



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

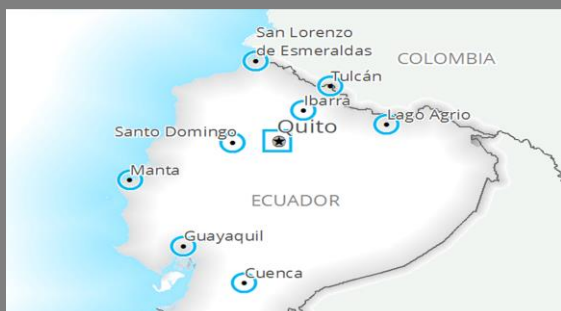
## WFP Ecuador Country Brief October 2023



### 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 5 years old**

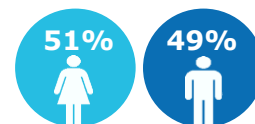
## In Numbers

**6.6 mt** of food assistance distributed\*

**USD 713,673** cash-based transfers made\*

**USD 11** six months (November 2023 to April 2024) net funding requirements, representing 46 percent of total

**33,450 people assisted\***  
in OCTOBER 2023



\*Preliminary figures

### Operational Updates

- In October, WFP provided value vouchers to 11,504 migrants nationwide and cash-based transfers (CBT) to 6,309 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls in 16 out of 24 provinces.
- WFP assisted 11,254 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities with hot meals at 62 shelters and canteens. Another 4,383 on-the-move migrants received a food kit and a one-time voucher to buy food at local supermarkets.
- WFP organized a series of workshops in seven Durán, Portoviejo, Cuenca, Samborondón, Santa Elena, Rumiñahui, and Guayaquil covering topics such as initial needs assessment, humanitarian sphere standards and temporary shelter management. Throughout 19 sessions, some 330 local government officials acquired essential tools to bolster their emergency response capabilities.
- On 17 October, the fourth episode of the podcast 'The Voice of WFP' was released. Karina Barrera, the Under-Secretary for Climate Change, joined Javier Rojas, the Coordinator of the Binational Adaptation Project, to delve into the potential of ancestral knowledge to help combat the climate crisis.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>144.3 m</b>	<b>46 m</b>	<b>11 m</b>

### 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:**

- 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.
- 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:**

- 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 systems

**Strategic Outcome 3:** People have improved and sustainable livelihoods.

**Focus area:** *Resilience building*

**Activities:**

- 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 4: Capacity Strengthening

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

**Focus area:** *Root causes*

**Activities:**

- 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 October 2023 reduced by 0.18 percent compared to September 2023 while inflation in October 2023 stood at 1,93 percent compared to September 2022.
- In September, the unemployment rate reached 3.7 percent, as indicated by the National Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment Survey conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Census. Adequate employment stood at 35.5 percent.
- The Basic Family Basket currently costs USD 784.02 while the Essential Family Basket now costs USD 552.01.

## Challenges

- With Ecuador in political transition, the new Government under Daniel Noboa will take office in December 2023.
- The escalating crime rate in Ecuador, largely linked to organized crime, is a persisting issue. As of October, 6,044 homicides were reported, if this trend continues, Ecuador will rank as the most violent country in Latin America by year's end.
- The El Niño phenomenon, as reported by the Oceanographic Institute of the Navy (INOCAR), has kicked off across Ecuador. Late October witnessed an increase in both intense and moderate rainfall, with expectations of this weather pattern persisting into November.

## Donors

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

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.