



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.



Population: **17.2 million**

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

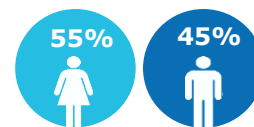
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers

US\$ 1,769,546 cash-based transfers made

100,313 people assisted



Operational Updates

- The state of emergency for human mobility has been extended until September 2019.
- 65,933 people benefited from WFP’s food vouchers. The majority were Venezuelans (89 percent), followed by Colombians (9 percent) and a few beneficiaries from other nationalities.
- 3,131 people, around 77 percent of them from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens managed by WFP partner organizations.
- 30,843 vulnerable Venezuelans received one-time food assistance at immigration checkpoints.
- Since August 26 2019, Venezuelans require a humanitarian visa to enter Ecuador. This measure is directly correlated to an increase in the number of irregular entries.
- Around 600 vulnerable pregnant adolescents from the northern border provinces received a cash-based transfer to facilitate their access to nutritious and healthy food. Several workshops related to sexual and reproductive health and nutrition were organized in coordination with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, the Ministry of Health and UNFPA.
- The first Biannual Consultation on Development between USAID and the Government of Ecuador took place in August. USAID’s official visit included encounters with Venezuelan families that benefit from food assistance channelled through WFP.
- The UN Resident Coordinator and a representative from OCHA visited WFP’s operation in Manabí to get a deeper understanding of the food assistance implementation scheme.
- In coordination with UN Women, Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) surveys were collected among Awá and Afro Ecuadorian population. This is part of the gender mainstreaming strategy of the Binational Project implemented in coordination with WFP Colombia.
- UNICEF, WHO, FAO and WFP subscribed a Letter of Understanding with the Ministry of Education. This reinforces the cooperation for the strengthening of the school feeding public policy.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
61.6 m	53.1 m	36 k

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, sharing of best practices and studies, including South-South cooperation.

Challenges

- The country's current economic situation curbs access to adequate employment opportunities for locals and newly arrived migrants. This creates tensions and increases 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.
- Increased irregular entries of the Venezuelan population makes coordination at immigration checkpoints a challenge.
- Ivan Marquez, a former senior commander of the dissolved FARC rebel army in Colombia and Jesus Santrich announced on August 29 that they are taking up arms again, accusing the Colombian Government of betraying the peace agreement. This poses a threat to the peace deals and puts pressure on the security situation in the northern border with Colombia.

Regional encounters to strengthen public policies for rural women

- With WFP's support, the Ministry of Agriculture organized four regional meetings in Ibarra, Cuenca, Loja and Riobamba for the participative construction of public policies for rural women. Each workshop gathered over 70 representatives. Leaders from Guatemala and Perú inspired the participants through their real and successful stories on how women can lead the utmost relevant initiatives to transform their communities and promote food security and nutrition.

WFP Storytellers in Ecuador

- A four-week training for WFP's Storyteller's experimental project took place, and young people from Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador actively engaged in video, photography and social media workshops. The initiative also involved 12 young leaders from Ecuadorian Awá and Afro communities that are part of the Binational Project.

Donors

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