



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Ecuador Country Brief June 2019



## Operational Context

Ecuador is an upper-middle-income country; 63 percent of the population lives 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.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Population: **17.2 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

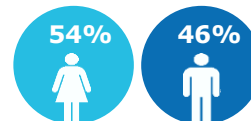
Chronic malnutrition: **23.9% of children under five years old**

## In Numbers

**US\$ 1,407,030** cash-based transfers made

**USD 8.6 m** six months net funding requirements

**89,812 people** assisted



## Operational Updates

- The state of emergency for human mobility has been extended until July 2019.
- 51,532 people benefited from WFP food vouchers. The majority were Venezuelans (87.4 percent), followed by Colombians (12.2 percent) and a few beneficiaries of other nationalities.
- 4,151 people, around 72 percent of them from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens managed by partner organizations.
- 25,803 vulnerable Venezuelans received one-time food assistance at border migration checkpoints.
- WFP prepared a contingency plan to assist Venezuelans trying to reach Peru before June 15<sup>th</sup> (after this day, Venezuelans require a visa to enter Peru).
- WFP's initiative to contribute to an adequate access to food among vulnerable pregnant adolescents and survivors of violence against women and girls in the northern border area of Ecuador was socialized in the territory through workshops coordinated with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES), Ministry of Public Health (MSP), UNFPA and local organizations.
- 8,326 children were assisted through the complementary school meals program in Carchi, Imbabura and Sucumbíos.
- An official delegation from the Ministry of Education visited WFP's operation in Imbabura. The recently appointed National School Feeding Manager acknowledged the successful linkage of smallholder farmers to the complementary school feeding mechanism.
- WFP's Storyteller's experimental project was successfully shared with leaders from the Awá and Afro-Ecuadorian communities. The initiative will be roll-out in July.
- Landslides in Carchi left people isolated and with limited access to food. Upon the Government request, WFP responded with 150 emergency food rations to support the Government's response.
- In commemoration of the World Food Safety Day (June 7<sup>th</sup>), WFP promotes healthy habits among the vulnerable population in human mobility.

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

Country Director: Mario Touchette

Further information: <https://opweb.wfp.org/country/mnq/?UNC=218>

## 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>8.6 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 April 1st 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 handover of activities to the Government.

## Challenges

- The country's current economic situation curbs access to adequate employment opportunities for locals and newly arrived migrants. This may create tensions and increase the 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 do 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.

## South-South Cooperation

- Within the framework of a South-South Cooperation agreement, WFP and FAO are defining the profiles of the Chinese experts that will be training Ecuadorian smallholder farmers on rice and fish production. Besides, specific training methodology for rural women is under preparation. Workshops will involve farmers from the coastal and highland regions.

## New U.S. Ambassador officially visits WFP's operation in Manabí

- Michael J. Fitzpatrick, newly appointed Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Ecuador, led the official delegation that visited WFP's on-going operation in Manabí. As part of the official visit, the delegation visited some Venezuelan families receiving WFP's food assistance and held formal meetings with WFP's local partners.

## Donors

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