



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief October 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.



Population: **17.2 million**

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

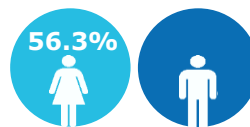
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers

US\$ 2,144,104 cash-based transfers made

87,298 people assisted



Operational Updates

- The state of emergency for human mobility has been extended until November 2019.
- 80,134 people benefited from WFP's food vouchers. The majority were Venezuelans (91.5 percent), followed by Colombians (8.1 percent) and a few beneficiaries of other nationalities.
- 3,290 people, around 70.6 percent of them from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens managed by partner organizations. WFP started working on technical guidance to strengthen and improve the food security and nutrition capabilities of these institutions.
- 3,100 vulnerable Venezuelans received one-time food assistance at immigration checkpoints.
- 774 pregnant adolescents received a food voucher to contribute to their food security and nutrition.
- WFP conducted an assessment at the northern border to identify the migratory paths, needs and risks encountered by Venezuelan migrants. Food access is among their main concerns.
- WFP supported the national dialogue for the design of gender-sensitive agricultural policies led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. This encounter brought together rural women, government officers, Academia and NGOs to socialize the main findings from the previous regional meetings held in September and to agree on the next steps for the formulation of a specific public policy for rural women.
- In coordination with local governments, WFP continued its visits to local schools to reinforce key nutritional messages. Additional kitchen supplies were also distributed benefiting 11,150 children from 147 schools.
- Through WFP's support, the Ministry of Education is discussing the legal framework that will facilitate the transition towards a renewed and improved school meals programme that includes fresh and healthy products.
- As part of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (CAP) process, two additional focus groups with Awa and Afro Ecuadorian communities were held. This is part of the gender mainstreaming strategy of the Binational Climate Change Project.
- WFP presented the *Fill the Nutrient Gap* study to over 400 participants that attended the International Scientific Convention of the Technical University of Manabí.

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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)
71.2m	54 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.

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 SDG 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 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.
- October was marked by violent protests and riots that followed the Government's announcement of economic measures to tackle the fiscal deficit. The country resumed its usual state of calmness after the mediation of the UN Resident Coordinator. Nevertheless, xenophobic attacks are increasing, and this poses a threat to the overall well-being of WFP's beneficiaries.

World Food Day Commemoration

- In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and FAO, several activities were organized to commemorate the annual celebration of the World Food Day. Amongst them, a Fresh Produce Fair was organized at one of the main governmental platforms. Smallholder farmers were invited to sell their freshly-grown organic products to local consumers directly.

National Dialogue for Gender Sensitive Agricultural Policies strengthened through South-South Cooperation

- As part of South-South Cooperation, Josefina Tamayo from WFP Guatemala visited Ecuador and shared successful cases and experiences of Guatemala through workshops and dialogues with the responsible Ecuadorian governing authorities.

Donors

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