


Colombia (refugees and migrants)

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PEAK 2022

 **2.88M** people or **62%** of the total analysed population were estimated to be facing moderate or severe acute food insecurity in June–August 2022

Source: WFP, November 2022.

Food crisis overview

The acute food insecurity situation of refugees and migrants in Colombia was of concern due to increasing economic shocks that have added to the negative impacts of conflict and weather extremes.

The country hosts the world's largest number of refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela worldwide. By August 2022, the Venezuelan migrant population was estimated at about 4.8 million, which includes 2.5 million migrants and refugees with intention to settle and about 2.3 million pendular and in transit migrants (R4V Colombia, 2022).

This population was included in the GRFC 2023 for the first time since 2019 and 2020, when it was part of the regional crisis of migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

According to a WFP food security assessment, about 2.88 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants, or 62 percent of the total refugees and migrant population, were estimated to be suffering from moderate or severe acute food insecurity in June–August 2022, as per WFP CARI methodology. This represents a deterioration compared with the previous analysis conducted by WFP in 2019, when 55 percent of the total population of 1.6 million refugees and migrants with intention to settle faced moderate and severe acute food insecurity, as per WFP CARI methodology (WFO, November 2022).


The situation was worst among pendular and in transit migrants, with 73 percent of people in both these groups facing moderate or severe acute food insecurity compared with about 52 percent of people with the intention to settle.

In terms of severity, about 48 percent of the total refugee and migrant population faced moderate acute food insecurity and about 14 percent faced severe acute food insecurity. Disaggregated by population group, about 19 percent of pendular migrants and 37 percent of in transit migrants faced severe acute food insecurity compared with 7 percent of those with intention to settle.

Overall, about half of refugee and migrant households did not consume an adequate diet, consumed fewer than three meals per day and had low dietary diversity. Among refugees and migrants, acute food insecurity is highest among certain socioeconomic groups, particularly indigenous households and afro-descendent groups.

For indications of the acute food insecurity of the national population, see *Spotlight: Countries of concern with data gaps*.

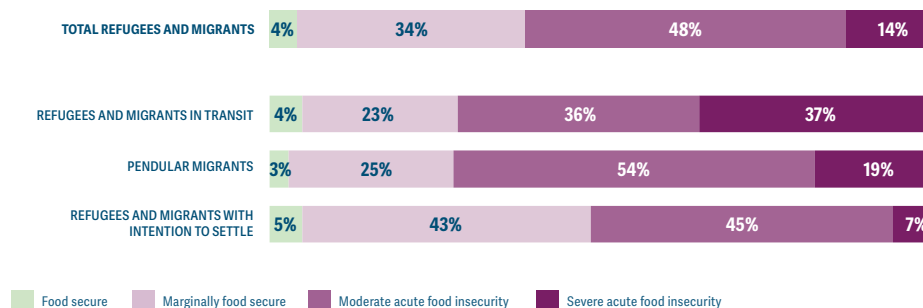
Drivers of the crisis, 2022–23

 **Economic shocks** Refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have fled a country suffering from years of economic hardship and political strife and had very fragile livelihoods in the host country, which increased their socioeconomic vulnerability amid severe integration difficulties.

Colombia has experienced successive years of economic shocks including the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic impacts of the war in Ukraine. Macroeconomic challenges in Colombia in 2022, notably high inflation, eroded the purchasing power of poor refugee and migrant households, severely constraining their food access.

By the end of 2022, annual food inflation was 27.8 percent (DANE, January 2023), reflecting Colombia's reliance on imports of food and agricultural inputs, sharp currency

Numbers of people by phase of acute food insecurity, June–August 2022




Source: WFP, November 2022.


depreciation and increasing international prices of commodities, largely due to the effects of the war in Ukraine on global markets (WFP, November 2022).

By the end of 2022, large efforts had been made to regularize and integrate refugees and migrants in Colombia, with many granted a Temporary Protection Status (TPS), increasing their access to social protection programmes (R4V, November 2022). Nevertheless, many refugees and migrants still face access barriers to official and informal safety nets, which increase their vulnerability (WFP, November 2022).

In 2022, over 50 percent of refugee and migrant households reported a year-on-year decline in income (WFP, November 2022), which is of concern as about 63 percent of the migrant population was estimated to be monetarily poor in 2021, with 24 percent being extremely poor (DANE, June 2022).

 **Conflict/insecurity** Levels of acute food insecurity among refugees and migrants tend to be most severe in Colombia's border departments of Arauca, La Guajira, Cesar, Norte de Santander and Nariño, where poverty rates and unemployment are higher and where armed conflict can

restrict movements and exacerbate vulnerabilities (WFP, November 2022).

 **Weather extremes** As of October 2022, about 460 000 people – nearly 60 percent of them in the departments of Antioquia, La Guajira, Bolívar, Chocó and Cesar – were affected by flooding and landslides associated with La Niña, as well as by the landfall of hurricane Julia in early October (OCHA, 2022), which further constrained food access and availability in areas already affected by high poverty levels.