



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief December 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 3,271,886 cash-based transfers made

111,451 people assisted



Operational Updates

- 38,273 vulnerable Ecuadorians received WFP's food assistance during the pandemic in December 69,899 migrants benefited from WFP's food vouchers in December. The majority were Venezuelans (93 percent), followed by Colombians (6.7 percent).
- 78 pregnant and lactating women and children under two received fortified, nutritious food assistance for years of age in vulnerable migrant households of Manabí.
- 2,301 people, 48.2 percent from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens.
- In December, WFP resumed the one-time food assistance at border provinces to support the refugees and migrants on the move with food security during the ongoing pandemic, and 919 people were assisted.
- WFP's Country Director, Mr. Mario Touchette, and the Resident Coordinator of United Nations Ecuador, Ms. Lena Savelli, visited and met with vulnerable Ecuadorian families, migrants and refugees at the canteen managed by the Municipality of Ibarra.
- WFP participated in an event organized by the Office of the President of Ecuador, the Vice Presidency, and the Sectorial Cabinet of Social Affairs. During this event, the signature of the Executive Decree to reduce chronic child malnutrition in Ecuador was presented.
- WFP and the National Service for Emergencies and Risk Management (SNGRE) carried out a series of workshops concerning risk reduction and preparedness with a specific focus on food safety to strengthen the capacity of local governments in the province of Manabí.
- WFP and the leader of Awa and Afro-Ecuadorians carried out a series of seminars on disaster risk management to validate the contents of Riesgofami, digital learning materials developed by WFP.

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)
148.3 m	108.5 m	3.3 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.

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 cooperating partners continued to assist and monitor the beneficiaries by phone.
- WFP steadily monitors the market and wholesale food prices. In December 2020, the overall price of a basket of goods has slightly dropped as well as the price of its food components.

Challenges

- Upon the discovery of the novel COVID-19 variant in other countries, the national government declared the short-term national health emergency until mid-January alongside the strict curfew and other restrictions.
- A study carried out in the last semester of 2020 by the Institute of Statistics and Census of Ecuador (INEC) states that 69.2 percent of the households in Ecuador could not afford the cost of the monthly Basic Basket of Goods. This cost equals USD 711, where the food component corresponds to 32 percent of this cost. The study defines that only 3 out of 10 households can afford this cost.

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.