

WFP Ecuador Country Brief

June 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: **16.7 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 1.9 m six months (July - December 2018) net funding requirements

USD 426,013 cash based transfers made

31,370 people assisted
in June 2018

48%



52%



Operational Updates

- Venezuelan migration flows returned to the pre-elections upward trend. WFP is now providing food assistance to temporary shelters that have been set up to host the most vulnerable migrants waiting to comply with all migration requirements.
- More than 230 representatives from communities that were part of the FORECCSA project participated in the closing event. The Minister of Environment and other high level national and local authorities publicly acknowledged the success of all the work implemented in coordination with WFP, benefitting more than thirteen thousand families in Pichincha, Azuay, Loja and El Oro.
- WFP's support to the school meals programme contributed to a successful finalization of the school year in the Highlands and Amazon region. Classes will resume in September. In the meantime, WFP will continue supporting small-holder farmers through coordinated actions with the Ministry of Agriculture. Arrangements are under way to provide support on commercialization and strengthening of associations.
- Ecuador is highly vulnerable to natural disasters that may directly affect the food security and nutrition of the population. In this context, WFP closely works with the Risk Management Secretariat to update information material and provide training to key government staff. An Emergency Food Security Assessment workshop took place in June with the participation of 39 technicians from the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, and the Ministry of Health, among others.

Main
Photo

Credit: Alejandra León / WFP.
Caption: Resilience and adaptation to climate change strengthened through the FORECCSA project.

Contact info: Tatiana Almeida (tatiana.almeida@wfp.org)

Country Director: Kyung-Nan Park

Further information: www.wfp.org/country/mng/?UNC=218

WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)		
41.45m	12.95m	1.93m
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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Strengthen or develop emergency preparedness, response, and early warning systems. 6. Strengthen the implementation of adaptation and resilience measures. |
| SO 4 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

- Resources are needed to cover the growing needs of assistance for vulnerable Venezuelans that continue arriving into the country. Even though a high percentage of migrants only transit through Ecuador to reach Peru or Chile, the overall humanitarian situation requires coordination with governmental and non-governmental institutions in the field.

Beneficiaries feedback at the core of our operations

- Ecuador is the first country in the Latin America and Caribbean Region to join the pilot for Complaints and Feedback (CFM) Standardization Project. This initiative launched by WFP Headquarters consists of an IT solution specifically designed to manage beneficiary feedback in an easy, fast, and more efficient way that guarantees that no voices are left unheard.

Better informed policy making as a result of WFP's focus on capacity strengthening for the national government

- The results of the second phase of the "Fill the Nutrient Gap" study were presented in a workshop that gathered high-level authorities and technical teams from different ministries. The information will help policy makers define improved ways of providing social services to better address the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable groups. The study is led by the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion and will model new interventions. Further results are expected during the next quarter.

Donors

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

