIDECI decided to install the warehouse in Yacuiba. The local government of Yacuiba is already using the warehouse to store food and non-food items for the assistance of drought-affected populations. The warehouse can store up to 200 mt of food.

Visibility

WFP provided ample visibility to both the donation of the mobile warehouse in Yacuiba and the delivery of the tablets to the Vice Minister of Civil Defense, through its social networks, website, and the United Nations Information Center in Bolivia.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Main photo:

Caption. Workers of the Sub Government of Yacuiba building the mobile warehouse donated by WFP © WFP/ Julio Verdun

Project Indicators

Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: Capacity Development - Emergency Preparedness				
Number of data collection tablets provided to the government counterpart	item	-	100	-
Number of logistics hubs established	unit	-	1	-