



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief

August 2023



Laura Perachimba from UNCISPAL at the fair the seven-grain flour, an ancestral and nutritious proposal. @WFP/Carolina

Operational Context

Ecuador showed gross domestic product (GDP) growth before 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 migrants continued through 2022 increasing the number of migrants 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**

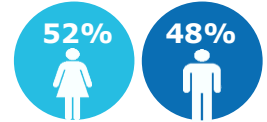
In Numbers

5.09 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 1 m cash-based transfers made*

USD 9.2 m six months (September 2023 - February 2024) net funding requirements, representing 36 percent of total

44,992 people assisted*
in AUGUST 2023



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- In August, WFP provided value vouchers to 18,295 migrants across the country and additional cash-based transfers (CBT) to 10,827 Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and Girls in 16 provinces out of 24 of the country.
- WFP assisted 11,039 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens. Additionally, 4,831 on-the-move migrants received a food kit and a one-time voucher to buy food at local supermarkets.
- On 31 August, WFP hosted a local production fair in Imbabura province to connect small-scale producers with potential clients like hotels, industries and restaurants with the participation of 37 people from four associations and 113 from the food industry. This initiative started with data collection to assess value chain organization, registration capacity, production, distribution capabilities, product variety, and potential for added value.
- In August, the WFP conducted several workshops on "Sphere, Humanitarian Charter, and Minimum Standards for Humanitarian Response" in Quito. This workshop had the participation of 28 officials representing various entities within the Metropolitan Risk Management System, including public entities, private organizations, academia, and civil society organizations.
- In addition, WFP also organized the "Initial Needs Assessment" and temporary shelter management workshops for local government officials in Manta, Guayaquil, Santa Elena and Durán. 150 officials took part in these workshops, providing them with valuable insights and tools to effectively respond to emergencies and offer comprehensive assistance to the affected population.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
144.4 m	46 m	9.2 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.

Monitoring

- Inflation in August 2023 stood at 0.5 percent compared to July 2023 while inflation in August 2023 stood at 2.23 percent compared to August 2022.
- In July, the unemployment rate reached 3.7 percent, showing a decrease of 0.1 percent compared to June 2022, as indicated by the National Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment Survey conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Census. Adequate employment had a modest improvement, reaching 35.5 percent by July 2023, a 1 percent increase compared to June 2022.
- The food basket increased by 13 USD, reaching its highest monthly variation since 2020. This increase was led by a monthly price increase in goods such as lemons (45.34 percent), avocados (20.58 percent) and onions (19.56 percent).
- Poverty rates increased to 27 percent in June 2023 from 25.2 percent in December 2022. Moreover, in the first quarter of 2023, there was a year-on-year growth of 0.7 percent compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

Challenges

- Ecuador is facing a complex political situation. In May 2023, the President of Ecuador declared the dissolution of the National Assembly and the calling of early elections. On 20 August, the first round took place, and as a result, two presidential candidates will compete in the second round of elections, which will take place on 15 October.

Donors

China, Canada, European Union, Japan, United States of America and private donors.

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