



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Ecuador Country Brief May 2021



## 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**

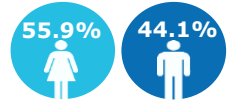
Chronic malnutrition: **23.9% of children under five years old**

## In Numbers

USD 1,4 m cash-based transfers made

54,552 people assisted in May

USD 10.8 million six months net funding requirements



## Operational Updates

- 48,258 migrants, refugees and people from host community benefited from WFP's food vouchers in May. The majority were Venezuelans (92.9 percent), followed by Colombians (5.9 percent). 7,777 pregnant and lactating women and children under two years of age of the most vulnerable households in 15 provinces received additional top-up according to the 1,000 days window assistance.
- 2,608 people, 60.7 percent from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens.
- 3,686 Venezuelan migrants on the move were supported by one-time food voucher.
- Along with United Nations Ecuador, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund For Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, WFP organized an online conference on food systems. During the conference, the Minister of Agriculture expressed his gratitude toward WFP for supporting female smallholder farmers within the *National Agricultural Strategy for Rural Women*.
- WFP organized an online capacity strengthening session for a web & mobile application called *NutrirEC*, developed by WFP Ecuador and National Service for Risk and Emergency Management, for the Government's and public's use in calculating and planning the food intake.
- Within WFP's logistics operation, WFP delivered food kits, school kits, and medical supplies to people affected by the COVID-19 crisis in four provinces – Pastaza, El Oro, Pichincha and Carchi.
- Along with the International University of Ecuador, WFP continued to give capacity training on humanitarian logistics for public sectors as well as for national and international humanitarian organizations based in Ecuador.

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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	109.1 m	10.8 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.

## 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.
- WFP steadily monitors the market and wholesale food prices. In May 2021, the overall price of the food components of the basket of goods at the national level remained stable, while the price in Quito remained higher with a 4 percent increase in April.
- Along with WFP's cooperating partner, Plan International, WFP's field monitors visited some beneficiary households and shelters to evaluate food security and nutrition of WFP's beneficiaries.

## Challenges

- As of 31 May, a total of 426,037 cases have been reported at the national level, having 44,175 new cases reported since 30 April. The national state of emergency continued until 21 May with a strict confinement measure as 57 hour long curfew on the weekends in 16 out of 24 provinces. WFP expects that this will likely have caused WFP's beneficiaries to have relatively less access to not only their economic activities but also purchasing food.
- According to National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), the national unemployment has slightly increased to 5.6 percent in April from 5.5 percent in March, alongside the 0.6 percent increase in underemployment rate, remaining higher than the average of past years.

## Donors

Brazil, Canada, European Commission, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, United States of America, Private and Multilateral donors. Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.