



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Bolivia

## Country Brief

### September 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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## In Numbers

**USD 0.5 m** six-month (October 2021 – March 2022) net funding requirements, representing 52% of total

## Operational Updates

- In the month of September, COVID-19 infections decreased from a weekly average of 420 at the beginning of the month to 302 at the end. Health authorities estimate a possible increase of infections by mid-October.
- 28 percent of the population was fully vaccinated (two doses) at the end of September, compared to 22 percent at the end of August. Around 36 percent of the population has received the first vaccine dose. The government announced that will start vaccinating young people 16-17 years of age.
- The "Strengthening Resilience in the Chaco Region" project continued with Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities and will start the cash distribution to 1,500 families (7,500 people) the third week of October. FFA activities include the construction and rehabilitation of communal and school gardens, improvement of communal water and irrigation systems, and land clearing for agriculture and livestock activities, among others.
- In September, WFP Bolivia implemented an communication campaign regarding the Food Systems Summit. Several relevant communication products were shared on Regional Bureau social networks.
- Responding to a formal request by the Ministry of Rural Development and Land, WFP will update the Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) with data at the community level, hiring three planning specialists and purchasing a new server to host the ICA and other databases.

## Monitoring

- The results of a joint UNDP-WFP project aimed to Strengthen the Resilience of Population of the Southern Altiplano Region of the Department of Oruro were presented to local authorities.

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 11.7 m                     | 8.3 m                            | 0.5 m                                       |

### 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.

## Challenges

- Based on data from the Bolivian Authority of Supervision and Social Control of Forests and Land, from January to August of this year, a total of 1,407,914 hectares were burned as a result of forest fires. 93% of the fires occurred in the departments of Santa Cruz (67%) and Beni (26%). While the Vice Ministry of Civil Defence has informed that most of the heat sources have been controlled, the Vice Ministry has also approached WFP requesting assistance for the Chiquitania ecoregion of the Department of Santa Cruz.
- Hundreds of indigenous people from the Bolivian lowlands ended a nearly month-long march in defence of their territories. The march cited the effects of deforestation, agricultural impacts, settlers, illegal mining, and the expansion of coca. Indigenous leaders from the departments of Pando, Beni, Santa Cruz and Tarija are asking to have an open and integral dialogue with the central government.
- There have been clashes between coca growers from the Yungas of La Paz. Traditional coca growers attempted to retake the headquarters of the La Paz Departmental Association of Coca Producers, which controls the department's main coca leaf market. The conflict has left several injured, including coca growers and police officers, and dozens of detainees.
- WFP continues facing challenges to secure enough funding to implement the 2018-2022 Country Strategic Plan (CSP), particularly funds to respond to emergencies under Strategic Outcome (SO) 1, such as the forest fires, drought, and other natural disasters. The entire CSP has no new resources confirmed to date.

## Partnerships

- To introduce the new WFP Country Director in Bolivia and explore joint work opportunities, meetings were held with the embassies of Korea, Germany, Sweden, the European Union, Japan, Switzerland, and France. Meetings were also held with civil society organizations related to WFP's work, and key private sector leaders.

## Donors

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