



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Colombia Country Brief

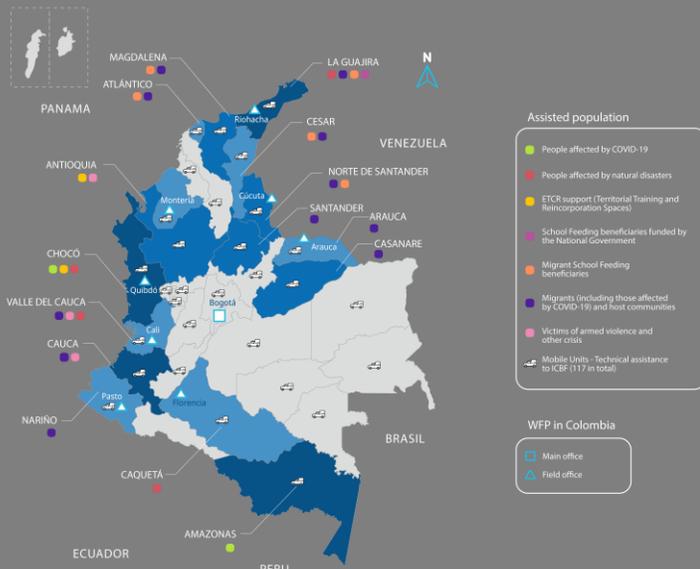
August 2021



Operational Context

The Colombian humanitarian context is complex, with multiple risks and affectations coexisting. Colombia's 50-year-long armed conflict left 7.8 million IDPs, and while the country has set a path of peacebuilding and stabilization, violence caused by armed groups linked to illegal economies still affects thousands of Colombians every year. Colombia has also become the largest host for Venezuelan migrants fleeing dire living conditions in their country. Nearly 5.7 million have already left, and 1.8 million of them are in Colombia which expects another 500,000 to arrive over the next months. The COVID-19 crisis further exacerbates the situation and impacts food security for both Colombians and migrants, especially for those who depend on informal labour, or who are in extreme poverty.

WFP is supporting the Colombian Government in its efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17. WFP's strategy is aligned with Government's humanitarian, recovery, development, and capacity strengthening priorities. WFP has been present in Colombia since 1969.



Population: **49.1 million**

2020 Human Development Index: **83 out of 189**

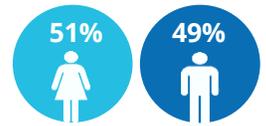
Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **10.8%**

In Numbers

US\$ 85.2 million six months
(September 2021-February 2022) net
funding requirements

402,898 people assisted
in AUGUST 2021



Operational Updates

- **Scale of WFP's response:** WFP reached 402,898 of the most vulnerable people, including migrants, victims of internal violence, school-children, and disaster-affected people (51 percent female). At the national level, WFP has contributed to the humanitarian needs overview for 2022 which will facilitate its planning.
- **Response to the Venezuelan migration emergency:** WFP has been providing a diversified set of interventions adapted to the beneficiary context, including cash-based transfers (CBT), in-kind food assistance, hot meals, food kits, and school feeding supporting 315,352 Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees and members of host communities. WFP has been participating actively in the regional migration response planning for 2022 which takes into account increasing migration flows, with about 500,000 additional migrants expected in Colombia over the next months.
- **Violence and disaster-affected people:** In August, WFP provided life-saving emergency assistance (in-kind and CBT) to nearly 20,400 people who are forcibly displaced or confined in their communities due to disasters or internal violence, such as in Ituango (Antioquia).
- **Support to COVID-19 affected Colombians:** WFP continued to assist nearly 9,000 Colombians affected by the COVID-19 crisis through vouchers in Amazonas and Chocó, and plans to reach 38,000 people across 7 departments in September. Preparations are underway for a second phase of support to the Government's testing, contact tracing and selected isolation strategy (PRASS for its Spanish abbreviation) aiming at 75,000 people.
- **School feeding:** WFP continued providing school feeding through take-home rations as well as on-site to 98,642 Colombian and Venezuelan school children in La Guajira, Barranquilla, Santa Marta and Valledupar. Monitoring results from the first half of 2021 showed that 96 percent of surveyed beneficiaries were satisfied with the quality of the rations received and 83 percent were able to go to sleep without feeling hungry; 13 percent rarely felt hungry. Currently, WFP is supporting preparations for a national coalition for school feeding together with Government authorities.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Colombia

Photo: Displaced people from indigenous communities receive food assistance in Ituango (Antioquia) / WFP Colombia

Country Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
654.3 m	160.5 m	85.2 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Venezuelan migrants, Colombian returnees and members of host communities receive humanitarian assistance, equitable access to quality differential services and expeditious and massive access to the labour market and entrepreneurship options, with a focus on food security and nutrition, with the support of WFP and in coordination with the United Nations country team, as a complement to the efforts of the Colombian Government.

Activities:

- Provide humanitarian assistance and access to services.
- Strengthen institutional capacities and provide support.

Strategic Outcome 3: The public policies, institutional capacity, systems and services for the promotion of food security, nutrition and social inclusion are technically strengthened and vulnerable populations have access to adequate and nutritious food throughout the year for the acceleration of catalytic SDGs, in particular SDG 2, with the support of WFP and in coordination with the United Nations country team, as a complement to the efforts of the Colombian Government.

Activities:

- Support the Government and territorial entities in strengthening their capacity and strategies.
- Provide technical assistance and support for school feeding.
- Provide food and nutrition assistance, including through the strengthening of the social protection system.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 1: By 2024, people and communities in a situation of food vulnerability in the PDET municipalities prioritized by the Government improve their quality of life by strengthening their resilience and sustainable livelihoods and local governments strengthen their capacities, contributing to the stabilization and consolidation of the territories, with the support of WFP and in coordination with the United Nations country team, as a complement to the efforts of the Government.

Activity:

- Provide food, technical and production assistance.

- **Registration and socio-economic integration of Venezuelan migrants:** WFP is actively supporting the implementation of the Temporary Protection Status, currently focusing on the pre-registration phase, targeting Venezuelan migrants who were living in Colombia before 31 January 2021. Moreover, WFP started the prioritization and selection process for its new project in partnership with the World Bank. The aim is to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable Venezuelan migrants and host communities in selected Colombian municipalities (Bogotá, Soacha, Cali, and Bucaramanga).
- **Social protection:** WFP is actively supporting the Government of Colombia and national institutions on strengthening social protection systems and services, such as the Colombia's social registry and official targeting mechanism SISBEN. This includes ongoing efforts to enhance their responsiveness to shocks.

Supply Chain

- Since WFP started operating directly in Venezuela by offering school feeding to vulnerable children in selected areas, WFP Colombia has been providing logistical support through food shipments from its warehouses across the border. To date, 28 trucks have transported 804 mt of food, including fortified rice, pulses, salt, and vegetable oil benefiting about 33,000 people per month.

Monitoring

- During the first half of 2021, WFP surveyed 872 beneficiaries of its community kitchens across the country. 91 percent identified as Venezuelan migrants and 5 percent as Colombian returnees. 87 percent consumed at least three meals per day in the facilities and 60 percent made use of them at least five times per week, indicating a high degree of dependence on this type of assistance.

Partnerships

- Together with its partners, WFP has launched the first fully automated pilot phase of the so-called Unique Identifier on the shared platform. The technical solution will facilitate the deduplication of support to migrants between various organizations.
- The Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) has approached WFP for support in the design of a special component for indigenous communities of its national nutrition survey, and the implementation of a new pilot project aiming at reducing malnutrition among children and improving early childhood care practices in departments with higher malnutrition rates and related morbidity and mortality. As WFP is uniquely placed to respond to these requests, it is currently looking at feasibility aspects.

Challenges

- The key challenge for WFP remain adequate funding levels to ensure that operations are stable and apt for providing effective and continued assistance to over 1.5 million beneficiaries, with a special focus on women and children, including vulnerable Venezuelan migrants and Colombians. Recent generous contributions have enabled WFP's current levels of assistance. However, fresh resources are required from January 2022 onwards for the continuity of operations and to meet the needs of an increasing number of migrants as well as Colombians affected by the dramatic rise in poverty and vulnerability levels, as well as by internal violence and displacement, natural hazards, and COVID-19, among others.

Donors

Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, USA, the World Bank, and private donors. Additional support has been provided by UN CERF, the Adaptation Fund, and the multi-partner trust fund (MPTF).