



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief September 2024



Country Director Matteo Perrone with a child from the community supported by the Binational Adaptation Project in Carchi province. Photo: WFP

Operational Context

Ecuador has shown resilience in its post-COVID economic recovery, although recent growth has plateaued. A recent surge in drug-related crime has overshadowed this progress, leading to Ecuador being recognized as the most violent country in the region in 2023.

As of June 2024, national poverty stands at 25.5%, with extreme poverty at 10.6%. The country is also grappling with a complex migration situation, marked by a continuing influx of migrants and increased emigration due to deteriorating security.

Additionally, Ecuador faces significant environmental challenges; prolonged droughts are depleting hydrological reserves and affecting electricity production. In response, the government has introduced austerity measures, such as eliminating gasoline subsidies and increasing VAT, to manage budgetary pressures, particularly those related to security.

The nation's vulnerability to environmental shifts, natural hazards, and ongoing environmental degradation threatens food systems and could exacerbate malnutrition and poverty across the country.



Population: **18.1 million**

2022 Human Development Index: **83 out of 193**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **17.5% of children under 5 years old**

In Numbers

10.5 mt of food assistance distributed*

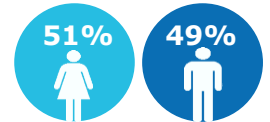
USD 928,199 cash-based transfers made*

USD 11.2 M six months (October 2024 – March 2025) net funding requirements, representing 51 percent of total

37,590 people assisted*

in SEPTEMBER 2024

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- In September, WFP provided value vouchers to 17,671 migrants, including 11,240 pregnant women, girls, and households with children up to 5, across 16 of the country's 24 provinces.
- WFP assisted 8,610 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens and 5,212 on-the-move migrants received a food kit and a one-time voucher to buy food at local supermarkets.
- As part of the school meals programme in August, 70 educational centres received fresh, nutritious hot meals, benefiting 6,097 students in the provinces of Carchi, Santa Elena, Manta and Imbabura through collaboration with local governments and 7 smallholder farmer associations.
- This month, the Ecuadorian Government provided resources to launch the School Meals Programme under the Ministry of Education's (MINEDUC) territorial approach. Three launch workshops were held in Cañar, Guaranda and Mira, bringing together 190 participants, including representatives from local governments (GADs), MINEDUC, the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG), small-scale producer associations, school units, parents and caregivers.
- On 18 September, the closing event for the Colombia-Ecuador Binational Adaptation Project was held in Carchi. The event was attended by the Deputy Ministers of Environment, the governors of Carchi and Esmeraldas, as well as national and local authorities. Running from 2018 to 2024 with an investment of US\$7 million, the project implemented adaptation measures, including access to safe water, resilient gardens, and the conservation and reforestation of 14,400 hectares of mangrove and Awá forest ecosystems, benefiting a total of 65 communities.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
165.3 m	89.4 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.

- As part of our ongoing work in disaster risk reduction, WFP updated the Initial Needs Assessment (EVIN) methodology with the Ecuadorian Red Cross Technological Institute. Additionally, the development of the Unified Registry of Affected and Displaced Persons (RUAD) platform was initiated to interconnect data from the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, the Social Registry, and EVIN for improved social protection during emergencies.
- On the 24 September a workshop was held in Cuenca to validate the final version of the HIV and nutrition manual in Cuenca in conjunction with the Ministry of Health.

Monitoring

- In September 2024, inflation remained stable when compared to the previous month, while it increased by 1.42 percent compared to August 2023.
- In August 2024, the unemployment rate was 3.5 percent, while adequate employment accounted for 35 percent.
- The Basic Family Basket currently costs US\$803.82, while the Essential Family Basket now costs US\$561.58.

Challenges

- On 23 September the National Government announced the reintroduction of nationwide electricity rationing due to persistent drought conditions affecting the region.
- In September, wildfires driven by the drought and strong winds affected many regions across Ecuador. One of the more severe incidents occurred in Quito, leading to school closures and advisories for residents to stay indoors due to poor air quality.
- The national government adopted a decree on 27 August for the regularization of refugees in Ecuador which could benefit an estimated 100,000 individuals residing in the country.

Donors

Japan, Government of Ecuador, United States of America and private donors.

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.