In Numbers

USD 1.7 m cash-based transfers made*

USD 14.2 m six months (October 2022 to February 2023) net funding requirements, representing 37 percent of total funding requirements

58,036 people assisted* in September 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 (25 percent in June 2022; 10.7 percent extreme poverty). Ecuador is an upper-middle-income country with high income inequality (2020 Gini index = 0.473).

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 4.9 percent by the end of 2022, 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.

Operational Updates

• In September 2022, WFP provided food vouchers to 44,832 migrants, refugees and people from host communities across Ecuador. To improve the nutrition of pregnant and lactating women (PLWG) and their children during the first 1,000-day window, WFP also provided an additional cash-based transfers (CBT) to 6,937 PLWG from the most vulnerable households in 16 provinces.

• WFP assisted 6,255 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens in 16 provinces (out of the 24 provinces of the country).

• Three-thousand eight-hundred and three migrants on the move received a one-time voucher to buy food at local supermarkets.

• On 14 September, WFP Ecuador country director Matteo Perrone participated in the Sustainable Challenge LatAm 2022. The country director presented the “Rice and Duck” project as a successful agri-food system implemented in Ecuador’s Coastal Region.

• On 20 September 2020, WFP delivered 30 first aid kits and firefighting equipment for park rangers working in protected areas in Ecuador to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition.

• On 23 September, WFP presented during a public event the reactivation of the early volcano warning system as part of the disaster risk reduction (DRR) and preparedness project to public officials from the Risk Management Secretariat in Quito and Rumiñahui.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>197.3 m</td>
<td>173.7 m</td>
<td>14.2 m</td>
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</table>

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.

Monitoring

- The results of WFP remote assessments in Ecuador have confirmed a deteriorating trend in the food security situation, where the number of severely food insecure people rose from 2 million (11.4 percent of the total population, August 2021) to 2.4 million (13.6 percent of the total population, March 2022). In a lapse of six months, 400,000 Ecuadorians fell into severe food insecurity.

- WFP received 421 calls through its community feedback mechanism in September 2022. To ensure an effective use of the mechanism among beneficiaries, WFP increased communication campaigns and engaged with beneficiaries uniquely and on a case-by-case basis to respond to their concerns and requests.

- WFP and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are developing the Emergency Food Security Assessment 2.0. This assessment focuses on the social and economic integration of migrants in Ecuador. The results will be ready by the end of November 2022.

Challenges

- The persistence of COVID-19 continues to challenge WFP’s activities. In September 2022, Ecuador’s Ministry of Health recorded 8,330 new COVID-19 cases. In the country, over 14.1 million people (84.4 percent of the 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 increased from 3.9 percent in July 2022 to 4.0 percent in August 2022. Unemployment for men remained at 3.5 percent in August; unemployment among women increased from 4.3 to 4.7 percent over the same period. Underemployment increased from 22 percent in July to 23.1 in August 2022.

Highlights

Between 26 and 28 September 2022, WFP Ecuador hosted the Nutrition and Social Protection Workshop. Sixty WFP officers from the region participated. In the opening event, the Technical Secretary for Ecuador Grows Without Malnutrition, Erwin Ronquillo, highlighted the policies related to chronic malnutrition that the Government is implementing.

Donors

Brazil, China, Canada, European Union, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, United States of America, Catalunya Local Government and private and multilateral donors.

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