



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Ecuador

Country Brief

June 2022



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 conflict in Ukraine started at a time when Ecuador was already dealing with the economic damages caused by COVID-19, resulting in rising inflation, production deficits and strained Government capacity. Consumer price inflation in Ecuador is expected to accelerate to 4.6 percent by the end of 2022 and decelerate after, the fastest annual pace since 2012.

Compounding issues, 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**

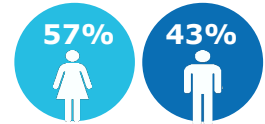
In Numbers

USD 2.2 m cash-based transfers made*

USD 11.7 m six months (July to December 2022) net funding requirements, representing 77 percent of total funding requirements

79,363 people assisted*
in June 2022

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- In June, WFP provided food vouchers to 67,343 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities across Ecuador. WFP also provided 9,098 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.
- 6,159 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities received hot meals at shelters and canteens in 16 provinces.
- 3,864 migrants on the move received a one-time food voucher, and 157 vulnerable Ecuadorians received food assistance through CBT.
- With the objective of raising awareness on gender-based violence and commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, WFP carried out community-based activities reaching 31 people (21 women) in shelters, homes and canteens.
- Within the framework of South-South Cooperation, on 2 June 2022, WFP participated in an experience-exchange event between Ecuador and Costa Rica. Twenty people (7 women) from government institutions of both countries attended the event with the objective of sharing experiences of programmes developed in Costa Rica and Ecuador, including the rice-duck agri-food system model.
- On 29 June 2022, WFP participated in a seminar on food crises in Latin America organized by the Latin American Center for Rural Development. Thirty-five public officials from the region attended the event. WFP took part in the resilience working group, which aimed to address issues such as food systems and resilience in the face of food crises.

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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	11.7 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 07 was approved in December 2021.

- The results of WFP remote assessments in Ecuador have confirmed a deteriorating trend of the food security situation. The number of severely food insecure people increased from 2,011,000 (11.4 percent of total population, August 2021) to 2,433,000 (13.6 percent of total population, March 2022). More than 400,000 Ecuadorians fell into severe food insecurity in a lapse of only six months.

- Inflation reached 4.23 percent in June 2022, reflecting increases in food and transportation prices. The cost of the basic family basket, composed of 75 products, reached USD 751.04 in June, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Census.
- WFP received 740 calls through its community feedback and response mechanism in June 2022. WFP increased communication campaigns and engaged beneficiaries on a case-by-case basis in response to concerns and requests.

Challenges

- The persistence of COVID-19 continues to challenge programming in the country. Ecuador's Ministry of Health recorded 32,986 new COVID-19 cases in June 2022. Over 14 million people (84 percent of population) are vaccinated under the National Vaccination Programme, including 100,000 migrants and refugees.
- According to the National Institute of Statistics, the national unemployment rate decreased from 4.7 percent in April 2022 to 3.7 percent in May 2022. In this period, unemployment for men decreased from 3.9 percent in April to 3.1 percent in May; while women's unemployment decreased from 5.8 to 4.5 percent. Underemployment decreased from 23.9 percent in April to 22.1 in May 2022.
- Nationwide protests caused the closure of main roads, which triggered shortages at markets across the country. This disruption to the supply chain affected food delivery to WFP distribution points to migrants in transit.

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.