



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP EcuadorCountry Brief

November 2024



An all women drumming group performing as part of the 16 days of activism events in the Quito Country Office. Photo: Gonzalo Ruiz

Operational Context

Photo: Jesus Sanz

Ecuador has shown resilience in its post-COVID economic recovery, although recent growth has plateaued. A recent resurgence 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:

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers

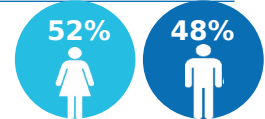
10 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 1.03M cash-based transfers made*

USD 3.1M six months (December 2024 - May 2025) net funding requirements, representing 15 percent of total

51,052 people assisted* in NOVEMBER 2024

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

In November, WFP provided value vouchers to 18,356 migrants, including 11,286 pregnant women, girls, and households with children up to 5, across 16 of the country's 24 provinces.

WFP assisted 8,873 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens and, 4,621 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 November, 110 educational centres received fresh, nutritious hot meals, benefiting 19,202 students in the provinces of Bolívar, Cañar, Carchi, Chimborazo, Guayas, Imbabura, Manta, Pichincha, and Santa Elena, through collaboration with local governments, the national ministry of education and smallholder farmer associations.

On 26 November, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), a launch event was held at Las Acacias Educational Unit in Guayaquil for the campaign "Enhancing the Present to Harvest the Future." The event marked the start of the homegrown school meals model implemented by WFP and funded by MINEDUC.

In November, focus group workshops with key populations living with HIV explored their needs for healthy eating and nutrition, covering knowledge, attitudes, public health experiences, and communication needs, to inform future work in this area.

As part of disaster risk reduction efforts, 20 communities (4 rural and 16 urban) were identified for community work. Data was gathered for risk reduction and response plans with technical and scientific collaboration and initial needs assessment guides and training modules were shared with the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR).

As part of, and the initial needs assessment guides and training modules were handed over to the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR).

Contact info: Gabriela Montesdeoca (Country Director): Matteo Perrone
Further information:

Starting on 25 November, the Country Office participated in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence through workshops aimed at challenging gender stereotypes and promoting equality. The campaign concluded with staff making commitments to take action, both personally and professionally, to end gender violence in all its forms.

Monitoring

In November 2024, inflation remained stable when compared to the previous month, while it increased by 1.53 percent compared to November 2023.

In October 2024, the unemployment rate was 3.5 percent, while adequate employment accounted for 35.3 percent.

The Basic Family Basket currently costs US\$804.79, while the Essential Family Basket now costs US\$562.08.

In November, the Government released the IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis for the period June to August 2024. The report revealed that 2.6M people, or 14% of the national population, required urgent action to safeguard their food security in the analysed period. Additionally, an estimated 2.7M individuals are projected to need assistance between September 2024 and March 2025.

Challenges

Due to droughts and poor maintenance of hydroelectric plants, electricity rationing has been ongoing across the country since September, with outages lasting up to 14 hours per day.

Although the security situation remains challenging, a nationwide comparison between January and November of 2023 and 2024 shows a 17.6% decrease in intentional homicides, dropping from 6,781 to 5,589 cases.

Donors

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

Additional support has been provided by the Adaptation Fund.