



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**

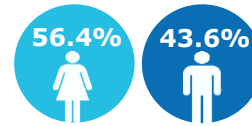
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers

US\$ 2,150,341 cash-based transfers made

94,897 people assisted



Operational Updates

- The state of emergency for human mobility has been extended until December 2019.
- 88,628 people benefited from WFP's food vouchers. The majority were Venezuelans (92 percent), followed by Colombians (8 percent) and a few beneficiaries of other nationalities.
- 3,840 people, around 64 percent of them from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens managed by partner organizations.
- 1,775 vulnerable Venezuelans received one-time food assistance at immigration checkpoints.
- 654 pregnant adolescents received a food voucher to contribute to their food security and nutrition.
- An awareness workshop was coordinated with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion. Over 240 pregnant adolescents from Carchi received key information on life plans, sexual and reproductive rights, health and nutrition and breastfeeding.
- FFP's official visit to WFP's new operation in Tungurahua and Chimborazo. The visit also included specific sites in Pichincha.
- WFP actively participated at the first meeting of the Refugees and Migrants Working Group held in Guayaquil.
- WFP presented its Complementary School Feeding Model at the Local Governments National Encounter.
- The Vice-minister of Education and delegates from the Association of Ecuadorian Municipalities (AME) visited schools in Carchi to learn more about WFP's Complementary School Feeding Model and its good practices.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock organized a participatory workshop to discuss national policies. WFP actively participated and contributed with its experience with smallholder farmers and rural women.
- Workshops on 72- hours Emergency Food Security Assessments were held in the provinces of Pichincha, Loja, and Manabí. Over 80 technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the National Risk Management and Emergency Secretariat strengthened their food security and emergency preparedness response capacities.
- Meeting with the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador in Esmeraldas Campus to assess the feasibility of developing joint studies for the Binational Climate Change Project.

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

Country Director: Mario Touchette

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 Venezuelans nationwide.
- The country's current economic situation curbs access to adequate employment opportunities both for local communities and migrants. This adds up to the increasing xenophobia and poses a threat to the overall well-being of WFP beneficiaries.
- Funds mobilization for the continuous and increased assistance for vulnerable Venezuelan migrants. However, as attention mainly focuses on this operation, it is also challenging to mobilize funds to support smallholder farmers.

Korean Climate Change and Agroforest Experts visit Southern Provinces of Ecuador to assess the feasibility of a project proposal to KOICA

- In coordination with WFP Ecuador, KOICA Ecuador, and the Ministry of Environment, the delegation of Korean experts on climate change, agriculture, and agroforest had a two-week long field trip to the provinces of Loja, Guayas, and Manabí. The Korean experts were able to examine the current conditions and problems that each province is facing and several meetings were conducted with local authorities and communities. Preliminary results are expected for February 2020.

Germany contributes USD 1.1 million to WFP's response operation for Venezuelan migrants

Germany contributed USD 1.1 million to WFP Ecuador to support the provision of food assistance to the most vulnerable women, men and children that have settled in the country in search of better livelihoods.

Donors

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