WFP Ecuador
Country Brief
January 2021

Operational Context
Ecuador is an upper-middle-income country in which 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.

In Numbers

USD 3,721,750 cash-based transfers made
112,755 people assisted

Operational Updates

- 36,545 vulnerable Ecuadorians received WFP’s food assistance during the pandemic in January.
- 71,236 migrants benefited from WFP’s food vouchers in January. The majority were Venezuelans (92.9 percent) followed by Colombians (4.4 percent). 719 pregnant and lactating women and children under two years received fortified, nutritious food assistance in vulnerable migrant households.
- 1,686 people, 71.6 percent from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens. In addition, 3,288 Venezuelan migrants on the move were supported by one-time value-voucher assistance.
- WFP organized an event with Ecuadorian beneficiaries to hear direct feedback about the experiences with WFP’s Nutritional Support of USD 240 for families affected by the pandemic.
- WFP participated in the opening launch event of the Drip Irrigation System assisting cultivation of fruit trees in the province of Imbabura. WFP delivered 1,188 fruit trees, 13 varieties of vegetable seeds and supplies for the use of organic fertilizers to 132 families of Union of Indigenous Communities of San Pablo del Lago.
- WFP participated in the smallholder farmers community fair where small producers can sell their healthy and nutritious food products.

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### WFP Country Strategy

**Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>148.3 million</td>
<td>108.5 million</td>
<td>11.8 million</td>
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**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 2: 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 3: 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 assistance for 23 shelters and canteens. WFP also continues capacity trainings for cooperating partners to ensure upkeep on guidance for managing healthy and nutritious foods for beneficiaries.

- As the COVID-19 pandemic persists, WFP and cooperating partners continued to assist and monitor the beneficiaries by phone.

- In January 2021, the overall price of a basket of goods has slightly increased as well as the price of its food components.

### Challenges

- The security situation of both northern and southern border areas is at an alarming level. Amid the surge in COVID-19 cases, the Peruvian Government has deployed militaries in the southern border areas to halt the influx of unauthorized migrants. Migrants that initially intended to enter Peru are reportedly trapped in Ecuador and many are now homeless as temporary shelters have reached their maximum capacities.

- Following the Government’s request for food assistance, WFP immediately deployed a mission to the city of Macará to carry out a rapid need assessment with the Refugee and Migrant Working Group.

- 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. Only 3 out of 10 households can afford this cost.

### Donors

Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, United States of America, Private and Multilateral donors.

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.