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.

In Numbers

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD 1.8 m</td>
<td>cash-based transfers made*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD 18.5 m</td>
<td>six months (December 2022 to May 2023) net funding requirements, representing 76 percent of total funding requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55,568 people</td>
<td>assisted* in November 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP provided value vouchers to 43,683 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 6,974 PLWG from the most vulnerable households in 16 provinces (out of the 24 provinces of the country).

- WFP assisted 7,011 migrants, refugees and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens in 16 provinces. Additionally, 4,053 on-the-move migrants received a one-time voucher to buy food at local supermarkets.

- On 30 November, WFP and the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition presented the results of ecosystem-based climate change adaptation measures implemented in 66 communities in Esmeraldas, Imbabura, Carchi and Sucumbíos provinces. The measures were developed through participatory processes to contribute to inclusive and sustainable livelihoods, especially for women. More than 280 people participated in the event, including representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, local governments, universities, and representatives of Afro-Ecuadorian communities.

- WFP joined the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, which began on 25 November. WFP created a "Knowing reality" room where staff can discuss news related to gender-based violence.

Contact info: Gabriela Montesdeoca (gabriela.montesdeoca@wfp.org)
Country Director: Matteo Perrone
Further information: https://www.wfp.org/countries/ecuador
WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

<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>197.4 m</td>
<td>173.1 m</td>
<td>18.5 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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.

### 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 six months, 400,000 Ecuadorians fell into severe food insecurity.

- WFP received 421 calls through its community feedback mechanism in November. To ensure the effective use of the mechanism among beneficiaries, WFP increased sensitization campaigns and engaged with beneficiaries to address concerns and requests.

### Challenges

- According to the National Institute of Statistics, the national unemployment rate remained at 4.1 in October 2022. Unemployment for men decreased to 3.3 percent in October; unemployment among women increased from 4.8 to 5.1 percent over the same period. Underemployment decreased from 20.3 percent in September 2022 to 19.9 percent in October 2022.

- The recent Emergency Food Security Assessment carried out by WFP with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shows that 45.9 percent of Venezuelan households still live in food insecurity (230,000 people). While this is an improvement compared to 2021 data, especially for populations living in moderate food insecurity, populations living in severe food insecurity increased. In 2021, 51 percent of people were moderately food insecure and six percent severely food insecure, while in 2022, these same figures are, respectively, 38.2 percent of people (191,000 people) and 7.7 percent (39,000 people).

### Highlights

- On 17 November, the Executive Board approved the new Country Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027. This document was developed with input from the Government, donors, civil society and community members and leaders. The country director and the Ambassador of Ecuador to Rome-based United Nations agencies participated in the event.

### 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.