



World Food Programme

# WFP Colombia Situation Report

## December 2019



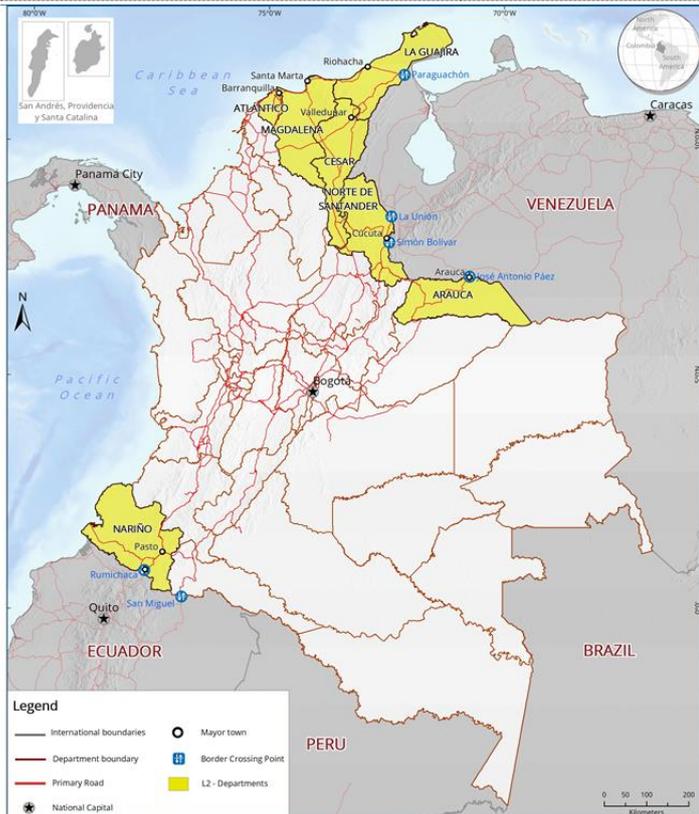
### 285,118 People assisted

November 2019



WFP Colombia Country Strategic Plan

<b>Global Humanitarian Funding</b> Regional Response Plan 2019	<b>Overall:</b> USD 315.5 million
	<b>WFP's share:</b> USD 74 million
<b>WFP 6-month Net Funding Requirements</b> (January 2019-June 2020)	
<b>Strategic Outcome 2</b> <i>Crisis-affected populations, including victims of violence, natural disasters and shocks, marginalized communities and vulnerable ethnic populations have adequate access at all times to nutritious foods and diversified diets, and are supported in establishing or improving their livelihoods</i>	<b>USD 69.6 million</b>



## In Numbers

**4.7 million** Venezuelans have fled their country

**1.6 million** Venezuelan migrants in Colombia

**500,000** migrants in transit to other countries & **500,000** Colombian returnees

**3.4 million** people regularly commuting between Colombia and Venezuela to access basic services

## Highlights

- The Venezuelan migrant crisis is only second to Syria and forecast to surpass it in 2020, with some 6.5 million Venezuelans (over 20% of the population) projected to have fled from critical living conditions in their country. According to the 2020 Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), ca. USD 1.3 billion are needed to address pressing needs.
- In November, WFP has scaled-up its assistance, reaching an all-time high 285,000 vulnerable people in seven Colombian departments with hot meals in community kitchens, unconditional vouchers, food kits for migrants in transit and emergency school feeding. However, more is needed as migrant flows are projected to continue growing.
- In this context of increasing needs, WFP Colombia is planning to nearly double the number of people we support in 2020, for which we initially project **some USD 150 million will be needed.**

## Situation update

- According to the latest UNHCR estimates, 4.76 million Venezuelans have fled their country, with Colombia currently hosting some 1.6 million of them, in addition to about half a million Colombian returnees and another 500,000 migrants in transit to other countries.
- The [2020 Regional Refugees and Migrant Response Plan](#) projects some 5.6 million Venezuelans will have settled in or passed through Colombia by the end of 2020, with 1.8 million requiring food assistance.
- Countries like Ecuador, Perú and Chile imposed entry visas on Venezuelans in 2019, which makes them increasingly likely to stay in Colombia.
- Funding for the Venezuelan migrant crisis [not enough](#). Although it is projected to become the worst migrant crisis in 2020 in terms of people forcibly displaced, average funding per migrant only reaches USD 125, a concerningly low level in comparison with other refugee and migrant crises in the world.

## WFP response

- In coordination with the Government of Colombia, other UN agencies and partners, WFP is providing life-saving food assistance in seven departments: Arauca, Cesar, La Guajira, Norte de Santander, Nariño, Magdalena and Atlántico. WFP assistance is focused in bordering areas where the most acute food and nutritional needs are present.
- WFP provides **hot meals** in community kitchens, aiming at reaching the most vulnerable, including women, girls, boys and the elderly, who have often walked for days without a proper meal. In November, WFP reached 134,000 people with hot meals.
- **Unconditional vouchers** that families can redeem in WFP-contracted local shops are provided to vulnerable migrants intending to settle in Colombia as well as host communities. Over 120,000 migrants and host communities received vouchers.
- **Food kits** which can be easily transported and cover the basic caloric intake of each individual for 5 days are distributed to migrants transiting through Colombia on foot. Nearly 10,000 kits were distributed in November.
- WFP complements the government **school meals** programme in the departments of Atlántico, La Guajira, Magdalena, Cesar and Norte de Santander to promote the integration of migrant children into local communities. Some 20,000 girls, boys and adolescents received nutritious meals in November.

## Assessments

- WFP carried out an **Emergency Food Security Assessment** (EFSA) in September in five Colombian bordering departments. Results show that 54 percent of Venezuelans are food insecure. More concerning is that 8 in 10 migrants in transit are food insecure, as are 6 in 10 pendular migrants, who regularly commute between Venezuela and Colombia in search of food and basic services. 55 percent of Venezuelans are using negative strategies to cope with this situation and half of the surveyed report having begged on the streets.
- WFP is conducting an EFSA and market assessment in urban areas of the Atlántico department to understand the food security and nutrition situation of populations affected by Venezuela's migrant crisis.
- In November, WFP conducted a Data Protection and Privacy Assessment in Nariño. Results indicate that 97 percent of people surveyed would feel comfortable with providing their personal data to WFP. Findings supported the beneficiary registration pilot in Nariño.

## Planning & Resourcing

- WFP Colombia is planning to reach some 440,000 vulnerable migrants and host communities on a monthly average in 2020, in line with increasing migrant inflows and heightened vulnerabilities. For this, WFP initially projects **USD 150 million are needed**.

## Other Priorities

- **New Country Strategy:** WFP Colombia is preparing a new Country Strategy to support vulnerable people through 2021-2024, in alignment to government priorities and those in the upcoming United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.
- **Beneficiary registration:** Preparations are ongoing for the implementation of WFP's corporate beneficiary registration and management system (SCOPE) in Colombia in 2020. In November, a successful pilot was conducted in the department of Nariño. A second pilot is planned in January, where the EKAA platform, developed by WFP Colombia, will also be tested.
- **Cash-transfers:** WFP is preparing for the introduction of cash transfers in selected locations in 2020. A pilot will take place in early 2020 with the activation of WFP's Global Agreement with Western Union.
- **Shock-Responsive Social Protection:** WFP is closely collaborating with the Colombian Government on a pilot Shock-Responsive Social Protection project, to channel cash-based transfers through existing government social protection systems.

## Supply Chain

- WFP currently counts on 65 retailers to support the voucher programme in border departments, improving access to shops for the people we serve.

## Inter-Agency coordination

- A joint mission with UNHCR, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) and the Collaborative Cash Delivery Network was held to identify opportunities of collaboration on cash transfers and data systems inter-operability.
- WFP has actively participated in the consultation process and in the definition of concrete outcomes and outputs for the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2024.
- WFP is an active member of the Inter-Agency Group on Mixed Migratory Flow (GIFMM) both at local level and national levels to ensure coordination and constant communication with the other humanitarian and development actors responding to the migrant crisis.
- WFP Colombia co-leads both the Food Security Cluster, together with FAO, and the Cash Working Group, with the Colombian Red Cross.



Photo: WFP employee conducting an EFSA interview in La Guajira. WFP/Yasmira Romero