



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief August 2020



Operational Context

Ecuador is an upper-middle-income country; 63 percent of the population lives in urban areas. Income inequality is high (Gini coefficient of 0.48, 2019) and there is a significant rate of chronic malnutrition. Despite the peace process in Colombia, new refugees are still arriving to 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.

WFP in Ecuador aims at supporting government policies and priorities, as well as contributing to food sovereignty, food security and nutrition of vulnerable people.

WFP has been present in Ecuador since 1964.



Population: **17.2 million**

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

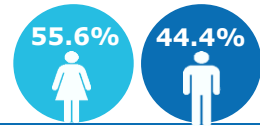
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers

US\$ 1,896,818 cash-based transfers made

78,573 people assisted



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP supported more than 300 Ecuadorian returnees in the province of Guayas. WFP also signed an agreement with the national government to further address Ecuadorian returnees in need for food assistance.
- In the province of Imbabura, WFP gave online community training to about 50 smallholder farmers and local government technicians.
- WFP established a learning community with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and the Union of Indigenous Communities in San Pablo del Lago, to extensively share the capacity trainings they have received in their local communities.
- in the framework of the climate change binational project, WFP carried out two Community Based Participatory Programmes with Awa indigenous people and Afro-descendants. WFP also signed an interinstitutional agreement with Carchi State Polytechnic University for a cooperation framework to implement the project.
- WFP supported specialized shelters for survivors of violence, through the donation of highchairs for toddlers residing in the facilities.
- 77,555 migrants benefited from WFP's food vouchers in July. The majority were Venezuelans (93 percent), followed by Colombians (6.7 percent). 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 was extended to September 2020.
- 1,018 people, 46 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.
- WFP provided support to UNHCR for cargo transportation to Lago Agrio.

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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)
148 m	80.8 m	14.4 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 COVID-19 cases reached is 113,767 as of 31 August, having Quito as epicenter.
- As the COVID-19 cases relentlessly surge at a rapid pace, the national government has put new restrictions to 18 provinces until 31 August. Consequently, the national health emergency got extended until 13 September.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has newly presented its economic forecast that Ecuador may become the second worst-hit country in the region after Peru, with a 10.9 percent drop in its GDP in 2020.
- The nationwide underemployment and unemployment rates have soared while the adequate employment rate has plunged by half, which could possibly trigger a great increase in food insecurity countrywide and further raise the poverty level.
- According to the World Bank, most Venezuelan migrants are spatially clustered in Ecuador, unlike in other Latin American host countries. The Migration Policy Institute also estimates that Ecuador may have the largest proportion of irregular migrants in the region. Likewise, food insecure populations in remote areas, particularly during the pandemic, are difficult to locate.
- The prevalence of undernourishment in Ecuador stands between 5-15 percent of the total population (WFP's Hunger Map 2020).

Monitoring

- WFP continues to provide nutritional follow-up for shelters and canteens. It is also following up on capacity trainings for the cooperating partners, to ensure that trainees have been keeping up with the guidance received on managing healthy and nutritious foods for WFP's beneficiaries.
- In August, as the COVID-19 pandemic persists, WFP and its cooperating partners continued to assist and monitor the beneficiaries by phone.

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.