



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Bolivia Country Brief August 2020



## Operational Context

In the last decade, Bolivia 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 since 2016, have dramatically decreased. Despite the advancement, 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 have impact on the food security of Bolivians, especially for those who depend on informal labour and for indigenous communities with precarious sources of income.

WFP Bolivia is currently implementing its Country Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022. Adapting to the country's needs, 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. WFP's programmes are in line with the Five-Year National Development Plan 2020 that focuses on 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 257,763** in cash transfers

**USD 0.1 m** six months net funding requirements

**11.912 people assisted**  
August 2020

50.2%



49.8%



## Operational Updates

- On August 27, the Bolivian government announced a progressive return to normal economic activities, planning to gradually remove the COVID-19-related restrictions in all its forms. Working hours will return to eight hours per day. The border restrictions, the suspension of public events, cultural, sports and political activities will remain in force.
- WFP signed agreements with local authorities from the cities of Sucre and Oruro, as part of a UN joint programme supported by the World Bank. WFP will provide up to 5,460 food rations to patients admitted to recovery centres in both cities.
- In the city of Oruro, a Food Assistance for Asset activity for families in vulnerable situation started to be implemented. Beneficiaries work to restore economic assets and receive food vouchers in return. In August the initiative benefitted about 1,600 citizens.
- The WFP assisted with electronic e-vouchers 255 vulnerable Venezuelan migrant families in La Paz and El Alto. WFP also provided non-food-items to support the Venezuelan families.
- In August, WFP provided food assistance to about 450 highly vulnerable families in La Paz and El alto, including abandoned people and psychiatric patients.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>11.7 m</b>	<b>6.4 m</b>	<b>0.1 m</b>

### 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

- Between August 3 and 18, WFP collected data to estimate food insecurity in Bolivia in the context of COVID-19. The exercise follows up a first round of data collection one carried out in May/ June. The results are being processed and will be presented in September.

## Challenges

- WFP continue facing challenges to secure sufficient funding for the implementation of the Country Strategic Plan and the COVID-19 response in Bolivia.
- In preparation for the elections in October, the Organization of American States, the European Union, the Union of Electoral Organizations of America, and other relevant institutions have confirmed the presence of international observation missions as of August. Social unrest and confrontations are expected to occur.

## Partnerships

- A joint proposal for the Swiss cooperation developed together with Peru, Ecuador and Colombia Country Offices, was developed to perform a joint programme addressing smallholders associativity.
- A COVID-19 joint programme proposal for the Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) developed with FAO, UNICEF and UNODC was developed.

## Donors

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