



# WFP Bolivia Country Brief

## Highlights

- WFP presented its draft Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for the period 2018-2022 to UN agencies, governmental donors, NGOs and private sector entities. Partnerships will be at the heart of WFP's support to the Government of Bolivia's efforts to achieve Zero Hunger.
- WFP is gradually shifting towards home-grown school meals in Bolivia. A first distribution of locally produced foods was carried out in schools of one municipality in Tarija, while 17 municipalities in Oruro continue to pilot this model.

## WFP Assistance

Bolivia Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200381 (Jan 13 – Dec 17)	12.9 m	6 m (47%)	79,100

\*November 2017 - April 2018

The Country Programme (CP) was designed in consultation with the Bolivian Government. It is in line with the Country Strategy Document (2011), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013-2017, Bolivia's National Development Plan and the new Political Constitution.

The overall objective of the CP is to strengthen local and national capacities to break the intergenerational cycle of hunger. Specifically, WFP aims to:

- enhance food and nutrition security by improving education, nutrition and health throughout the life cycle;
- strengthen communities' resilience by mitigating shocks and adapting to climate change;
- link the demand of local food-based assistance programmes to small farmers, thereby transforming food and nutrition assistance into productive investments in local communities; and
- strengthen Government capacity to design, manage and implement tools, policies and programmes for assessing and reducing hunger.

These objectives are to be reached through the three components of the CP:

1. sustainable and productive school feeding;
2. strengthening of government nutrition programmes; and
3. livelihood development and disaster risk reduction.

All components include capacity development and augmentation activities to support the Government to manage its own food-based programmes and strengthen the implementation of food security and sovereignty policies.

**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/José Velasco  
Caption: School meals largely contribute to school enrolment and attendance in Bolivia.

## Operational Updates

- The Government launched its Demography and Health Survey, which shows that overweight is on the rise: Bolivia has the highest rates in South America among women of child-bearing age (25.6%). Chronic malnutrition continues to be a major health problem among children under five, affecting 16% and 24% in rural areas. WFP will assist the Government in documenting the double burden of malnutrition and will continue to support food-based protection programmes.
- On the occasion of the 72th anniversary of the United Nations on 24 October, the Government of Bolivia and the United Nations presented a new assistance framework for the next five years. President Morales attended the signing ceremony.
- Under the home-grown school meals pilot projects, two smallholder associations will now supply flakes and cookies to schools in Oruro province. In Tarija province, locally produced honey, dry meat, peas and peanuts were distributed and a dehydrating plant was inaugurated.



Credit: WFP/José Velasco  
Caption: Presentation of the UN assistance framework. From left to right, the Minister of Planning, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, President Morales and the UN Resident Coordinator.



## Challenges

Severe funding shortfalls currently jeopardise WFP activities in Bolivia. The Country Office works on expanding its donor base targeting non-traditional donors, focusing on South-South cooperation and participating in UN joint initiatives.

Following a comprehensive alignment process with the Government to define the new Country Strategic Plan, WFP will hold consultations with development partners, UN agencies and private sector entities. This participatory planning process contributed to identifying synergies.

## Partnerships

WFP and Repsol representatives visited the Repsol-funded school feeding programme in the municipality of Entre Ríos (Tarija) on 26 October. Thanks to this partnership, 5,000 children in this deprived region receive nutritious school meals every day. Smallholder farmer associations are now supplying products to this programme, thus improving their livelihoods and contributing to food sovereignty.

WFP approached the Spanish regional government of Vigo to seek its support to media-based nutritional education programmes in Bolivia. If this contribution is confirmed, Vigo will become the first Spanish region to ever fund WFP.

## Impact of Limited Funding

Funding shortfalls resulted in the halt of all nutrition and livelihood activities in April 2016. Only school meals activities continue, reaching 32,800 children out of the 40,000 planned.



Credit: WFP/José Velasco

Caption: WFP and Repsol representatives visited El Pajonal school in the municipality of Entre Ríos (Tarija) and joined the children at lunch time. Meals used local foods, supplied by smallholder farmer associations.

## Country Background & Strategy



Despite the encouraging progress on the social and macroeconomic front, the Plurinational State of Bolivia still faces major development challenges. 39 percent of the population lives below the poverty line (UDAPE 2015). The level of undernourishment is 15.9 percent, the highest in South America (SOFI, 2015). On the Global Hunger Index, Bolivia scores 16.9, the highest score in South America and third in the LAC region after Haiti and Guatemala.

WFP's support in the country is designed around three main objectives: i) the strengthening of food and nutrition interventions throughout the life cycle, particularly for the most food insecure populations; ii) humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation; and iii) the promotion of diversified food production, dietary diversity and marketing conditions favourable to smallholder farmers. WFP also supports key government social protection strategies such as the Complementary School Feeding Law to enhance education and the local economy, and the Bono Juana Azurduy programme to support the health and nutrition of pregnant women and infants.

WFP's programmes are in line with the recently approved national Five-Year Development Plan 2020 that emphasizes the need for the social development of vulnerable populations.

WFP has been present in Bolivia since 1963.

Population: **11.4 million**

2016 Human Development Index:  
**118 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **16% of children under 5**