



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief December 2018



Operational Context

Ecuador is an upper middle-income country; 63 percent of the population live in urban areas. Income inequality is high with a Gini coefficient of 0.47 (National Institute of Statistic and Census – INEC 2018) and a significant rate of chronic malnutrition. Gender Based Violence affects six out of ten women (2015). Despite the peace process in Colombia, new refugees are still arriving in 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.

WFP's goal in Ecuador is to be an innovative partner, supporting government policies and priorities as well as contributing to gender equality and the 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\$ 841,774 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0.55 m six months (December 2018- May 2019) net funding requirements

57,954 people assisted
in December 2018



Operational Updates

- The state of emergency in human mobility has been extended until January 2019.

29,012 people benefited from WFP's food vouchers. Most beneficiaries were Venezuelan (81.1 percent), followed by Colombians (18.3 percent) and 0.6 percent of other nationalities.

1,585 people were assisted at shelters and canteens managed by partner organizations. Around 59 percent of those assisted were Venezuelans.

16,614 vulnerable Venezuelans received one-time food assistance at migration checkpoints along the northern border.

- WFP is assessing the possibility of distributing rechargeable electronic food vouchers. Technical discussions are underway, and a pilot is likely to start early 2019.
- 10,743 children were assisted through the complementary school meals programme in Esmeraldas, Carchi, Imbabura and Sucumbíos.
- WFP has worked closely with the local governments of Carchi, Imbabura and Sucumbíos to implement school gardening projects adding to the sustainability of local school meals programmes.
- A binational meeting was held in Bogotá, Colombia to discuss the best alternatives for climate risk data collection. The usage of drones will be further discussed and analysed with government partners.
- The Government's FORECCSA Project to strengthen communities' climate change resilience with a focus on food security was presented as a successful climate policy example at the COP24 in Katowice, Poland.

- WFP participated in the final yearly meeting of the Humanitarian Assistance Working Group headed by the Risk Management Secretariat. This space brings together public and international organizations to better plan integral responses in case of emergencies.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
41.5 m	21.2 m	0.55 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.
- Strengthen strategies to link sustainable livelihoods to food security and nutrition activities.

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 4: 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.

- WFP, as leader of the UN Food Security Cluster, will be updating the Flood Contingency Plan as part of the preparation measures for El Niño.
- Since 1 April 2017, the Country Strategic Plan for Ecuador positions WFP as a strategic and public policy partner. WFP supports government efforts to achieve SDGs 2 and 17 through four outcomes. Each strategic outcome includes activities corresponding to government priorities and WFP's experience and expertise.
- The five-year strategy envisages a decrease in WFP's direct implementation of programmes and the progressive hand-over of activities to the Government.

Challenges

- As the Venezuelan migration crisis, greater funding mobilization efforts are required to assist the growing influx of vulnerable people in a timely manner.
- The scope of the Venezuelan migration crisis has somehow overshadowed the persisting humanitarian situation in Colombia, where the presence of insurgent groups continues to perpetuate the spiral of violence and crime that forces thousands to flee their homeland in seek of refugee in neighboring Ecuador.

Official launch of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan in Geneva, Switzerland

The Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan was launched in Geneva on 16 December 2018. This platform brings together 40 participating entities, including 17 UN agencies, 14 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), five donors and two international financial institutions.

WFP's Ecuador budget for the implementation of this plan corresponds to USD 34,3 million to provide assistance to around 705,000 people, including 30,000 members of host communities.

Donors

United States of America, Republic of Korea, Adaptation Fund, Federal Republic of Germany, CERF, Private and Multilateral donors.