



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief September 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.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Population: **17.2 million**

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

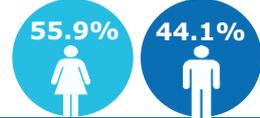
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers

US\$ 1,810,780 cash-based transfers made

74,640 people assisted



Operational Updates

- On 24 September, the Ecuadorian government approved a new decree on nutritional support voucher, through WFP's close coordination. Around 7,992 the most vulnerable households in the country will be supported with an amount of USD240 in October 2020. President Moreno expressed his gratitude to WFP for its essential support to the Ecuadorian population.
- Through cooperation with the Municipality, UNHCR and ADRA, WFP opened the first municipal canteen in the city of Ibarra.
- Within the framework of south-south cooperation with China, WFP participated to the International Forum on Territorial Development Cooperation and presented the experience of rice-duck farming in Ecuador. Additionally, WFP carried out three demonstrations of the rice-duck farming addressing smallholder farmers and technicians of local governments.
- WFP hosted Community Based Participative Programming (CBPP) workshops to continue identifying climate threats and raise awareness of the adaptation measures for Awá indigenous and Afro communities.
- WFP supported other UN Agencies by delivering nearly 42MT of hygiene products to local shelters and hospitals. 500 food kits and 84 chlorine kits were also delivered by WFP to indigenous communities in the Amazon region.
- WFP developed a chatbot, *Nutrichatea*, to provide information on WFP's assistances and actively receive queries from beneficiaries to strengthen the operation.
- 73,704 migrants benefited from WFP's food vouchers in September. The majority were Venezuelans (92.8 percent), followed by Colombians (6.8 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 got extended to March 2021.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 148.3 m | 84.4 m | 8.8 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.

- 936 people, 59.8 percent from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens managed by partner organizations.
- The one-time food assistance at the border provinces remains suspended.

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 September, as the COVID-19 pandemic persists, WFP and its cooperating partners continued to assist and monitor the beneficiaries by phone.
- As the pandemic persists, WFP steadily monitors the market and wholesale food prices. In September, the overall price of the basket of goods has slightly dropped as well as the price of its food components.

Challenges

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reached is 137,047 as of 30 September, having Quito as epicenter.
- Despite the rapid pace of increasing COVID-19 cases, the national health emergency has come to an end on 13 September, and the government has introduced a new plan called *I Take Care of Myself (Yo Me Cuido* for its Spanish official term), that mostly eliminates the curfew and other restrictions; nevertheless, the resurgence remains worrisome for citizens.
- According to the recent Need Assessment carried out by the group of Refugee and Migrant Working Group (GTRM), more than 73 percent of surveyed households told that they are applying coping strategies such as reducing the number and size of the meal and purchasing the least preferred, low-quality food products. Most Venezuelan households told that they are applying these strategies as much as four days a week.
- The prevalence of undernourishment in Ecuador stands between 5-15 percent of the total population (WFP's Hunger Map 2020).

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.