



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Bolivia Country Brief

June 2020



Operational Context

Bolivia has made significant progress in improving food and nutrition security and reducing extreme poverty. However, sustaining progress, particularly in the most vulnerable areas, depends on the future of the country's oil and gas revenues, which has dramatically decreased in recent years. Despite the progress, poverty and malnutrition levels remain amongst the highest in the region.

The recent COVID-19 crisis takes place on the back of a severe political crisis, adding significant pressures to a fragile institutional setting and political imbalances. Both situations may impact the food security of Bolivians, especially those who depend on informal labour and indigenous communities with precarious sources of income.

WFP Bolivia is currently implementing its Country Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022. With this plan, WFP moves away from food assistance and focuses on capacity strengthening, technical support, advocacy, and communications, acting as a facilitator in support of the Government and adapting to the country's needs. WFP's programmes are in line with the Five-Year National Development Plan 2020 that focuses on the social development of vulnerable indigenous populations. WFP has been present 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**

In Numbers

USD 11.7 m total requirements

USD 1.5 m six months net funding requirements

USD 148,829 distributed in Cash Transfer

4,747 people assisted in June 2020

Operational Updates

- Since 1 June Bolivia is adopting specific lockdown measures for each department and municipality. As of this date, each local authority is responsible for adopting and communicating the specific measures for their localities. Nevertheless, all schools and country borders remain closed. All staff of WFP Bolivia CO is working from home, and all missions not related to the emergency are suspended until further notice.
- In June 2020, about 600 people attended nutritional workshops organized by the Bolivia CO. WFP previously assisted them with electronic cards for food purchases. Due to COVID-19 prevention and social distance measures, most of the workshops took place through virtual platforms.
- WFP assisted 1,100 vulnerable families with electronic cards for food purchases. This group of beneficiaries is composed of people with physical and mental disabilities, families in extreme poverty and abandoned girls, boys and elderly. Because of the lockdown measures, these people have not been able to ensure nutritious food consumption.
- WFP finalized the distribution of Take-Home Rations (THR) in the municipality of Entre Ríos. In June, over 2,500 rations were distributed in 57 different schools. Rations are composed of 14.4 kg of flour and 200 gr of dried peas (per girl/boy).

As per the Ministry of Planning request, WFP provided food rations to 238 families from the indigenous community 'Uru Murato,' in the department of Oruro. These vulnerable families, dependent on the sale of handicrafts, and have not generated income during the entire quarantine period.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
11.7 m	6.4 m	1.5 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 to deliver 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

- WFP Bolivia continues facing challenges to secure sufficient funding for the implementation of the Country Strategic Plan and the COVID-19 response. The Country Office is seeking to expand its donor base, targeting non-traditional donors.
- Bolivia's Supreme Electoral Tribunal set 06 September 2020 as the date for the next presidential election. This situation may lead to political destabilization and, consequently, confrontations between political groups on the streets.

Partnerships

- WFP ensured financing from the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, as one of the responding agencies in a programme financed by the World Bank.
- A technical meeting between KOICA and WFP took place, and the Country Office was invited to develop a proposal for 2022.

Donors

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