In Numbers

**USD 3 m** cash-based transfers made

**USD 9.4 m** six months (March-August 2022) net funding requirements, representing 62% of total

**USD 8.9 m** for Emergency Response

96,619 people assisted in February 2022.

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.

Operational Updates

- In February, 87,366 migrants, refugees and people from host community benefited from WFP’s food vouchers. Most migrants and refugees were Venezuelans (95 percent), followed by Colombians (5 percent). In addition, 11,121 pregnant and lactating women and girls, and children aged 6-23 months from the most vulnerable households in 16 provinces, received an additional cash-based transfer to improve their nutrition during the 1,000 days window.

- WFP assisted 5,212 people (69 percent from Venezuela) at shelters and canteens.

- Furthermore, WFP supported 4,221 Venezuelan migrants on the move with a one-time food voucher.

- In February, WFP started the delivery of the *Bono de Apoyo Nutricional* with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in the provinces of Carchi, Pichincha, and Esmeraldas. As of 28 February, 1,812 of 6,803 beneficiary households redeemed the voucher.

- On 24 February, WFP delivered seven mobile storage units to the National Risk and Emergency Management Service. During the event, the WFP deputy country director, Alessandro Dinucci, highlighted the importance of strengthening the National Government’s emergency preparedness and response capacities with the support of the USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

- In February, WFP and ADRA, under the project AlmentACCIÓN, carried out several trainings in Pichincha and Carchi on gender and protection, food security and nutrition.

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On 18 February, WFP participated in a webinar organized by the Ministry of Public Health on healthy eating and its importance in preventing chronic non-communicable diseases. WFP’s nutrition expert talked about the impact of the pandemic on the consumption and purchase of food by Ecuadorian adults.

Monitoring

- WFP continues to provide capacity trainings for cooperating partners at shelters and canteens on food safety and quality. It is also following up to ensure that trainees have been keeping up with the guidance on managing healthy and nutritious foods for WFP’s beneficiaries.
- According to the National Institute of Statistics and Census, as of December 2021, the poverty rate stood at 27.7 percent. Out of this percentage, 10.5 percent is in extreme poverty.

Challenges

- As of 28 February, 832,795 COVID-19 cases have been reported nationwide. Since 30 January, 93,498 new cases have been reported. Under the National Vaccination Program, nearly 13.5 million have been fully vaccinated. Approximately 900,000 migrants and refugees have also received both doses of the vaccine. Since November, the Government began to vaccinate people over 65 with booster doses. Currently, around 4.4 million people have received a booster vaccine.
- According to the National Institute of Statistics and Census, the national unemployment rate increased to 5.4 percent in January 2022 (compared to 4.1 in December). Male unemployment rates increased to 4.5 percent, while female unemployment increased to 6.7 percent.

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.

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