WFP Ecuador
Country Brief
September 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.

In Numbers

USD 6.7 m six-month net funding requirements (October 2021 – March 2022) net funding requirements, representing 79% of total

USD 2,559,363 cash-based transfers made

80,210 people assisted in SEPTEMBER 2021 57.7% 42.3%

Operational Updates

- 70,192 migrants, refugees and people from host community benefited from WFP’s food vouchers in September. The majority of migrants and refugees were Venezuelans (94 percent), followed by Colombians (4 percent). 8,837 pregnant and lactating women and children under two years of age, from the most vulnerable households in 16 provinces, received an additional transfer to improve their nutrition during the 1,000 days window.

- 55,055 people, 66 percent from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens.

- 5,046 Venezuelan migrants on the move were supported by a one-time food voucher.

- On 21 September, WFP, with the participation of Government, held a diagnostic workshop for the design, development, and implementation of a comprehensive national nutrition strategy.

- On 21 September, WFP, UNICEF, and UNHCR signed the United Nations Common Cash Statement Agreement, which will assist the most vulnerable beneficiaries.

- WFP, with the support of Plan International, hosted an event called “open kitchen” to teach families how to prepare nutritious meals/snacks. This activity was held in Guayas.

- Between 31 August and 3 September, WFP and the National Risk and Emergency Management Service held the First Seasonal Livelihood Consultation in Pichincha Province to identify programmatic interventions to protect livelihood and strengthen the resilience at the local level.

- In September, the Government announced the launch of the new development plan for the next four years. One of the priorities is the fight against malnutrition. According to this, WFP is working with national institutions in capacity strengthening and support the school feeding policy, among others.

Contact info: Gabriela Montesdeoca (gabriela.montesdeoca@wfp.org)
Country Director: Matteo Perrone
Further information: https://opweb.wfp.org/country/mng/?UNC=218
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2022)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>197.2 m</td>
<td>141.8 m</td>
<td>6.7 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

*Budget Revision 06 was approved in September 2021. The revision extends the operation until December 2022.

---

**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 September 2021, the overall price of the food components of the basket of goods at the national level remained stable.

**Challenges**

- As of 30 September, a total of 509,238 COVID-19 cases have been reported at the national level. Since 30 August, 7,092 new cases were reported, a decrease from the month prior. This decrease may be attributed to the vaccination rate in the country, with nearly 10 million people have been fully vaccinated. Approximately 9,900 refugees and migrants have also received both doses of the vaccine, and around 9,583 have received the first dose. According to the Interagency Rapid Assessment carried out on 8 September in Machala, the surveyed migrants mentioned that they have been able to access to the vaccination program without problems.

- According to the National Institute of Statistics and Census, the national unemployment rate decreased to 4.9 percent in August (lower than 5.2 percent in July). Male unemployment rates increased to 4 percent between July and August, while female unemployment decreased to 6.1 percent.

According to the Working Group for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM) in Ecuador, around 451,000 Venezuelan migrants are currently living in the country. It is estimated that this number will increase during the following months due to the economic situation and the impact of COVID – 19 in Venezuela.

- In September, an Interagency Rapid Assessment was carried out in Machala to 206 people. The survey showed that the main need for migrants in the city is access to food, with 93 percent of people reporting no visa or residence status.

**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.