



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief July 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**

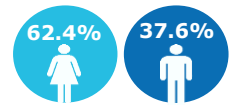
Chronic malnutrition: **23.9% of children under five years old**

In Numbers

USD 10.2 million six-month net funding requirements

USD 2,249,854 cash-based transfers made

72,326 people assisted
July 2021



Operational Updates

- 65,296 migrants, refugees and people from host community benefited from WFP's food vouchers in July. The majority were Venezuelans (96 percent), followed by Colombians (3 percent). 14,980 pregnant and lactating women and children under two years of age of the most vulnerable households in 16 provinces received an additional transfer to improve their nutrition during the 1,000 days window.
- 3,001 people, 66 percent from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens.
- 4,029 Venezuelan migrants on the move were supported by one-time food voucher.
- WFP and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition celebrated the International Mangrove Day. During the event, WFP emphasized the importance of the conservation of the mangrove ecosystem to ensure families' livelihoods.
- With the support of WFP, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, hosted a country fair, where small-scale producers could present their products. The event highlighted the importance of agriculture as a pillar of the food supply chain.
- The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock had a meeting in Rome with the Executive Director of WFP. At the meeting, the Minister and WFP discussed the importance of peasant family farming and the fight against malnutrition.

Contact info: Gabriela Montesdeoca (gabriela.montesdeoca@wfp.org)
Country Director: Matteo Perrone
Further information: <https://opweb.wfp.org/country/mng/?UNC=218>

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
148.3 million	109.9 million	10.2 million

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.

Monitoring

- 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 July 2021, the overall price of the food components of the basket of goods at the national level remained stable.
- Along with USAID, WFP visited some beneficiary households and shelters in Manabí. During the visit, WFP and other United Nations agencies presented the joint implementation strategies for vulnerable families in human mobility.

Challenges

- As of 30 July, a total of 486,544 COVID-19 cases have been reported at the national level. 28,040 new cases were reported since 30 June, a smaller increase than the previous month, along with significant progress in national vaccination.
- According to National Institute of Statistics and Census, the national unemployment rate decreased to 5.1 percent in June (down from 6.3 percent in May). While both the adequate employment rate and underemployment rate remained at the same level, between May and June, male unemployment rates decreased to 4 percent while female unemployment rate rose to 6.7 percent.
- In the city of Macará, the arrival of Venezuelan migrants on the move through irregular paths continues. The municipality of Macará and the Public Advocate Office are managing the implementation of a shelter.

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.