



WFP ECUADOR

COUNTRY BRIEF

April 2026



63,486 people assisted in March 2026
(50% female)



11 mt food distributed in March 2026



USD 1.5 M cash transferred in March 2026



USD 4.72 M required in the next six months
(April - September 2026)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Ecuador faces a complex migration situation, with nearly 500,000 Venezuelan migrants, of whom more than 245,000 experience food insecurity, placing additional pressure on social protection systems and increasing the need for partners to support food access.
- The School Feeding Project is expanding and currently provides fresh, nutritious meals to students in rural schools, yet the system requires external support to sustain coverage.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Ecuador continues to face severe security, socioeconomic, and environmental challenges. Violence driven by drug-related crime escalated

sharply, making Ecuador one of the most insecure countries in the region. Poverty and extreme poverty remain high, with 21.4 percent and 8.3 percent. The country is experiencing a complex migration dynamic, marked by a continued influx of migrants and increased emigration due to deteriorating security conditions.

- Environmental pressures, including prolonged droughts, declining hydrological reserves, and impacts on electricity generation—have further strained livelihoods. Government austerity measures (removal of fuel subsidies, VAT increases) aim to manage fiscal pressures but have triggered social tensions, including nationwide protests in 2025.
- Food insecurity remains a significant concern. Updated IPC analysis (2025) projected 2.6 million people facing acute food insecurity, especially agricultural households with limited access to water and sanitation. Undernourishment is at 12.1 percent, and 17.7 percent of children under five are stunted, with disproportionate impacts on women, Indigenous communities, rural populations, and migrants.
- WFP continues to support the response through assistance to migrants, expansion of Home-Grown School Feeding, and emergency support for climate-affected populations, while strengthening partnerships amid limited funding available to upper-middle-income countries like Ecuador.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Migrant crisis response

- In March, WFP provided food vouchers to 23,347 migrants, including 11,326 pregnant women, girls, and households with children up to 5, across 23 of the country's 24 provinces.
- WFP assisted 8,064 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens and 4,528 on-the-move migrants received a food kit or a one-time food voucher to buy food at local supermarkets.
- WFP assisted 868 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 March 2025 with support from the Government of Ecuador.

School-Based Assistance

- As part of the school meals programme in March, 150 educational centres received fresh, nutritious hot meals, benefiting 26,679 students in the provinces of Bolívar, Cañar, Carchi, Chimborazo, Imbabura, Manabí, Pichincha, and Zamora Chinchipe, through collaboration with local governments, the Ministry of Education, private donors and smallholder farmers.
- In March, WFP and the Ministry of Education formalized a USD 5.8 million agreement to advance the home-grown school feeding initiative. Through this partnership, WFP will continue delivering nutritious, locally sourced meals in coastal-region schools, ensuring more than 36,500 students have access to healthy food that supports their learning and development.

Disaster Risk Reduction

- Under the Disaster Risk Reduction project, in March, WFP continued strengthening the capacities of local governments and communities in four cantons of Azuay and Guayas, reaching a total of 406 people. The trainings focused on evacuation procedures, fire-fighting, among other topics. Additionally, Response Plans were developed in the same provinces.

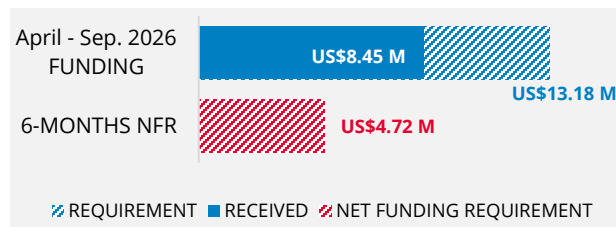
- WFP delivered multi-hazard response plans to the municipalities of Bolívar, Rocafuerte and Santa Ana to strengthen institutional capacities, establish standardized emergency response procedures, and support rapid resource mobilization and continuous improvement processes. These plans aim to guide local governments in ensuring transparent and efficient management of donations, setting up temporary shelters for displaced people, organizing emergency response according to institutional roles, and protecting and restoring community livelihoods.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

- In coordination with a group of women entrepreneurs from the canton of Tosagua, WFP carried out the first training session on *Customer Discovery* under the SHE CAN project. This methodology is essential for identifying and understanding the ideal customer, enabling participants to validate their business ideas more effectively. The session took place at the COACMES Cooperative facilities and contributed to strengthening the participants' capacities for the development and sustainability of their entrepreneurial initiatives.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)



Donors:

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