

Crisis response revision of Ecuador country strategic plan (2017–2021) and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 April 2017– 31 December 2021	No change	1 April 2017– 31 December 2021
Beneficiaries	817 151	720 511	1 537 662
(USD)			
Total cost	71 225 791	77 039 490	148 265 281
Transfers	57 094 257	69 043 492	126 137 749
Implementation	4 685 313	2 505 265	7 190 578
Adjusted direct support costs	5 059 885	788 793	5 848 678
Subtotal	66 839 455	72 337 549	139 177 004
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	4 386 336	4 701 941	9 088 277

Gender and age marker code*: 2A

* <http://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

Rationale

1. With more than 37,355 reported COVID-19 cases as of May 25, Ecuador is among the hardest-hit countries in Latin America. Home to nearly 435,000¹ Venezuelan migrants, Ecuador's declining oil export revenue and resulting economic crisis have left the Government financially unable to support those most affected by the pandemic (foreign or national), contributing to a highly fragile social environment. In addition, the scope of the regional crisis has tended to overshadow the protracted humanitarian situation in Colombia. With persisting violence and crime in Colombia, Colombians are the largest group after Venezuelans that require humanitarian assistance in the country.
2. The Ecuadorian State has social protection programmes that help to mitigate the negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis on economic access to food for the most vulnerable. The Government started responding with the distribution of food kits, then proceeded with a payment through a network of 10,000 financial company withdrawal points, of a *Bono de Protección Familiar* of USD 60 in April and May for 400,000 families identified in the social registry (street vendors, people who live on daily incomes), and who are not part of the regular social protection programmes, while another half million of households started receiving the same amount in May. These amounts and the coverage of these interventions are insufficient to ensure food security for the population in need of support, well below the value of USD 713 per family of the Minimum Expenditure Basket or of its food component valued at USD 240 in April.
3. On April 30, WFP and the humanitarian country team presented the humanitarian response plan for COVID-19 to the Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and the international community. The plan was well-received, and the Government asked for support from the humanitarian community, especially for the health and food security sectors.
4. Preliminary needs assessments estimate that up to 4 million people are experiencing or at risk of falling into multidimensional poverty. Of these, about 1 million are estimated to be in severe food

¹ In April, the migratory balance of Venezuelan citizens stood at 363,023 according to the Ministry of Government.



insecurity. Those most affected include vulnerable Ecuadorians whose livelihoods are no longer viable due to movement restrictions and a general decline in economic activity; among them, women tend to bear the heaviest burden of the pandemic as they disproportionately work in precarious sectors.

5. In cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration and the Refugee and Migrant Working Group, WFP carried out a rapid joint need assessment regarding the impact of COVID-19. Around 1,648 refugee and migrants' households and host communities were reached. The key findings indicate that due to the curtailed means of livelihoods, 90 percent of the Venezuelans and Colombians said they need food, and 63 percent of Ecuadorians surveyed indicated they had no income source.
6. In mid-March 2020, the country declared a state of emergency and with the capacity of national safety nets exceeded, the Government formally appealed for WFP support on March 31.

Changes

Strategic orientation

7. In line with the national COVID-19 response plan as well as the refugee and migrant response plan, WFP's assistance will be channelled through:
 - The expansion of strategic outcome 1, which is aligned with WFP Strategic Result 1, and focuses on safeguarding the access to food of affected populations.
 - The introduction of strategic outcome 5, aligned with WFP Strategic Result 8, focuses on providing logistics coordination and assistance in support of the emergency response: "Humanitarian and development partners in Ecuador have access to reliable services throughout the crisis."
 - Output: Affected populations benefit from logistics coordination and support to national disaster management cells, humanitarian agencies and partners to receive timely life-saving assistance.
 - Activity 9: Provide technical assistance and services through the logistics sector to national disaster management offices and other relevant partners to improve emergency logistics coordination and supply chain management.
8. Previous revisions to the Ecuador country strategic plan have included:
 - An augmentation of strategic outcome 1, merging activities 1 and 2, and increasing the number of beneficiaries in line with a higher influx of migrants (USD 9.8 million, December 2018).
 - An augmentation of strategic outcome 1 due to further migrant influx, along with budget-neutral technical revisions to strategic outcome 2 and strategic outcome 3 (USD 20 million, December 2019).

Strategic outcomes

9. In line with the impact of COVID-19, WFP will target the most affected populations whose food security has been jeopardized without alternative options for assistance. This will include two distinct groups: i) established migrants unable to meet their basic needs during the crisis (extension of the duration of assistance for former/existing beneficiaries and addition of new beneficiaries) and ii) food insecure host communities and other nationals identified by the social registry system as extremely affected by COVID-19. Among these, WFP will prioritize households with children under the age of 5 and pregnant and lactating women and girls.
10. To meet the immediate basic food requirements of migrants, WFP will continue to use its existing value voucher solutions, including a top-up to cover hygiene needs coordinated with UNICEF.



WFP is working with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on a common cash platform, aiming to switch to cash through joint procurement efforts with the other agencies.

11. As part of its assistance to the Government's response and the broader support to migrants, WFP will finance the purchase of inputs for the preparation of daily hot meals in shelters and quarantine centres.
12. For vulnerable Ecuadorians affected by COVID-19, WFP will build on its experience from the 2016 earthquake and channel its assistance directly within the national social protection system, providing a top-up to the transfer value provided by the Government (for the "*Bono de Protección Familiar*") with a horizontal expansion to ensure the inclusion of vulnerable households with pregnant women or children under 5 not yet targeted in the social safety nets. This expansion will seek to help cover the gap to ensure a balanced diet in the first 1,000 days.
13. With both modalities, WFP will seek to adapt operational procedures following social distancing protocols, including objectives for the full and active participation of women, and protection concerns according to beneficiaries' sex and age. In doing so, WFP will also provide the Government with technical assistance to adapt and expand the social protection programmes for the COVID-19 response, particularly in the areas of vulnerability analysis (including gender and age analysis), targeting, delivery mechanism, food market analysis, accountability to affected populations as well as gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation.
14. Considering that chronic malnutrition in children under 5 years old is at 23 percent², WFP will help build a more nutrition-sensitive social protection system, implementing complementary programmes which promote adequate access to food and health services among vulnerable pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescents, and survivors of violence against women and girls.
15. As soon as borders reopen, post COVID-19, WFP will resume its assistance to vulnerable Venezuelan migrants in transit that has been currently suspended.
16. Based on the results of a consultancy, WFP plans to implement labour-based activities³ Later in 2020 and 2021, it would provide short-term conditional food assistance to vulnerable people, strengthen local public and community infrastructure and improve social cohesion between people in human mobility and host communities. Where appropriate, activities will be complemented with capacity development to strengthen related knowledge and skills.
17. Following critical commercial supply chain interruptions due to the crisis, WFP will seek to enable and improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian response through in-country service provision, including:
 - a logistics coordination platform with partners, Government logistics focal points and the private sector to identify common logistics gaps and potential bottlenecks in the humanitarian crisis;
 - collection and dissemination of logistics information to increase the effectiveness of the humanitarian response and the knowledge of all humanitarian partners regarding available logistics services;
 - reinforcing the Government's technical capacities in issues related to the logistic distribution of food kits, oriented to the 220 municipalities;
 - technical assistance in transportation, storage and distribution;

² Encuesta Nacional de Salud y Nutrición (2018).

³ A conditional transfer type of public work. The main objective is the integration of the migrants with host communities and short-term access to food.



- coordination of fleet rental for distribution of family support kits and medical or water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies identified by the national authorities and the humanitarian partners. This would depend on the reception of donor funds; and
 - a global WFP supply chain task force has put into consideration for all humanitarian actors the service provision of aviation for humanitarian partners and cargo.
18. As an integral member of the humanitarian country team, WFP will coordinate its assistance with the overall humanitarian response via the logistics, cash transfers and food security sectors, the Government's committee for emergency operations and the working group for the Venezuelan migration crisis response. In seeking complementary interventions with the non-governmental organizations and other agencies, WFP will enhance collaboration with OCHA, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and UNICEF regarding common assistance for migrants, among others. WFP will closely collaborate with the National Risk Management and Emergencies Secretariat, the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion and the Technical Secretariat "*Toda una Vida*" to effectively deliver on the needs of vulnerable Ecuadorians, taking into account pre-crisis vulnerabilities and the impact of the pandemic.
 19. WFP will seek to adapt its monitoring and reporting systems to limit the risk of exposure for personnel, partners and beneficiaries, employing remote monitoring solutions where appropriate. Furthermore, despite limited physical interaction, WFP will ensure that all beneficiaries are adequately informed of their rights and have access to a complaint and feedback mechanism capable of addressing potential protection risks.
 20. WFP will conduct periodic risk assessments, including the potential for further civil unrest and the high risk of contagion and confinement-induced challenges for registration and distributions. The country office will review and update contingency measures with initial mitigation actions to include extensive use of remote modalities and avoiding physical contacts and congestion by using the large network of distribution points and guaranteeing hygiene and security criteria in shelters. WFP will ensure its interventions are designed with a protection and gender focus to avoid unintentional consequences, which may jeopardize the safety and dignity of beneficiaries. WFP will take every precaution to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as fraud and corruption, and other wrongdoings following established policies. Given the sizeable increase in its programme of work, WFP will seek to mitigate potential funding challenges with diversified and targeted donor outreach, outlining the required shift in the country office approach, both in terms of broadening targeting to vulnerable Ecuadorians and more settled migrants affected by the crisis, as well as the provision of services to enable the overall humanitarian response.
 21. In order to effectively deliver this response, the country office is seeking to scale up its capacity in the areas of programme, including market analysis, monitoring and capacity strengthening, finance and supply chain. Given unprecedented demands and difficulties in relying on TDYs, the country office will seek alternatives via local hiring, additional training, and remote work arrangements where appropriate.
 22. While the full impact of COVID-19 and the national economic outlook is yet uncertain, WFP will continue monitoring the situation with the Government and humanitarian partners to adapt its response. Having designed its programme to strengthen the Government's capacity, WFP will progressively hand over the emergency response and service provision back to national authorities while ensuring minimum preparedness actions and participating in recovery plans as appropriate.

Beneficiary analysis

23. WFP's assistance under strategic outcome 1 will be increased as follows: 351,231 people in human mobility residing in the country, 31,580 vulnerable migrants in transit, 93,000 people in shelters



and canteens, 225,500 vulnerable people from the host community and 19,200 vulnerable people assisted through vouchers for work.

24. The increase in beneficiaries will focus both on vulnerable migrants and Ecuadorians most affected by COVID-19. While the latter are new beneficiaries for WFP as it provides a top-up to food insecure people identified under the national social registry, a new approach has also been adopted to target migrants. While previous interventions focused on those most recently arrived, findings suggest persistent poverty levels among migrants who have resettled over a year ago. As such, this budget revision will integrate these migrants.

Strategic outcome	Activity and modality	Period	Girls/women	Boys/men	Total
1	1 (CBTs)	Current	424 921	354 980	779 901
		Increase/decrease	355 343	365 168	720 511
		Revised	780 264	720 148	1 500 412
Total (without overlap)		Current	448 616	368 535	817 151
		Increase/decrease	350 646	369 865	720 511
		Revised	799 262	738 400	1 537 662

Transfers

25. As per the analysis above, assistance is differentiated in line with the needs and complementary assistance of beneficiaries:
- Persons in human mobility with a vocation for permanence: monthly value voucher of USD 25 per person for six months.
 - Persons in human mobility in transit/one-off value voucher: value voucher of USD 25 per person for five days.
 - Vulnerable people in shelters⁴ and canteens: value voucher based on USD 2 per person per day at partner shelters and canteens.⁵
 - Ecuadorians affected by COVID-19 in 2020 and pregnant adolescent girls in 2021: monthly assistance up to USD 50 per person, through cash transfers.
 - Vulnerable people assisted through vouchers for work: multipurpose conditional cash-based transfer of USD 15⁶ per day for 20 days.

	Strategic outcome 1				
	Activity 1				
Beneficiary type	Persons in human mobility with a	Persons in human mobility in transit	Vulnerable people in shelters and canteens	Ecuadorians affected by COVID-19 in 2020 and	Vulnerable people assisted through

⁴ Includes safe shelters for gender-based violence survivors and unaccompanied minors.

⁵ Partner organizations receive value vouchers that can be redeemed for nutritious and healthy products that they use to prepare hot meals for the people they assist.

⁶ Represents the wage amount given in the provinces of intervention.



	vocation for permanence			pregnant adolescent girls in 2021	voucher for work
Modality	CBT	CBT	CBT	CBT	CBT
Total kcal/day	870	2 100	2 087	435	2 100
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)	0.83	5.00*	2.00**	0.42	3.75
Number of feeding days per year	180	5	7	365***	20

* Considering the recommendation to buy ready-to-eat food during transit

** For the preparation of hot meals

*** For COVID-19, it will be 90 feeding days

TABLE 3: TOTAL CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE (USD)			
Strategic outcome	Current budget	Adjustment	Revised budget
1	39 845 635	64 735 012	104 580 647
2	2 235 000	n/a	2 235 000
Total	42 080 635	64 735 012	106 815 647

Cost breakdown

TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)			
	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 17.16	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 5	
Focus area	Crisis response	Crisis response	
Transfer	68 022 334	1 021 158	69 043 492
Implementation	1 979 675	525 590	2 505 265
Adjusted direct support costs			788 793
Subtotal			72 337 549
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)			4 701 941
Total			77 039 490

TABLE 5: OVERALL CSP COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)						
	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 3/ SDG Target 2.3	Strategic Result 4/ SDG Target 2.4	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 17.16	Total



	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	Strategic outcome 4	Strategic outcome 5	
Focus area	Crisis response	Root causes	Resilience building	Root causes	Crisis response	
Transfer	113 354 539	3 091 241	6 401 181	2 269 630	1 021 158	126 137 749
Implementation	4 390 384	406 480	1 183 764	684 360	525 590	7 190 578
Adjusted direct support costs	4 973 215	241 120	410 047	171 796	52 499	5 848 678
Subtotal	122 718 138	3 738 841	7 994 992	3 125 786	1 599 247	139 177 004
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	8 001 138	249 488	527 515	206 184	103 951	9 088 277
Total	130 719 276	3 988 329	8 522 507	3 331 971	1 703 199	148 265 281

