



WFP Ecuador Country Brief January 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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**

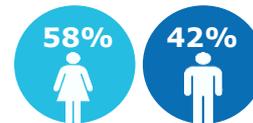
2015 Human Development Index: **86 out of 189**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 21 m six months (February -July 2022) net funding requirements, representing 28% of total



Operational Updates

- In January, 85,975 migrants, refugees and people from host community benefited from WFP's food vouchers. Most migrants and refugees were Venezuelans (94 percent), followed by Colombians (5 percent). 10,911 pregnant and lactating women and children under two years of age, from the most vulnerable households in 16 provinces, received an additional cash-based transfer (CBT) to improve their nutrition during the 1,000 days window.
- 4,899 people, 72 percent from Venezuela, were assisted at shelters and canteens.
- 4,115 Venezuelan migrants on the move were supported by a one-time food voucher.
- WFP, in the framework of the Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security and Nutrition, delivered seeds to the families who participate in learning communities in the Province of Imbabura. These seeds will allow them to implement agro-diverse gardens to improve their food and nutritional security.
- On January 21, WFP participated in the Meeting with Focus Groups of producers organized by the United Nations Country Team. The objective was to receive inputs that will contribute to the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026. José Anrango, president of the Union of indigenous communities of San Pablo del Lago (UNCISPAL for its Spanish acronym), emphasized that the support of WFP and other agencies allowed them working on gender issues to empower women and generate equal opportunities.
- Together with the Humanitarian Country Team, Country Director Matteo Perrone participated in the "Foreign Trade Workshop" organized by WFP. This learning space focuses on strengthening the capacities of humanitarian partners to provide a more effective response to emergencies.

Contact info: Gabriela Montesdeoca (gabriela.montesdeoca@wfp.org)

Country Director: Matteo Perrone

Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/ecuador>

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
197.4 m	142.2 m	21 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 capacity training for the cooperating partners at shelters and canteens on Food Safety and Quality. It is also following up on capacity training to ensure that trainees have been keeping up with the guidance on managing healthy and nutritious foods for WFP's beneficiaries.
- WFP steadily monitors the market and wholesale food prices. 2021 closed with the highest inflation in the last six years; inflation between December 2020 and December 2021 was 1.94 percent, the highest rate since 2015. However, the Ecuadorian economy grew by 5.6 percent in the last quarter. In December 2021, the price of food products at the national level increased by 0.72 percent compared to November 2021.

Challenges

- As of 31 January, a total of 732,038 COVID-19 cases have been reported at national level. Since 31 December, 182,620 new cases were reported. Under the National Vaccination Program, nearly 13.3 million have been fully vaccinated. Approximately 900,000 migrants and refugees have also received both doses of the vaccine. Since November 2021, the Government began to vaccinate people over 65 years of age with the booster doses. Currently, around 2.6 million people have received a booster vaccine.
- According to the National Institute of Statistics and Census, the national unemployment rate decreased at 4.1 percent in December 2021. Male unemployment rates increased to 3.5 percent, while female unemployment decreased to 5 percent (compared to 3.4 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively in November 2021).

Highlights

- On January 21, the President of Ecuador, Guillermo Lasso, announced the second phase of the "Bono de Apoyo Nutricional", which will be implemented with the support of WFP and will benefit 1,929 vulnerable households affected by COVID-19. The first phase of this programme began in 2020 and reached about 99 percent of the target household.

Donors

Brazil, Canada, European Union, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea (the), United States of America, and private and multilateral donors.

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.