



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief October 2022



Photo by WFP

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.



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**

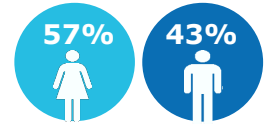
In Numbers

USD 1.8 m cash-based transfers made*

USD 15 m six months (November 2022 to April 2023) net funding requirements, representing 61 percent of total funding requirements

55,148 people assisted* in October 2022

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- In October 2022, WFP provided value vouchers to 41,182 migrants, refugees and people from host communities in Ecuador. To improve the nutrition of pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) and their children during the first 1,000-day window, WFP also provided additional cash-based transfers to 6,562 PLWG from the most vulnerable households in 16 provinces (out of the 24 provinces of the country).
- WFP assisted 5,958 migrants, refugees and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens in 16 provinces. Additionally, 4,010 on-the-move migrants received a one-time voucher to buy food at local supermarkets.
- On 4 October, WFP became a member of the Advisory Council for the Prevention and Reduction of Chronic Childhood Malnutrition. The Council is a space for civil society organizations, the private sector and academia to share technical expertise, assess the impact of policies on chronic childhood malnutrition and jointly design the way forward to support the Government on its path to Zero Hunger.

Monitoring

- The results of WFP remote assessments in Ecuador have confirmed a deteriorating trend in the food security situation. 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 572 calls through its community feedback mechanism in October 2022. To ensure the effective use of the mechanism among beneficiaries, WFP increased sensibilization campaigns and engaged with beneficiaries to address concerns and requests.

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Challenges

- According to the National Institute of Statistics, the national unemployment rate increased from 4.0 percent in August 2022 to 4.1 percent in September 2022. Unemployment for men remained at 3.5 percent in September; unemployment among women increased from 4.7 to 4.8 percent over the same period. Underemployment decreased from 23.1 percent in August to 20.3 in September 2022.
- Following ten explosions in the provinces of Guayas, Esmeraldas and Santo Domingo and the unprecedented levels of violence, WFP suspended field visits and are following up with beneficiaries remotely.

Partnerships

- On 14 October, WFP jointly with the Municipality of Cuenca launched the fundraising campaign *Llegamos a nutrir corazones* to mobilize resources to continue implementing projects to address chronic malnutrition. Besides the Government, other participants included the private sector and civil society delegates.

Capacity Strengthening

- On 28 October, WFP presented the results of the multi-year project to strengthen and operationalize the Decentralized National System of Risk Management System of Ecuador. From 2020 to 2022, WFP strengthened the capacities of 5,500 people, including national and local authorities and community members in Ecuador.

Donors

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

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
197.4 m	173.1 m	15 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.