



WFP Ecuador Country Brief June 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 0.48 (National Institute of Statistics and Census – INEC 2019), 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. Currently, Ecuador is one of the most affected countries by the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean, having reached around 39,000 confirmed cases at the end of May.

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**

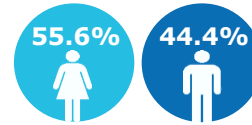
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers

US\$ 3,113,353 cash-based transfers made

131,993 people assisted



Operational Updates

- Over 131,000 people benefited from WFP's food vouchers in May. The majority were Venezuelans (90.8 percent), followed by Colombians (8.8 percent) and a few beneficiaries of other nationalities.
- Over 900 people, of which 44 percent from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens managed by partner organizations.
- The one-time food assistance at the border provinces, Sucumbíos, Carchi, and El Oro remains suspended due to the border closure.
- The migratory registration for Venezuelan citizens to legalize their residency status in Ecuador has been extended until 60 days after the termination of the national health emergency, which is until 13 August.
- In Tumbillo and Sangolquí, WFP supported over 250 Ecuadorian returnees with two meals upon their arrivals, before heading for their self-quarantine at homes.
- The representative of WFP Ecuador, Mario Touchette, participated in the forum organized by the Vice Presidency of Ecuador, "Challenges and Actions for Sustainability" and expressed WFP's willingness to support the strengthening of the country's social protection systems.
- WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) for roadmap of the *National Agricultural Strategy for Rural Women* organized among MAG, FAO, UN Women, and the National Institute of Higher Studies (IAEN).
- In the provinces of Guayas and Loja, three rice-duck farming demonstration parcels have been implemented through a joint effort between the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIAP), MAG and WFP, supported by the South-south and Technical Cooperation with China. This ancient Chinese technique aims to optimize resources by decreasing the use of fertilizers and pesticides, increasing the farmers' income by lowering production costs.
- The Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) carried out with the Afro-descendants and Awá communities during the past few months within the framework of the binational project, have resulted in new measures related to climate change, taking into account the different field contexts.

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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 and Triangular Cooperation.

Donors

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

Challenges

- At the end of June, out of 221 cantons, 179 remained in the yellow traffic light restriction, and 5 green.
- Due to the persisting COVID-19 pandemic, the 15 June, the national government announced the extension of the national health emergency for another 60 days, with a possibility of an additional 30 days of extension afterwards.
- The state of emergency for human mobility has been extended until 31 July 2020 for the provinces of Carchi, El Oro and Pichincha due to the unusual migratory flow of Venezuelan citizens.
- The great economic downturn due to COVID-19 has caused numerous people situated in human mobility to seek to return to their home countries. The migratory balance of Venezuelan citizens remains consistent due to an equal flow of Venezuelans entering Ecuador from Peru through irregular steps, as stated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility on 30 June.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) stated in a conference that Ecuador's economy might get hit harder and be weaker than they anticipated in April 2020, due to the ongoing pandemic. Additionally, a report published by the World Bank Group in June 2020 envisages the economy in Ecuador to contract by 7.4 percent this year. The Central Bank of Ecuador (BCE) forecast that the recession might reach 9.6 percent.
- Consequently, an increase in overall economic vulnerability looms on the Ecuadorian population. According to its recent study, the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC) projects that extreme poverty in Ecuador will grow to 10.7 percent in 2020, having a 3.1 percent increase, compared to last year. The poverty level is likely to surge up to 30.8 percent, a steep 5.1 percent increase from 2019.

COVID-19 Response

- WFP Ecuador received over USD 6 million from Food for Peace (FFP), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development (DFATD).
- WFP Ecuador distributed 1,000 hand sanitizers donated to WFP from ABinBev (a multi-national company) to the most vulnerable Afro-descendants and Awá communities, as well as to smallholder farmers.
- WFP received USD 50,000 from the UPS Foundation to support the Logistics cluster for the Humanitarian Country Team in Ecuador, in response to the COVID-19 emergency.