



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief August 2021



Operational Context

Ecuador is an upper-middle-income country; 63 percent of the population lives in urban areas. Income inequality is high (Gini coefficient of 0.48, 2019) and there is a significant rate of chronic malnutrition. Despite the peace process in Colombia, new refugees are still arriving to the country, in addition to an increasing number of vulnerable Venezuelans.

The country is prone to natural hazards, including droughts, floods, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

Currently, Ecuador is one of the most affected countries by the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America and Caribbean.

WFP in Ecuador aims at supporting government policies and priorities, as well as contributing to food sovereignty, food security and nutrition of vulnerable people.

WFP has been present in Ecuador since 1964.



Population: **17.2 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **86 out of 189**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **23.9% of children under five years old**

In Numbers

US\$ 0 m six months (September 2021-February 2022) net funding requirements

US\$ 2,493,564 cash-based transfers made

82,459 people assisted in AUGUST 2021



Operational Updates

- 71,316 migrants, refugees and host community members benefited from WFP's food vouchers in August. The majority of migrants and refugees were Venezuelans (96 percent), and Colombians (4 percent). 7,690 pregnant and lactating women and children under two years of age, from the most vulnerable households in 16 provinces, received an additional transfer to improve their nutrition during the 1,000 days window.
- 7,610 people, 48 percent from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens.
- 3,922 Venezuelan migrants on the move were supported by a one-time food voucher.
- On 19 August, 2021, Country Director Matteo Perrone had a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Mauricio Montalvo. The meeting provided the opportunity to review WFP's Strategic Plan 2017-2021 and the new working plan. At the end of the meeting, both authorities reaffirmed their commitment to continue working with the most vulnerable population in Ecuador.
- In Macara, with the support of WFP, the Agricultural Research Institute (INIAP), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), and the local government of Loja, presented a new model for rice production named "arrozpato." The integrated rice-duck farming system (IRDFS) grows rice and ducks together in an irrigated paddy field.
- WFP participated in the Ancestral Knowledge Dialogue organized by the local government of Ibarra. In the event, the Country Director affirmed that ancestral knowledge strengthens food security.
- With the support of WFP, the Ministry of Education held a workshop on the Participatory Construction of the School Feeding Model for Rural Areas. As a result of the workshop, the next steps for the pilot project in Loja and Imbabura were defined.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
148.3 m	141.8 m	0 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #1: Refugees, displaced persons and vulnerable people in Ecuador are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements all year long

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Complement the Government's social protection strategy by providing Cash-Based Transfers to the most vulnerable populations and support in vulnerability analysis and knowledge management.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

Strategic Outcome #2: Smallholder farmers, especially women, in targeted areas, durably increase their incomes and improve their productivity by 2021.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Support and increase the participation of smallholder farmer organizations in national and local commercial mechanisms and institutional markets.
- Strengthen the capacity of farmer organizations.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome #3: Food-insecure communities and individuals in areas that are highly vulnerable to climate change, and government institutions have strengthened capacity for adaptation to climate change by 2021.

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Strengthen or develop emergency preparedness, response, and early warning systems.
- Strengthen the implementation of adaptation and resilience measures.

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome #4: National institutions and programmes in Ecuador, including social protection programmes, are supported to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition by 2021.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Technical assistance, research and assessments, to improve the implementation of programs linked to food security and nutrition.
- Knowledge management and sharing of best practices and studies, including through South-South cooperation.

Strategic Result 8: Enhance Global Partnership

Strategic Outcome #5: Humanitarian and development partners in Ecuador have access to reliable services throughout the crisis.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance and services through the logistics sector to the National Disaster Management Offices and relevant partners to improve emergency logistics coordination and supply chain management.

- WFP continues to provide nutritional follow-up for shelters and canteens. It is also following up on capacity trainings for the cooperating partners, to ensure that trainees have been keeping up with the guidance received on managing healthy and nutritious foods for WFP's beneficiaries.

- WFP steadily monitors the market and wholesale food prices. In August 2021, the overall price of the food components of the basket of goods at the national level remained stable.

- In its last report, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) mentioned that Ecuador's GDP would increase by 3 percent in 2021. That said, it is important to note that the economy decreased by 7.8 percent in 2020.

Challenges

- As of 30 August, a total of 501,140 COVID-19 cases have been reported at the national level. Since 30 July, 13,768 new cases were reported, a decrease from the the month prior. Almost 8,813,000 people have been fully vaccinated so far. Approximately 6,800 refugees and migrants have received both doses of the vaccine.
- According to the National Institute of Statistics and Census, the national unemployment rate increased to 5.2 percent in July (higher than 5.1 percent in June). While both the adequate employment rate and underemployment rate remained almost the same level, between June and July, male unemployment rates decreased to 3.8 percent while female unemployment rates rose to 7.1 percent.
- According to the Human Mobility Round Table, between 1,500 and 1,800 migrants cross the Northern border daily. Due to the prohibition of migrants arriving into the city of Tulcan, humanitarian assistance is being delivered at strategic places alongside the Panamericana road.

Donors

Brazil, Canada, European Commission, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, United States of America, Private and Multilateral donors.

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.