



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bolivia Country Brief July 2021



Operational Context

In the last decade, Bolivia made significant progress on improving food and nutrition security and reducing extreme poverty. Given the notable socioeconomic improvement, the country accomplished a middle-income status. However, poverty and malnutrition levels remain amongst the highest in the region.

The COVID-19 pandemic followed after a severe political crisis in 2019, adding significant pressures to a fragile institutional setting and political imbalances. Both situations impacted on the socioeconomic situation and food security of Bolivians, especially on those who work on the informal market, smallholder farmers and indigenous communities with precarious sources of income.

WFP Bolivia is currently implementing its Country Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022. Adapting to the country's needs and considering yearly natural disasters, WFP is consolidating its value added as the partner of choice for both emergency response and capacity strengthening, technical support, advocacy, and communications, acting as a facilitator in support of the Government. WFP's interventions are in line with the Five-Year National Development Plan 2020 that focuses on social development of vulnerable indigenous populations.

WFP has been in Bolivia since 1963.



Population: **11.4 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **118 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **16% of children between 6-59 months**

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/bolivia-plurinational-state

In Numbers

USD 0 in cash-based transfers

USD 1.1 million six-month net funding requirements

80 people living with HIV/AIDS trained in nutrition to improve their treatment
July 2021



Operational Updates

- In the month of July, COVID-19 infections decreased from a weekly average of 1,662 at the beginning of the month to 790 at the end. In July, Bolivia had the lowest infection rate since last March.
- By the end of the month, approximately 14 percent of the population was vaccinated (two doses), compared to 6 percent at the end of June. Around 25 percent of the population has received the first vaccine dose.
- Within the framework of the Food Systems Summit, WFP continued to support the organization and implementation of dialogue workshops. On 6 July, a workshop with the industrial sector took place. The National Food Systems Summit Dialogue took place on 14 and 15 July, where the government presented its Country Position, and the Political Declaration which has been presented at the pre-summit in Rome.
- On 27 July, the new WFP Country Director, Alejandro López Chicheri, arrived in Bolivia.
- Nutrition training workshops were initiated for people living with HIV/AIDS in the city of Cochabamba. The objective is to strengthen their knowledge in food and nutrition related to HIV, and to improve their dietary intake and the adherence of their treatments, affected due to the COVID-19 restrictions, which has had a significant impact on their wellbeing.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WFP and the Ministry of Rural Development and Lands was signed. The objective of the MoU is to facilitate the execution and coordination of joint actions and support the strengthening of the Ministry.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
11.7 million	8.3 million	1.1 million

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Communities affected by shocks can meet their basic food and nutrition requirements in times of crisis.

Focus area: crisis response

Activities:

- Provide Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) to crisis-affected households.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable groups at risk of malnutrition in all its forms have improved nutritional status by 2022.

Focus area: root causes

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance to the Government for the delivery of innovative nationwide communications campaigns and multisectoral policies and programmes that contribute to eradicating malnutrition.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes by 2022.

Focus area: resilience building

Activities:

- Provide FFA and training to subsistence smallholder farmers.
- Strengthen government institutions to link smallholder surplus production under activity 3 with the demand generated by the school meals programme.

Strategic Result 4: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacity to manage food security policies and programmes by 2022.

Focus area: root causes

Activities:

- Strengthen the capacities of government institutions to reduce the food insecurity of the most vulnerable communities.

Monitoring

- The baseline study for the resilience project in the Bolivian Chaco region was presented. The baseline shows that 42 percent of households in the region have some degree of food insecurity.

Challenges

- Forest fires in the Chiquitanía region in the department of Santa Cruz have increased this month, affecting 47,000 hectares. WFP is closely following its development and assessing a possible intervention.
- The government announced that the Bolivian Population and Housing Census, which will be financed by the World Bank, will be held on 16 November, 2022. The Census will inform the new Country Strategic Plan (CSP), due to start on January 2023.
- WFP continues facing challenges to secure enough funding to implement the 2018-2022 CSP, particularly Strategic Outcome (SO) 2, Activity 4, SO4 and SO1 to respond emergencies such as the forest fires, drought, and other natural disasters, for which no resources have yet been confirmed.

Partnerships

- The participatory planning phase of the Chaco resilience project finalized this month. With the information obtained, WFP has started the identification and assessment of potential assets to be rehabilitated or constructed in the region in partnership with local authorities.

Donors

Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Japanese Private Sector (JAWFP).