



WFP Ecuador

Country Brief

November 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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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.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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**

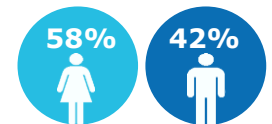
In Numbers

USD 2.8 m cash-based transfers made

USD 10.1 m six months (December 2021- May 2022) net funding requirements, representing 70% of total

USD 11.8 m L2 Emergency Response

88,954 people assisted in NOVEMBER 2021.



Operational Updates

- 80,075 migrants, refugees and people from host community benefited from WFP's food vouchers in November. The majority of migrants and refugees were Venezuelans (95 percent), followed by Colombians (4.5 percent). 10,428 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.
- 4,933 people, 73 percent from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens.
- 4,527 Venezuelan migrants on the move were supported by a one-time food voucher.
- The Country Director, Matteo Perrone, visited the southern border of Ecuador with Perú. During his mission, he had the opportunity to visit some beneficiaries' families, shelters, and canteens and held meetings with local authorities. The Country Office reiterated the WFP commitment to continue promoting a more effective humanitarian response.
- On 19 November, WFP, as part of the Country Humanitarian Team, participated in the earthquake simulation organized by the Secretariat of Risk Management and Emergencies. As a result of this event, WFP will present some recommendations to the Secretary and Local Governments.
- The WFP organized a training course in risk management, food security, and nutrition with Awá and Afro Ecuadorian communities' leaders in Carchi, Esmeraldas, Imbabura, and Sucumbíos.
- On 26 November, WFP, FAO, and the International Fund for Agriculture Development launched the joint Gender Transformative Approaches Program. The program will enable the implementation of actions to strengthen smallholder farmers. The Deputy Country Director, Alessandro Dinucci, mentioned the importance of working with rural women, ensuring equal opportunities.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
197.2 m	142.2 m	10.1 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; however, there is a slight decrease in the price of food components between August and September 2021.

Challenges

- As of 30 November, a total of 527,333 COVID-19 cases have been reported at the national level. Since 31 October, 10,071 new cases were reported. Under the National Vaccination Program, nearly 11.5 million have been fully vaccinated. Approximately 11,700 refugees and migrants have also received both doses of the vaccine, and around 10,181 have received the first doses, while 2,017 migrants have received a different vaccine of one dose only. Since November, the Government began to vaccinate people over 65 years of age with the booster doses. Currently around 500,000 people have received the booster vaccine. Of those only 49 migrants and refugees have received the third doses.
- According to the National Institute of Statistics and Census, the national unemployment rate remained at 4.6 percent in October. Male unemployment rates decreased to 3.9 percent, while female unemployment increased to 6.2 percent.

Highlights

- On 9 November, WFP, together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, shared the rice-duck initiative with Costa Rica as a successful example of South-South Cooperation for capacity building and market access for smallholder farmers.
- On 19 November, WFP participated in the IV International Cooperation Fair organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility. WFP shared its successful experiences in a sustainable and resilient agri-food system to achieve better nutrition.

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.