



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Ecuador Country Brief February 2024

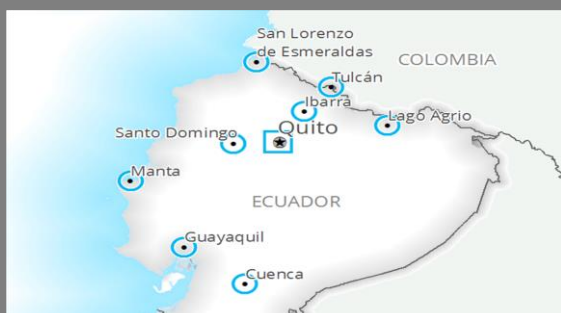


A resident from Machala receiving WFP emergency food assistance vouchers. Photo: Jesús Sanz

### 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, rising inflation, production, and 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**

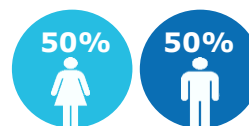
## In Numbers

**7.0 mt** of food assistance distributed\*

**USD 721,000** cash-based transfers made\*

**USD 13.6** six months (March to August 2024) net funding requirements, representing 66 percent of total

**26,608 people assisted\***  
in FEBRUARY 2024



\*Preliminary figures

### Operational Updates

- In February, WFP provided value vouchers to 12,631 migrants across the country, of whom 2,894 were pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls in 16 provinces out of 24.
- WFP assisted 9,387 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens 4,534 on-the-move migrants received a food kit and a one-time voucher to buy food at local supermarkets.
- In February, heavy rains triggered flooding in El Oro, Esmeraldas, and Manabí. At the government's request and with funding from the government of Canada, WFP initially distributed emergency vouchers to 56 affected individuals.
- As part of the school meals project in February, 50 educational centres received fresh, nutritious hot meals, benefiting 3,555 students. The initiative was carried out in collaboration with the Decentralized Autonomous Governments of Santa Elena, Carchi, Montúfar, and Tulcán.
- In February, as part of our ongoing disaster risk reduction efforts, WFP conducted training on Sphere Humanitarian Standards, Technical Shelter Management, Humanitarian Assistance, Emergency Management Tools and Risk Management Diagnosis in Machala and Quito, involving 497 participants. Additionally, we continued training Community Risk Management Committees and preparing Emergency Brigades in 18 selected communities across Guayaquil, Quito, Rumiñahui, Manta, Portoviejo, Santa Elena, Cuenca, and Samborondón.

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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>165.3 m</b>	<b>47.7 m</b>	<b>13.6 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 February 2024 remained relatively stable compared to January 2024, at 1.43 percent. In comparison to February 2023 inflation decreased by 1.47 percent.
- In January, the unemployment rate reached 3.9 percent, as indicated by the National Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment Survey conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Census. Adequate employment stood at 34.7 percent.
- The Basic Family Basket currently costs USD 791.09, while the Essential Family Basket now costs USD 555.82.

## Challenges

- In early 2024, a 41 percent decrease in violent deaths was reported. However, security concerns remain due to organized crime activities. Consequently, the state of emergency has been extended for another month, scheduled to end in April.
- In February, heavy rains affected mainly the coastal areas of Ecuador. This marks the first significant impact due to the El Niño phenomenon. In response, WFP has provided immediate assistance in the areas of most need.

## Donors

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

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.