



## 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

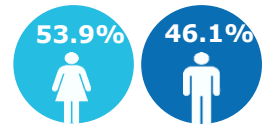
Chronic malnutrition: 23.9% of children under five years old

## In Numbers

US\$ 1,241,700 cash-based transfers made

USD 7.4 m six months net funding requirements

78,000 people assisted  
in May 2019



## Operational Updates

- The state of emergency for human mobility has been extended until June 2019.
- 45,000 people benefited from WFP's food vouchers. The majority were Venezuelans (86.7 percent), followed by Colombians (12.8 percent) and a few beneficiaries of other nationalities.
- 2,800 people, over two thirds of them from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens managed by partner organizations.
- 20,600 vulnerable Venezuelans received a one-time food assistance at northern border migration checkpoints.
- WFP started a national field level assessment to gauge the expansion of its food assistance into areas with urgent needs.
- In coordination with UNICEF, UNHCR and OCHA, WFP will be part of a pilot initiative aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of cash-based interventions for humanitarian assistance.
- Various field missions visited WFP's food assistance operation in the field. High level visitors included the German Ambassador, USAID's official delegation and representatives from the French Development Agency.
- 8,300 children were assisted through the complementary school meals programme in Carchi, Imbabura and Sucumbíos.
- Children from Imbabura, Carchi and Sucumbíos participated in WFP's School Feeding Painting Contest. The five finalists' paintings were sent to WFP headquarters to participate on the global contest.
- WFP successfully participated in the regional dialogue on forecast-based financing organized in Dominican Republic by the German Red Cross and WFP.
- A South-South cooperation initiative between China and Ecuador to foster knowledge transfer on rice production of Ecuadorian smallholder farmers was initiated with support from WFP's regional office and headquarters.

## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>51.3 m</b>	<b>40 m</b>	<b>7.4 m</b>

### 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 country's current economic situation curbs access to adequate employment opportunities for locals and for newly arrived migrants. This may create tensions and increase difficulties of integration into local communities.
- The State of Emergency declared by the Government continues only in Carchi, Pichincha and El Oro. Limiting the emergency status to these provinces does not fully reflect the increasing needs of Venezuelan migrants nationwide.
- As the migration flow of Venezuelans into the region is growing, WFP faces challenges in mobilizing additional resources to assist vulnerable households.

## National Rural Women Encounter

- According to data from UN WOMEN, 7 out of 10 rural women suffer from violence and the rural gender pay gap averages 35 percent. To address this situation, on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, over 500 female rural leaders gathered together to discuss the policy changes that are required to support them. WFP actively supported this initiative that puts forward the fundamental role of women on small-holder farming and how this contributes to the promotion of food safety and nutrition.

## Additional funding for the Venezuelan Migration Crisis Response

- USAID/FFP contributed with USD 10 million to assist vulnerable people in human mobility. This valuable contribution will support WFP's food assistance, particularly for migrants from Venezuela.

## Donors

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