



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief August 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 0.48 (National Institute of Statistic and Census – INEC 2015), and there is a significant prevalence of chronic malnutrition. Gender Based Violence affects six out of ten women (2015). Despite the peace process in Colombia, new refugees continue 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**

2016 Human Development Index: **89 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

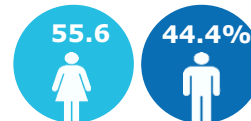
Chronic malnutrition: **23.9% of children under five years old**

In Numbers

US\$ 534,947 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0.62 m six months (August 2018 - January 2019) net funding requirements

27,673 people assisted
in August 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP's regular assistance scheme provided attention to 20,787 vulnerable people on the move. As Venezuelan migrants continue crossing the northern border with Colombia in unusually high numbers, 73 percent of the overall attention was provided to this vulnerable population. Colombians accounted for 26 percent and other nationalities for only 1 percent.
- Since the government declaration of the state of emergency in three provinces on 08 August, WFP provides one-time food assistance at migration checkpoints.
- Priority in assistance has been given to pregnant and lactating women and children. A total number of 4,587 individual food kits were distributed in coordination with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion and UNICEF.
- Venezuelans travel on foot for days or even weeks before reaching the border between Colombia at Ecuador at Rumichaca, province of Carchi or San Miguel, province of Sucumbíos.
- People arrive in a general state of physical and emotional despair that requires immediate assistance at migration checkpoints. Most of them continue their journey to Peru and Chile.
- New agreements have been signed with local partners to provide food assistance to Venezuelan migrants temporarily accommodated in shelters.
- An Emergency Food Security Assessment workshop was carried out in coordination with the National Risk Management Secretariat.
- Over 1,500 local farmers could directly sell their agricultural production (cereals, vegetables, fruits, etc) at a local fair organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in Imbabura. Smallholder farmers supported by WFP had an outstanding level of participation.

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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)
41.5 m	14.02 m	0.62 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

- The 2018-2019 school-year will start in September in the Andean and Amazon region. This will be the last year that WFP plans to complement the national school meals programme. All concerned stakeholders have been informed about the hand-over for a successful implementation of the sustainability strategy.
- As the influx of Venezuelans is increasing, WFP is revising its operation.

Ecuadorian government declares state of emergency over Venezuelan migrants at border

On 08 August, the Government of Ecuador declared a state of emergency in human mobility in the provinces of Carchi, Pichincha and El Oro.

This measure was taken as a response to the massive influx of Venezuelans arriving to the country and it allows the government to assign resources to speed up the attention to vulnerable migrants arriving in precarious conditions.

Initially, the state of emergency was declared for the month of August only, but it has been extended until the end of September 2018.

Immigration proceedings have greatly improved

Donors

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