



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief July 2020



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 Statistic 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 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\$ 2,682,704 cash-based transfers made

113,367 people assisted

55.6%



44.4%



Operational Updates

- 112,490 people benefited from WFP's food vouchers in July. The majority were Venezuelans (92.1 percent), followed by Colombians (7.5 percent) and a few beneficiaries of other nationalities. Since April, this assistance has been complemented by an additional monthly value of USD 5 per person for the purchase of necessary hygiene products, thanks to a UNICEF's contribution. Due to the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, this agreement has gotten extended to September 2020.
- 877 people, 42 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.
- In July, WFP supported more than 300 Ecuadorian returnees in the province of Guayas before heading to their self-quarantine.
- WFP's nutritionists carried out individual follow-ups with the cooperating partners for shelters and canteens, to ensure that the personnel has been keeping up with the training received on managing healthy and nutritious foods.
- For the climate change binational project, WFP used the Community-based Participatory Planning (CBPP) methodology to obtain the community adaptation plans with gender and intercultural approaches, for the Awá indigenous people and Afro-descendants.
- In line with the national COVID-19 response plan and the refugee and migrant response plan, the Budget Revision #5 was approved, expanding access to food-related activities, and introducing the provision of logistics coordination and assistance in support of the emergency response.
- Along with UNDP and UNICEF, WFP was awarded a Multi-partners Trust Fund addressing SDGs in Ecuador and targeting chronic child malnutrition for children under 24-month of age.
- FAO, IFAD, WFP and IICA are part of the Working Table for the Decade of Peasant Family Farming to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) in generating 10-year country action plan.

Contact info: Fernanda Calisto (fernanda.calisto@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)
148 m	81.8 m	14.7 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 5: 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.

Strategic Result 8: Enhance Global Partnership

Strategic Outcome #5: Humanitarian and development partners in Ecuador have access to reliable services throughout the crisis.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance and services through the logistics sector to the National Disaster Management Offices and relevant partners to improve emergency logistics coordination and supply chain management.

Challenges

- The number of confirmed cases reached is 85,335 as of 31 July. Quito has become the epicenter of COVID-19 in Ecuador by surpassing Guayaquil in the number of confirmed cases.
- As the COVID-19 cases relentlessly surge at a rapid pace, the national government has enforced new restrictions for 14 provinces, including prohibition of meetings and curfew.
- If farmers are not economically supported, there is a risk of increased food insecurity during the second half of the year. Economic recession is likely to lead to a decline in demand and prices, leaving rural farmers with reduced incomes and less resources for the purchase of inputs, as well as reduced access to markets.

COVID-19 Response

- In line with the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP's is coordinating activities to complement the Government's social protection programmes, jointly with the Ministry for Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) and the National Risk Management and Emergency Service (SNGRE), by distributing cash transfer to the most vulnerable population. Distribution is expected to start in early September.
- WFP received a grant of USD 1 million from the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to implement activities contributing to logistic coordination and information management at national and local level, between humanitarian actors and government authorities.

Executive Director Visits Ecuador

- WFP's Executive Director (ED) visited Ecuador on 21 - 22 July. During his visit, the ED met with the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, and emphasized WFP's role as a key supporter to the Government in responding to the negative impacts of the COVID-19. In addition, the ED visited WFP-supported smallholder farmers in the province of Imbabura. Likewise, he visited a canteen where vulnerable Ecuadorians and migrants receive breakfast every day, and met with Venezuelan migrants receiving WFP's assistance.

Donors

Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, United States of America, Private and Multilateral donors.

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund and UN CERF.