



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief April 2022



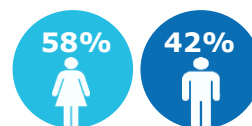
In Numbers

USD 3 m cash-based transfers made*

USD 14 m six months (May-October 2022) net funding requirements, representing 36% of total

95,463 people assisted* in April 2022

*Preliminary figures



Operational Context

Ecuador exhibited Gross Domestic Product growth in the years prior to the pandemic, resulting in declining poverty and increased investment in social policies, infrastructure, health, and education. However, the COVID-19 health crisis triggered a deep recession that led to a rebound in poverty (27.7 percent in December 2021; 10.5 percent extreme poverty). Ecuador is an upper-middle-income country with high income inequality (2019 Gini index = 0.48).

The humanitarian and development context continues to evolve as the country recovers from the pandemic. Despite the peace process in Colombia, new refugees are still arriving to the country.

Ecuador is vulnerable to climate change and prone to natural disasters, including droughts, floods, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. These, combined with soil erosion and environmental degradation, threaten food systems and may increase malnutrition and poverty rates.

WFP has been present in Ecuador since 1964, providing advisory, technical, and policy support to the Government of Ecuador and contributing to the food security and nutrition of vulnerable people.



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**

Operational Updates

- In April, WFP provided food vouchers to 84,442 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities across Ecuador. WFP also provided 10,856 pregnant and lactating women and girls as well as children under two from the most vulnerable households in 16 provinces with an additional cash-based transfer (CBT) to improve their nutrition during the first 1,000-day window.
- 6,225 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities received hot meals at shelters and canteens. Also, 2,920 migrants on the move received a one-time food voucher, and 1,505 vulnerable Ecuadorians received food assistance through CBT.
- WFP Ecuador's Country Director and the Undersecretary of School Management, Juan Gabriel Casañas, participated in the IX Regional School Feeding Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Colombia from 5 to 7 April. The forum is a high-level gathering of governments, partners, civil society representatives, and recognized experts from the region to discuss the progress, challenges and multi-sectoral opportunities of national school feeding and other school-based programmes.
- On 13 April, WFP and the Rumiñahui local government signed a cooperation agreement that seeks to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable people and provide technical support for disaster preparedness and risk reduction.
- From 23 to 30 April, WFP held a training in Pichincha on logistic response on behalf of the Global Logistic Cluster. The training's objective was to develop and strengthen the emergency response knowledge and capabilities of senior logistics operations personnel in the region. Fifty-three delegates (19 women and 34 men) from WFP, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector participated in the training.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
197.4 m	145 m	14 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.

- WFP continues to deliver trainings on food safety and quality to partners at shelters and canteens. After the trainings, WFP conducted monitoring and coaching exercises to ensure trainees follow guidance on managing healthy and nutritious foods for WFP's beneficiaries.
- On 23 April, the Government of Ecuador launched the National Chronic Childhood Malnutrition Survey; 27,000 children will be surveyed in the study. Preliminary data will be available by October 2022.
- In April, WFP received 760 calls through its community feedback and response mechanism. Key issues reported by beneficiaries concerned the monthly voucher programme, how to receive food assistance, in-transit assistance, or other technical assistance. WFP increased communication campaigns and engaged beneficiaries on a case-by-case basis in response to concerns and requests.

Challenges

- Ecuador's Ministry of Health recorded 8,445 new COVID-19 cases in April, significantly fewer than March's 28,456 cases; 869,696 cases have been reported across the country since the pandemic. Over 13.8 million people (84 percent of the population) have been vaccinated under the National Vaccination Programme, including 100,000 migrants and refugees.
- According to the National Institute of Statistics, the national unemployment rate increased from 4.3 percent in February to 4.8 percent in March. Unemployment for men increased from 3.9 percent in February to 4.3 percent in March; while for women, unemployment rose from 4.9 to 5.5 percent over the same period.

Highlights

- A 5.8 magnitude earthquake occurred in Esmeralda on 26 March, affecting 15,235 people, including 6,984 severely. As a part of immediate response efforts in April, WFP and the Government of Ecuador coordinated to deliver USD 240 vouchers to 214 households (1,440 people). WFP and the Government held an event on 11 April to officialize the voucher delivery. The President of Ecuador, Guillermo Lasso; the WFP Ecuador Chief of Mission, Matteo Perrone; the Minister of Social and Economic Inclusion, Esteban Bernal; the Minister of Urban Development and Housing, Darío Herrera; and the Secretary of Risk and Emergency Management, Cristian Torres participated in the event.

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.