



World Food
Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Ecuador Country Brief December 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

0 MT of food assistance distributed*

USD 1.3 M cash-based transfers made*

USD 3.8 M six months (January – June 2026) net funding requirements, representing 28 percent of total

78.894 people assisted*

in December 2025

*Preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- In December, WFP provided food vouchers to 22.553 migrants, including 10.927 pregnant women, girls, and households with children up to 5, across 16 of the country's 24 provinces.
- WFP assisted 6.863 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens and, 4.087 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 December, 181 educational centres received fresh, nutritious hot meals, benefiting 44.268 students in the provinces of Bolívar, Cañar, Carchi, Chimborazo, Guayas, Imbabura, Manabí, Pichincha, Santa Elena and Zamora Chinchipe, through collaboration with local governments, the national ministry of education, private donors and smallholder farmers.
- In December, the Country Office organized five kick-off workshops for 106 schools across 15 cantons in three provinces (Carchi, Imbabura, and Cañar), which launched the Home-Grown School Feeding project during that month.
- WFP assisted 1.123 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.
- The Vice President of the Republic, María José Pinto, visited the José Peralta Educational Unit in Guayaquil, accompanied by Minister of Education Gilda Alcívar. During the visit, they observed the implementation of WFP's school meals project, which ensures that children receive healthy and nutritious food to support their learning and well-being.

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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	103.4 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.

- WFP, in coordination with the Provincial Government of Imbabura, launched a "training of trainers" process on entrepreneurship, targeting 30 technical staff from the Provincial Government and partner institutions such as the Catholic University's Entrepreneurship Center, Yachay University, and a women smallholder Association. This initiative aims to build technical capacities to provide methodological support to entrepreneurs, based on the identification of three levels of entrepreneurship in the province, each with different conditions and barriers. The training seeks to equip these technical staff with proven methodologies to help entrepreneurs overcome the identified gaps.

Monitoring

- In December 2025, inflation decreased by 0.14 when compared to November 2025 and it increased by 1.91 percent compared to November 2024.
- In December 2025, the unemployment rate was 2.6 percent, while adequate employment represented 37.1 percent.
- The Basic Family Basket currently costs US\$819,01 while the Essential Family Basket costs US\$ 571.61.

Challenges

- Rising insecurity in Ecuador is challenging project implementation, limiting access and increasing operational risks. WFP is adapting strategies to ensure staff safety and program continuity in coordination with local authorities and communities.

Donors

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