



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief May 2023



Operational Context

Ecuador exhibited gross domestic product (GDP) growth prior to the COVID-19 health crisis, resulting in a relative decrease in poverty and major public investment. However, the poverty rate rose from 21.5 percent in 2017 to 25.2 percent in 2022 while extreme poverty from 7.9 percent to 8.2 percent, with a large difference in rural and urban contexts. 41 percent of the rural population lives under the poverty line compared to 17.8 percent in urban areas. The influx of Venezuelan migrants continued through 2022. Currently, 502,214 migrants are living in Ecuador. Between 2021 and 2022, violent deaths grew by 82 percent in Ecuador. It is the sixth most violent country in the region. The Ukraine conflict has further exacerbated existing economic and social issues, resulting in rising inflation and production deficits. Annual inflation reached 3.8 percent in 2022, up from 0.13 percent in 2021. The rapid price increase has caused social unrest and a Government deficit as it tries to curb the increasing costs.

Ecuador is vulnerable to climate change, prone to natural hazards, and faces environmental degradation, threatening food systems and potentially increasing malnutrition and poverty rates across the country.



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

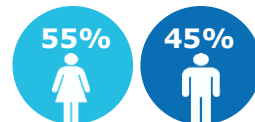
10.2 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 1.9 m cash-based transfers made*

USD 8.7 m six months (June - November 2023) net funding requirements, representing 34 percent of total

66,096 people assisted*
in MAY 2023

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- In May, WFP provided value vouchers to 51,442 migrants in the country to improve the nutrition of Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and Girls (PBW/G) and their children during the first 1,000-day window. WFP provided additional cash-based transfers (CBT) to 18,162 PBW/G in 16 provinces (out of the 24 provinces of the country).
- WFP assisted 8,877 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens. Additionally, 4,642 on-the-move migrants received a food kit and a one-time voucher to buy food at local supermarkets.
- As part of the emergency food assistance for vulnerable Ecuadorians, WFP assisted 1,147 households by delivering CBT assistance (USD 240 to each beneficiary) and nutrition-sensitive messages in Chimborazo, Bolívar.
- WFP with the support of the *Agencia Adventista de Desarrollo y Recursos Asistenciales* – ADRA and the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion (MIES) has initiated the distribution of the *Bono Humanitario Alimentario* in the provinces of Morona Santiago, Pastaza, Orellana and Pichincha. As of May, 1,170 families have received the CBT amounting to USD 240. WFP expects to continue delivering the CBT through MIES in June.
- Following the Alausí landslide in March 2023, WFP in coordination with MIES provided 124 households affected by the disaster with a USD 240 voucher.

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Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/ecuador>

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
144.3 m	40.2 m	8.7 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

1. Deliver food assistance (CBT and in-kind) with equitable access to and control over, and access to services, strengthening food security and socioeconomic integration of population in human mobility, host population and other vulnerable Ecuadorian people affected by disasters, emergencies, and prolonged crises, considering the gender and protection approach.
2. Strengthen the government's shock-responsive social protection programs with a gender and protection approach, through technical assistance, evidence and capacities to public institutions, decision makers and communities, strengthening national systems of anticipation, prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response to disasters and early recovery.

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome #2: People have better nutrition, health and education outcomes

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

3. Strengthen institutional capacities and provide an adequate and comprehensive package of interventions with a gender and protection approach to girls, boys, adolescents, and people in vulnerable situations, throughout the life cycle and with emphasis but not limited to on the first 1,000 days.

Strategic Result 3: Sustainable food system

Strategic Outcome #3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

4. Strengthen institutional capacities and provide technical and operational assistance, resources, assets, services, and information to better support climate vulnerable communities and family farmers.

Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome #4: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

5. Provide supply chain and other services to Government and humanitarian partners, including supply chain diagnostics and identification and documentation of gaps, needs and opportunities for operational improvement.

- Between April and May, WFP initiated the implementation of an anticipatory action pilot in coordination with the National Secretary of Risk Reduction and Emergency. On 11 May, WFP conducted an internal workshop to provide information and next steps.
- WFP, in collaboration with the National Secretariat for Risk and Emergency Management, has successfully established Community Risk Committees for Afro-Ecuadorian communities as part of a binational project between Ecuador and Colombia. 33 community committees have been trained to address various risks and threats, such as those related to natural disasters, climate change, and human activities, which can impact food security and livelihoods.

Monitoring

- Adequate or full employment during the first trimester of 2023 stood at 34.9 percent nationally. Disparities exist between major cities and rural areas. Quito (58.1 percent) and Guayaquil (47.3 percent) holds the highest rate.

Challenges

- With the arrival of the El Niño phenomenon Ecuador is expected to face an increasing number of natural hazards impacting food security including flooding and landslides.
- To prevent an imminent impeachment vote, President Guillermo Lasso has dissolved the National Assembly. As a result, snap general elections have been scheduled for 20 August.

Donors

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

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.