



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Ecuador Country Brief October 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**

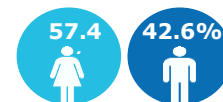
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

## In Numbers

**US\$ 3,565,205.42** cash-based transfers made

**90,843 people assisted**



## Operational Updates

- FAO, IFAD, IICA and WFP organized a technical round table to prepare the National Action Plan and strengthen family farming agriculture. WFP leads the gender and resilience pillars.
- The "National Agricultural Strategy for Rural Women" was launched, aiming at making the role of women in rural family agriculture visible through inter-agency coordination between FAO, UN Women and WFP.
- FAO and WFP presented the first version of the Regulations of the Organic Law on School Feeding for approval to the inter-institutional committee.
- WFP developed a web and mobile platform, NutriEC, for the calculation of food rations and menus for programs carried out by WFP and the government in emergencies.
- WFP organized a musical concert within the initiative to support vulnerable people in shelters through food assistance. Additionally, FAO and WFP jointly organized a virtual concert in commemoration of World Food Day, under the theme of "For a more fair, supportive and peaceful society free from hunger and poverty".
- WFP supported the government of Brazil with the purchase and delivery of a contribution of medical supplies to the Temporary Care Center of the Municipality of Quito.
- 430 people are being trained through the Edufami educational virtual platform on climate change, sustainable food security and nutrition, and resilient livelihoods. 126 have completed the training on food security, climate change and gender equality. 40 Community Based Participative Planning workshops were led and facilitated by indigenous Awá and Afro populations.
- 7,818 Ecuadorian households received the Nutritional Support Voucher of USD 240, to alleviate the economic consequences of COVID-19 in 72 prioritized cantons.
- WFP supported UN Agencies and humanitarian actors by delivering 465,19 MT of food kits, Refugee Housing Unit and personal protective equipment to 23 provinces.

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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)
148.3 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.

- 68,793 migrants benefited from WFP's food vouchers in October. The majority were Venezuelans (93 percent), followed by Colombians (6.9 percent).
- 1,515 people, 36.8 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.
- As the COVID-19 pandemic persists, WFP and its cooperating partners continued to assist and monitor the beneficiaries by phone.
- WFP steadily monitors the market and wholesale food prices. In October, the overall price of the basket of goods has slightly dropped as well as the price of its food components.
- WFP launched a survey on the effects of COVID-19 on the consumption and purchase of food. 140,000 surveys have been answered. Results will be used to strengthen public policies on food and diet quality.

## Challenges

- The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 168,192 as of 31 October. It is estimated that by November the number of cases will considerably increase.
- According to the Needs Assessment, July-August 2020, more than 73 percent of surveyed households reported 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 are applying these strategies at least 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.

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