



# WFP Colombia Country Brief

## WFP Assistance

Reintegration of persons affected by the conflict in Colombia	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200708 (Jul 2015 – Jun 2018)	62.9 m	31.8 m (51%)	-

\*April – September 2017

WFP's strategy in Colombia complements the government's peacebuilding efforts and aims to build government capacity by strengthening social programmes, which will improve the food and nutrition security of conflict-affected population. Based on lessons learned and in consultation with the Government, donors and other partners, WFP is reorienting its strategy in Colombia through a strategic review process. Important shifts include the transition from humanitarian assistance to longer-term solutions for recovery. Thematic priorities include resilience-building, capacity strengthening, gender and nutrition sensitive programming with a focus on dispersed rural areas and vulnerable and marginalized ethnic groups. The Country Strategic Plan was translated in to territorial strategic plans to tailor interventions to the specific needs in the regions where WFP has field presence.

As of December 2016, WFP has adopted innovative approaches to assist displaced, confined and returnee population. Support to small farmers and vulnerable populations with e-vouchers that are redeemed at farmers' associations is also provided. Thus, WFP promotes the consumption of fresh nutritious foods and creates market opportunities for smallholder farmers. Additionally, through asset creation activities and trainings, WFP strengthens the resilience of communities affected by conflict and natural disasters. The Government is particularly supportive of this new approach, which is aligned with its post-conflict strategy.

WFP and partners conduct trainings on gender equality (including women's and girl's rights, sexual and reproductive health, shared domestic responsibilities and violence against women) in addition to mainstreaming gender in all activities. Actions such as organizing food distributions closer to targeted communities and minimizing waiting time resulted in a higher participation of women.

Credit: WFP/Marcela Capera.  
Caption: Wayuu PRRO beneficiary receiving nutrient-rich foods in La Guajira province.

# Highlights

On 01 March, FARC members gathered in 25 'transitional zones' and started to hand over their weapons to the United Nations Peace Building Mission. The Colombian government announced that the disarmament will take place in three stages under the tripartite verification mission comprising the Government, the FARC and the United Nations. It is expected that by 01 June, FARC will no longer exist as an armed group and become a political movement. The UN system is supporting the peace stabilization process with an initial joint data collection to develop territorial profiles of areas where UN projects will be implemented.

WFP activities seek to promote the leadership of women and their greater participation in oversight and accountability committees, in order to strengthen their decision-making in project design and implementation.

Strengthening Government Capacities to improve FSN	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
MDTF 200781 Strengthening the PRRO (Jan 2015 –Dec 2017)	1.9 m	1.9 m

WFP established a committee with government partners to coordinate the implementation of the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) and guarantee the complementarity of actions and ensure the flow of information. A multi-donor trust fund (MDTF) has been set up to align with the government's social programmes, with the aim of strengthening their capacities through a wide range of food assistance tools. The MDTF complements WFP's PRRO and effectively contributes to the implementation of WFP's strategy in Colombia.

WFP is undertaking the National Study on Food Security and Nutrition in Indigenous Communities (ENSANI). This study is carried out with the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF), the National Department of Statistics (DANE) and the National Institute of Health (INS). During the first stage (2015), information was gathered from four indigenous groups located in Arauca, Meta and Guaviare provinces. In the current phase, information will be collected among four additional groups, in the Caquetá and Putumayo provinces.

## In Numbers

6 m people displaced

600,000 people in need of food assistance

16,029  
People Assisted  
March 2017



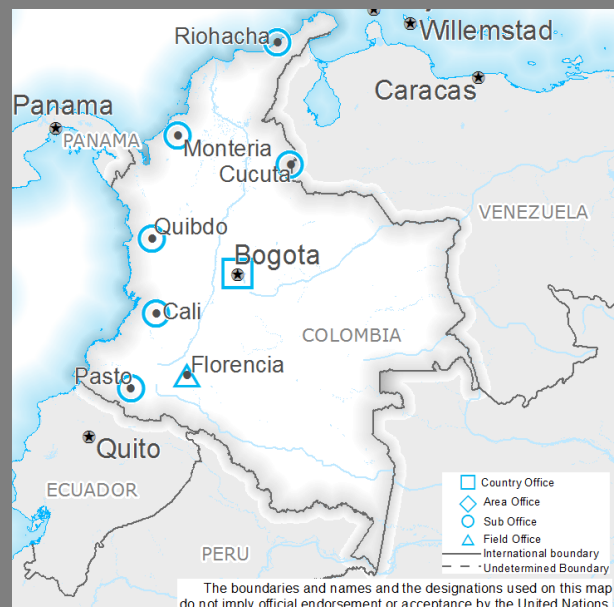
## Operational Updates

- In order to mitigate the security risks that may arise from the presence of the FARC in the transitional zones, UN agencies will develop interventions towards peace stabilization in the first semester of 2017. WFP is present in 70 percent of municipalities where concentration zones are located.
- As a member of the UN Peace Core Group, WFP carried out, with other UN agencies, needs assessments in several municipalities where concentration zones are located. Food security, protection, governance, human rights and basic needs issues were identified, as well as gaps and opportunities for joint interventions (United Nations agencies, NGOs and governmental institutions).
- As a result of more than 20 assessments were carried out and a response plan was defined by the UN Peace Group, with the following axes: Protection and human rights; Local planning capacities; Basic needs; Economic opportunities; Food Security; and Rights of victims. WFP is currently drafting intervention proposals for three areas surrounding the transitional zones, focusing on stimulating food production, and supporting farmers' organizations and income-generation activities. Potential stakeholders have also been identified.
- La Guajira is among the most vulnerable and marginalized regions in Colombia, with high rates of poverty, chronic malnutrition and anemia and lack of access to basic services. Taking into consideration the challenges of implementing the national school meals program (resources management in several departments with a decentralized scheme) and WFP's experience, the Ministry of Education has requested WFP to support the management of the school meals program in La Guajira department by introducing innovative models that ensure transparency and accountability. Negotiations are underway to define a possible WFP intervention that would cover around 160,000 children.

## Challenges

- An important challenge facing the country office is related to the financing of the CSP that is expected to start in April 2017. Therefore, efforts for resource mobilization are underway by approaching traditional and other potential donors.
- Despite the peace agreement signed between the Government and the FARC, violence continues to affect thousands of Colombians, and humanitarian needs are expected to rise, taking into account the increasing levels of internal displacement, which affect communities, particularly on the Pacific Coast. WFP will continue supporting government efforts to assist these communities.

## Country Background & Strategy



With a Gini index of 0.05, Colombia ranks 19<sup>th</sup> among the world's most unequal countries. Despite the government's social investments, many regions, particularly rural areas, still suffer from high poverty, inadequate service delivery and few economic opportunities. Colombia is ranked 92nd out of 186 countries in terms of gender inequality. Colombia's population suffers from chronic malnutrition and anaemia, as well as obesity and over-nutrition.

The fifty-year old armed conflict has affected 7 million people and displaced 6.8 million. In 2014, the Government registered 400,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). The conflict disproportionately affects vulnerable ethnic minorities. Over 95 percent of IDPs are food insecure compared to the national average of 43 percent. In 2015, an additional 1.2 million people were affected by natural disasters.

WFP's presence in Colombia is a result of the instability associated with the conflict and gaps in coverage within the Government's assistance programmes. The Government requested WFP's continued support to assist through a two-pronged strategy: (i) relief and recovery support to the populations affected by the conflict that is expected to end in 2016, as a result of the ongoing peace process; and (ii) capacity development and technical assistance in food and nutrition security.

The signing of a final peace agreement means that the armed conflict between the Government and the country's largest guerrilla group, FARC, brings new opportunities. This will allow the affected population to return to normal life and facilitate the provision of WFP assistance. With great field presence, WFP is well positioned to respond to the emerging needs and complement government's efforts, in close coordination with the UN system.

WFP has been present in Colombia since 1969.

Population: 48,600,000

2015 Human Development Index:  
**91 out of 188**

Income Level:  
**Upper middle-income**

Chronic malnutrition: 13.2% of  
children aged 6-59 months

## Donors

USA, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, Private Donors

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