



WFP Ecuador Country Brief

May 2018

Operational Context

Ecuador is an upper middle-income country; 63 percent of the Ecuadorian population live in urban areas. Income inequality is high as evidenced by a Gini coefficient of 0.48 (National Institute of Statistic and Census – INEC 2015). 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.



Population: **14.5 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
89 out of 188

Income Level: **Upper middle**

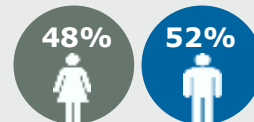
Chronic malnutrition: **23.9% of children under five years old**

In Numbers

USD 1.93 m six months (June - November 2018) net funding requirements

USD 438,930 cash based transfers made

37,663 people assisted
in May 2018



Operational Updates

- Colombia and Venezuela closed their borders during elections leaving thousands of Venezuelans waiting at migration checkpoints.
- Migration flows at Rumichaca, province of Carchi increased from 2,500 to around 5,000 persons per day. A similar situation occurred at the San Miguel Bridge, province of Sucumbíos. Long queues made people wait between 12 to 24 hours to pass the border controls under harsh climatic conditions and with little access to food. Starting on 18 May 2018, WFP provided one-time food assistance at the migration checkpoints. Until 31 May 2018, 13,271 individual kits containing an average of 1,500 grams of food between cereals, protein, fruits, sugars and legumes were distributed in coordination with local partners.
- An Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) workshop was co-organized between the Risk Management National Secretariat and WFP. The workshop included high-level meetings and technical meetings between delegates of institutions such as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, Space Institute, and Military Geographic Institute. As part of the agreements, WFP will support an ICA Plus, which will provide relevant information to identify patterns of vulnerability and contribute to policy-making.
- The FORECCSA project funded by the Adaptation Fund reached its final stage. Its successful implementation is widely recognized at national and international level as it set forth an innovative way of mainstreaming gender into climate change. The final closure activities will take place throughout the following weeks and a final evaluation is expected to gather all the lessons learned that will further contribute to the climate change policy of Ecuador.
- A new agreement with the municipality of San Lorenzo will help strengthen local smallholder farmers’ associations. Activities will start in June and will include local stakeholders that promote social development.

Main Photo

Credit: Alejandra León / WFP.
Caption: WFP provides food assistance for vulnerable Venezuelans at migration checkpoints.

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WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)		
41.45 m	12.95 m	1.93 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 1: <i>Refugees, displaced persons and vulnerable people in Ecuador are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements all year long</i>		
21.1 m	5.25 m	3.1 m
Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition		
Strategic Outcome 2: <i>Smallholder farmers, especially women, in targeted areas, durably increase their incomes and improve their productivity by 2021.</i>		
3.5 m	2.51 m	-0.21 m
Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable		
Strategic Outcome 3: <i>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.</i>		
7.58 m	3.2 m	-0.65 m
Strategic Result 4: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs		
Strategic Outcome 4: <i>National institutions and programmes in Ecuador, including social protection programmes, are supported to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition by 2021.</i>		
2.95 m	0.49 m	0.02 m

WFP Country Activities

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| SO 1 | 1. 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. |
| | 2. Strengthen strategies to link sustainable livelihoods to food security and nutrition activities. |
| SO 2 | 3. Support and increase the participation of smallholder farmer organizations in national and local commercial mechanisms and institutional markets. |
| | 4. Strengthen the capacity of farmer organizations. |
| SO 3 | 5. Strengthen or develop emergency preparedness, response, and early warning systems. |
| | 6. Strengthen the implementation of adaptation and resilience measures. |
| SO 4 | 7. Technical assistance, research and assessments, to improve the implementation of programs linked to food security and nutrition. |
| | 8. 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, WFP is challenged to mobilize additional resources to cover the food assistance provided to vulnerable households. The first migration wave mainly included young and single migrants looking forward sending remittances back home, but now families, including pregnant women and small children, make the long journey in the search of better livelihoods.
- The State of Emergency continues in San Lorenzo, Esmeraldas prolonging the sense of insecurity among the population and limiting WFP's interventions in the province.

UN Adaptation Fund officially starts its implementation phase

- With the Inception Workshop that took place in Ibarra, Ecuador, the Binational Project "*Building adaptive capacity to climate change through food security and nutrition actions in vulnerable Afro and indigenous communities in the Colombia-Ecuador border area*" officially started its implementation phase. This event gathered together high-level Colombian and Ecuadorian authorities along with the representatives of WFP Colombia and WFP Ecuador. This five-year project will contribute to the reconstruction of the social fabric of areas affected by the Colombian conflict at both sides of the border, while improving climate change adaptation capabilities and promoting food security and nutrition.

Donors

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

