



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief September 2025



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 December 2024, national poverty stands at 28.8%, with extreme poverty at 12.7%. 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

11.825 MT of food assistance distributed*

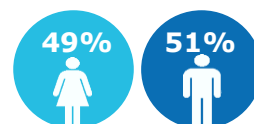
USD 1.1 M cash-based transfers made*

USD 6.2 M six months (October 2025 – March 2026) net funding requirements, representing 44 percent of total

50,955 people assisted*

in September 2025

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- In September, WFP provided food vouchers to 21,869 migrants, including 11,856 pregnant women, girls, and households with children up to 5, across 16 of the country's 24 provinces.
- WFP assisted 7,517 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens and, 5,388 on-the-move migrants received a food kit or a one-time food voucher to buy food at local supermarkets.
- As part of the school meals programme in September, 23 educational centres received fresh, nutritious hot meals, benefiting 14,794 students in the provinces of Guayas, Manabí and Santa Elena, through collaboration with local governments, the national ministry of education and smallholder farmers.
- In September 2025, WFP continued assisting vulnerable population affected by severe flooding in the country's coastal region, complementing the government's efforts by helping 1,387 people with food vouchers valued at US\$130.
- WFP Ecuador announced the appointment of renowned chef Carolina Sánchez as a High-Level Supporter, making her the first Ecuadorian celebrity to promote nutrition and healthy gastronomy in Ecuador and around the world.
- In September, for the first time in Ecuador, WFP and MINEDUC led the School Feeding Summit 'More Than a Meal'. This event brought together government authorities, local officials, members of the diplomatic corps, NGOs, academia, and civil society, creating a space to highlight the importance of implementing public policy on school feeding.

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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	98.8 m	6.2 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
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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
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Activities: Strengthen institutional capacities and provide technical and operational assistance, resources, assets, services, and information to better support climate-vulnerable communities and family farmers.
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Strategic Result 4: Capacity Strengthening Strategic Outcome 4: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective. Focus area: Root causes
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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.

- WFP strengthened the capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAGP) team through training in the SHEP methodology. This initiative supports associations in Manabí, enhancing their productivity and sustainability. With MAGP as a key partner, WFP aims to empower smallholder producers to build a more robust and sustainable agri-food system.
- In September, WFP began implementing the school meals project in private educational institutions supported by Crisfe, benefiting 1,630 students from poverty quintiles 1 and 2 in the provinces of Manabí and Pichincha.

Monitoring

- In September 2025, inflation increased by 0.08 when compared to August 2025 and it increased by 0.72 percent compared to September 2024.
- In August 2025, the unemployment rate was 3.6 percent, while adequate employment represented 35.1 percent.
- The Basic Family Basket currently costs US\$819.77 while the Essential Family Basket costs US\$ 574.55.

Challenges

- In September, nationwide protests broke out in Ecuador over the removal of the diesel subsidy and approval of the Loma Larga mining project near the Quimsacocha water reserve. President Daniel Noboa declared a 60-day state of emergency in seven provinces, restricting public gatherings and deploying armed forces to maintain order.

Donors

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