



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Ecuador Country Brief October 2018



## Operational Context

Ecuador is an upper middle-income country; 63 percent of the population live in urban areas. Income inequality is high as evidenced by a Gini coefficient of 0.46 (National Institute of Statistic and Census – INEC 2017) and there is 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 food sovereignty, food security and nutrition of vulnerable people, and gender equality. WFP has been present in Ecuador since 1964.



Population: **16.7 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

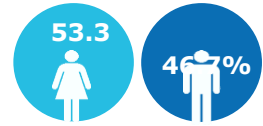
Chronic malnutrition: **23.9% of children under five years old**

## In Numbers

**US\$ 713,871** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 41.45 m** total requirements

**43,053 people** assisted in October 2018



## Operational Updates

- 28,766 people benefited from WFP's food vouchers. The majority of people assisted are Venezuelans (78.5 percent), followed by Colombians (19.3 percent) and 2.2 percent other nationalities.
- 3,529 commodity vouchers were distributed among vulnerable Venezuelans at migration checkpoints located at the northern border with Colombia. Priority is given to pregnant and lactating women and children. Distribution was coordinated with the Government and other UN agencies. The Government extended the state of emergency in human mobility till November 2018.
- During his official visit to the country, Miguel Barreto, WFP's Regional Director held a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs to discuss the migration crisis and the importance to respond in the medium-long run through national social protection systems. He also met with the Health and Economic and Social Inclusion Ministers to reiterate WFP's commitment to support the Ecuadorian government policies related to food security and nutrition for the most vulnerable population.
- Smallholder women supported through WFP's programs participated at the National Fair organized to commemorate the International Day of Rural Women. This event gathered together government institutions, cooperation agencies and local population.
- This year's World Food Day celebration took place in the city of Ibarra in close coordination with the Local Autonomous Decentralized Government of Imbabura. Children participated in a race against hunger and malnutrition.
- The results of the case study "Linkage of Smallholder Farmers to Alternative Markets" was presented to national government partners. A workshop to share the results with local stakeholders will be organized next month.

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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                     | 20.41 m                          | -1.9 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.

- 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 migration trend of Venezuelans into the region continues to grow, greater coordination and resource mobilization efforts will be required to fulfil the goals set forth in the regional platform led by UNHCR and IOM.

## The study "Fill the Nutrient Gap" presents its main findings

On 4 October 2018, the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) working group headed by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion presented its results.

This technical study provides valuable insights to inform intersectoral nutritional policy-making. Several attention schemes were modelled to assess the opportunities and challenges for meeting nutrient requirements of key target groups and model the average Ecuadorian diet and its cost.

## Donors

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