



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Ecuador Country Brief June 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**

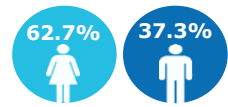
Chronic malnutrition: **23.9% of children under five years old**

## In Numbers

**USD 12 million** six-month net funding requirements

**USD 2,020,913** cash-based transfers made

**66,947 people assisted**  
June 2021



## Operational Updates

- 59,234 migrants, refugees and people from host community benefited from WFP's food vouchers in June. The majority were Venezuelans (97 percent), followed by Colombians (3 percent). 11,228 pregnant and lactating women and children under two years of age of the most vulnerable households in 15 provinces received an additional transfer to improve their nutrition during the 1,000 days window.
- 2,727 people, 62.8 percent from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens.
- 4,986 Venezuelan migrants on the move were supported by one-time food voucher.
- WFP Ecuador management team met with the Director-General of the National Service for Risk and Emergency Management to discuss how to enhance Ecuador's disaster risk reduction capacity.
- WFP welcomed a new cooperating partner, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and organised a joint mission to the province of Imbabura to assess how to better serve our beneficiaries.
- Within the "Climate Change Binational Project," WFP organized training on food security for community members of Afro-Ecuadorians and Awá indigenous people, which will likely be replicated to their family members as well as nearby communities.
- Along with the Director of Agricultural Productivity and the Regional Director of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) of the province of Los Ríos, WFP held a south-south cooperation workshop on the management of integrated rice-duck cultivation system.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>148.3 million</b>	<b>109.1 million</b>	<b>12 million</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.

## 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 June 2021, the overall price of the food components of the basket of goods at the national level remained stable, while the price of meat in Guayaquil has risen almost four percent since May.
- 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 30 June, a total of 458,504 COVID-19 cases have been reported at the national level. 32,467 new cases were reported since 31 May, a smaller increase than the previous month, along with significant progress in national vaccination.
- According to National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), the national unemployment has significantly increased to 6.3 percent in May from 5.6 percent in April. While both adequate employment rate and underemployment rate remained at the same level, both female and male unemployment rates have risen to 7.2 percent and 5.6 percent, respectively.
- In the city of Tulcán, the influx of Venezuelans on the move through irregular paths continues to be detected alongside the surge in COVID-19 cases. The municipality of Tulcán and the National Service of Risk and Emergency Management (COE) have accordingly taken some preventive measures. Given the situation, WFP Ecuador's Country Director went on mission to Tulcán to speak with the local authorities.

## Donors

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