



WFP Ecuador Country Brief December 2023

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Closing event for the transformative gender approaches project in Imbabura

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**

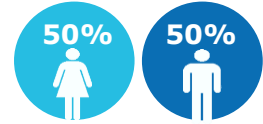
In Numbers

5.5 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 643,570 cash-based transfers made*

USD 11.2 six months (January to June 2024) net funding requirements, representing 52 percent of total

27,526 people assisted*
in DECEMBER 2023



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

- In December, WFP provided value vouchers to 10,904 migrants across the country of which 3,922 were Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and Girls in 16 provinces out of 24 of the country.
- WFP assisted 9,636 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens. Also, 3,064 on-the-move migrants received a food kit and a one-time voucher to buy food at local supermarkets.
- In December, as part of our continuous efforts in disaster risk reduction, WFP conducted training sessions on Initial Needs Assessment (EVIN) in Quito, Guayaquil, and Rumiñahui. Additionally, we established Community Risk Management Committees and initiated the first simulation drill in six out of the 18 targeted communities across Guayaquil, Santa Elena, and Portoviejo.
- In December, closing events marked the conclusion of the joint programme on transformative gender approaches for smallholder farmers. Attended by over a hundred participants, including producers and consumers of project-affiliated farm products, the events in Imbabura and Manabí also welcomed local government authorities and delegates from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.
- On 13 December, WFP hosted an event to present our achievements, express gratitude for our partners' vital support and acknowledge their significant contributions. The event featured showcased our ongoing projects, providing donors, partners and various ambassadors with insights into our current initiatives.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
165.3 m	46.6 m	11.2 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:

- 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 December 2023 reduced by 0.02 percent in comparison to November 2023 while inflation in December 2023 stood at 1.35 percent compared to December 2022.
- In November, the unemployment rate reached 3.5 percent, as indicated by the National Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment Survey conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Census. Adequate employment stood at 35.8 percent.
- The Basic Family Basket currently costs USD 786.31 while the Essential Family Basket now costs USD 551.68.
- On 15 December, the Ministry of Labour announced the basic salary will increase by US\$ 10 to USD 460. This increase will take effect from 1 January 2024.

Challenges

- Ecuador closed 2023 with over 40 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, placing it as the most violent country in Latin America. Consequently, visits to territory have been suspended in certain high-risk areas of the country.
- December in Ecuador witnessed heightened rainfall attributed to the El Niño phenomenon. The National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAHMI) maintained the orange alert during December for Coastal, Sierra and Eastern regions. While this did not directly impact operations, WFP have actively partnered with local governments on disaster risk reduction to mitigate potential risks associated with El Niño in the case of a more severe incident.
- In December, the ministers for the new government, which assumed office in November, were finalized. Consequently, WFP conducted meetings with the new cabinet to advance projects initiated prior to the change in government.

Donors

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

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.