



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief October 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**

Numbers

11.9 MT of food assistance distributed*

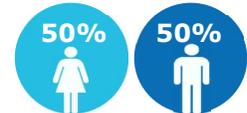
USD 1.3 M cash-based transfers made*

USD 3.8 M six months (November 2025 – April 2026) net funding requirements, representing 26 percent of total

54,171 people assisted*

in October 2025

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- In October, WFP provided food vouchers to 23,002 migrants, including 11,688 pregnant women, girls, and households with children up to 5, across 16 of the country's 24 provinces.
- WFP assisted 7,431 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens and, 5,502 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 October, 23 educational centres received fresh, nutritious hot meals, benefiting 17,313 students in the provinces of Guayas, Manabí, Pichincha, Santa Elena and Zamora Chinchipe, through collaboration with local governments, the national ministry of education, private donors and smallholder farmers.
- WFP assisted 923 returned migrants, who received a food and hygiene kit and USD 40. This is an assistance initiative that the Country Office has been implementing since February 2025 with support from the Government of Ecuador.
- WFP has continued strengthening the capacities of local governments in Cuenca, Chone, Daule, Manta, Milagro, La Libertad, Quito and Santa Elena, and their communities in areas such as fire control, first aid, and safe evacuation. These spaces promote the involvement of the entire community to be better prepared and equipped in the face of an emergency. Around 20 communities have been trained and also received emergency equipment.

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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	102.7 m	3.8 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.

- Small-scale producer associations from the Canton of Tosagua conducted their market studies using the Japanese SHEP methodology, in order to gather market-related information and plan their production based on demand.
- In October, WFP began implementing the school meals project in educational institutions in Yantzaza, with support from the private sector, benefiting 1,209 students. This intervention marks the beginning of the project's implementation in Ecuador's Amazon Region.

Monitoring

- In October 2025, inflation increased by 0.28 when compared to September 2025 and it increased by 1.24 percent compared to October 2024.
- In September 2025, the unemployment rate was 3.2 percent, while adequate employment represented 37 percent.
- The Basic Family Basket currently costs US\$823.22 while the Essential Family Basket costs US\$ 575.82.

Challenges

- Nationwide protests broke out in Ecuador over the removal of the diesel subsidy, lasting a total of 31 days. In response, President Daniel Noboa declared a 60-day state of emergency in seven provinces, restricting public gatherings and deploying armed forces to maintain order. The prolonged strike significantly affected the implementation of projects in Imbabura.

Donors

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