



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief February 2019



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 0.47 (National Institute of Statistic and Census – INEC 2018) 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: **17.2 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

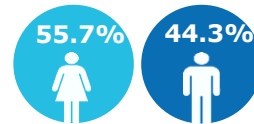
Chronic malnutrition: **23.9% of children under five years old**

In Numbers

US\$ 922,081 cash-based transfers made

USD 1.6 m six months (February - July 2019) net funding requirements

61,720 people assisted in February 2019



Operational Updates

- The state of emergency for human mobility issues has been extended until March 2019.
- 32,695 people benefited from WFP's food vouchers. The majority were Venezuelans (84 percent), followed by Colombians (16 percent) and a few beneficiaries of other nationalities.
- 1,625 people, over half of them from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens managed by partner organizations.
- 16,775 vulnerable Venezuelans received a one-time food assistance at northern border migration checkpoints.
- WFP started operating in Manabí in collaboration with World Vision as its implementation partner. A partner is being selected for El Oro.
- A food security assessment of Venezuelans is underway. Preliminary results will be discussed with the Reference Committee in early March.
- 10,625 children were assisted through the complementary school meals programme in Esmeraldas, Carchi, Imbabura and Sucumbíos.
- As part of the Binational Project, enumerators were trained for the baseline survey. Enumerators are members of the Awá and Afro-Ecuadorian communities, where the project will be implemented.
- A high-level meeting with the Minister of Economic and Social Inclusion was held to discuss future potential cooperation mechanisms on how to assist the nutritionally most vulnerable population.
- Technical coordination meetings were held with the Mc Knight Foundation, to define the methodology and workplan to assess interventions that increase smallholder farmers' market access.

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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)
51.3 m	21.5 m	1.6 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 flow of Venezuelans into the region continues to grow, WFP faces challenges in mobilizing additional resources to assist vulnerable households.
- The State of Emergency declared by the Government continues only in Carchi, Pichincha and El Oro. Limiting the status to these provinces does not fully reflect the increasing needs of Venezuelans nationwide.
- Heightened insecurity has been observed at the border with Colombia due to the presence of armed groups that seek to control the territory for their illicit activities.

Partner and stakeholders' consultations within the framework of the Integrated Context Analysis (ICA)

The ICA involves the creation of maps which overlay of different sources of information to identify patterns of vulnerability that can inform food security policies.

As part of the thoroughly coordinated process with key government partners, the final programmatic and technical consultations took place on 13-14 February 2019.

High level officers from the National Risk Management and Emergency Services and other government entities actively engaged in discussions with UN agencies and international organizations.

The results of the analysis that started in 2018 were approved. Further technical assistance in this regard will be coordinated with the Government.

Donors

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