



World Food Programme

SAVING  
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LIVES

## WFP Ecuador Country Brief November 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**

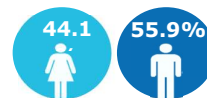
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

## In Numbers

**USD 1,806,310** cash-based transfers made

**84,119 people assisted**



### Operational Updates

- WFP's Country Director, Mario Touchette, participated in the XIX National Round Table of Human Mobility lead by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and presented the results of the two joint needs assessment concerning the food security and livelihood situation of the Venezuelan population.
- The Vice President of Ecuador, María Alejandra Muñoz, had a meeting with WFP's Deputy Executive Director, Amir Abdulla, during her official mission to Europe. During the meeting, they signed a letter of commitment for inter-institutional cooperation that aims at mitigating the damage caused by COVID-19 to the population with high rates of chronic child malnutrition, raising awareness on healthy eating habits, and implementing community canteens.
- WFP continued to support the government of Brazil with the purchase and delivery of 400 tablets to children who were unable to study during the pandemic as well as delivering 120,000 pairs of latex gloves to the Temporary Care Center of the Municipality of Quito.
- WFP and the National Service for Emergencies and Risk Management carried out a workshop on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction to develop tools to strengthen emergency preparedness and response in Ecuador.
- With the support of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador of Esmeraldas, WFP is carrying out the ethnobotanical inventory study to provide valuable information on plants and ecosystem resources that will promote adaptation to climate change focusing on food security.
- WFP supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross by delivering 4.6 mt of COVID-19 biosafety supplies to 4 provinces.
- The German Federal Foreign Office increased their support to WFP with USD 1.9 million to improve the food security of vulnerable, migrant and refugee populations.

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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)
<b>148.3 m</b>	<b>108.5 m</b>	<b>1.4 m</b>

### 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.

- 12,105 vulnerable Ecuadorian received the Nutritional Support Voucher of USD 240 to alleviate the economic consequences of COVID-19 in 72 prioritized cantons.
- 70,041 migrants benefited from WFP's food vouchers in November. The majority were Venezuelans (93 percent), followed by Colombians (6.9 percent).
- 1,977 people, 47.5 percent from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens managed by partner organizations.
- The one-time food assistance at the border provinces remained 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 November, the overall price of the basket of goods has slightly increased 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. WFP is working with the national health authority to complete the technical validation and its subsequent officialization. Results will be used to strengthen public policies on food and diet quality.

## Challenges

- The number of COVID-19 cases reached 192,685 as of 30 November.
- According to a WFP's study, it is estimated that, due to the pandemic, the difficulties to eat adequately will go hand in hand with the increase of extreme poverty, which in Ecuador could go from 7.6 percent in 2019 to 12.7 percent in 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.