



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Ecuador Country Brief October 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: **17.7 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **86 out of 189**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

## In Numbers

**USD 12.1 m** six months (November 2021-April 2022) net funding requirements, representing 63% of total

**USD 12.1 m** L2 Emergency Response

## Operational Updates

- 74,939 migrants, refugees and people from host community benefited from WFP's food vouchers in October. The majority of migrants and refugees were Venezuelans (95 percent), followed by Colombians (4 percent). 9,699 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.
- 5,570 people, 73 percent from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens.
- 4,179 Venezuelan migrants on the move were supported by a one-time food voucher.
- Between 11 and 13 October, the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean visited Ecuador and held meetings with high-level authorities of the Ministries who partner with WFP. The Regional Director also visited beneficiaries' families and participated in a meeting with USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance.
- On the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, celebrated on 14 October, WFP Country Director signed an agreement with the National Secretary for Risk and Emergency Management. WFP ratified its commitment to continue working with the national Government to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable communities, disaster risk reduction, and emergency preparedness at the local level.
- On 18 October the Country Director participated in the solemn session for the World Food Day held at the National Assembly. The Country Director addressed issues such as food insecurity and child malnutrition in his presentation.

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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)
197.2 m	141.1 m	12.1 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.

\*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. The monthly increase in fuel prices has impacted the price of the basket of products and its food components, increasing the cost of the basic family food basket. At the local level, the price of food components is variant.

## Challenges

- As of 30 October, a total of 517,269 COVID-19 cases have been reported at the national level. Since 30 September, 7,682 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 10,181 have received the first doses, while 1,759 migrants have received a different vaccine of one dose only.
- According to the National Institute of Statistics and Census, the national unemployment rate remained at 4.9 percent in September. Male unemployment rates decreased to 3.9 percent, while female unemployment increased to 6.2 percent.

## Highlights

- For the United Nations World Day, the Ecuadorian Network for International Cooperation published data showing that WFP is the main cooperation partner in Ecuador and has so far assisted the highest number of beneficiaries in 2021.

## Donors

Brazil, Canada, European Commission, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, United States of America, private and multilateral donors.

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