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Further Information

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SPR Reading Guidance



**Special Preparedness Activity - The Phenomenon of El Niño
Standard Project Report 2016**

World Food Programme in Ecuador, Republic of (EC)



World Food Programme

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Country Context and WFP Objectives



Country Context

Ecuador has made considerable progress in economic, social and human development in the past decade, but challenges to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals persist, regarding goals 2 and 17, in particular. These challenges include a high prevalence of stunting, increasing overweight and obesity coupled with micronutrient deficiencies, limited access to food and employment for refugees, vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, gender inequalities, and limited opportunities for smallholder farmers.

Access to food: The Global Hunger Index score for Ecuador is 13.9, a moderate level, with 24 percent of the population below the national poverty line, rising to 41 percent in rural areas. Poverty undermines access to food and reduces dietary diversity. The 2016 UNDP Human Development Report ranked Ecuador 88 out of 187 countries and the Gini coefficient of income inequality was at 46.5 percent. In 2015, Ecuador hosted more than 60,000 refugees, mostly from Colombia. About 64 percent of recent arrivals have poor or borderline food consumption and low dietary diversity.

End malnutrition: Despite significant public investments and notable improvements, progress on nutrition indicators remains below targets. Between 1986 and 2014, the prevalence of stunting among children under 5 decreased from 40.2 to 25.3 percent; underweight prevalence decreased from 12.8 to 4.8 percent. In spite of significant progress, anaemia remains a serious public health concern, affecting 62 percent of the children under 1 year of age (Encuesta Nacional de Salud y Nutrición-2012). Concurrently the country has seen rising levels of obesity and overweight resulting from the “nutrition transition”, with up to 62.8 percent of adults overweight or obese

(Encuesta Nacional de Salud y Nutrición-2012). The reasons for limited progress include lacking nutrition awareness, limited access to nutritious foods, low dietary diversity, limited access to water and basic sanitation, and children's high exposure to disease.

Smallholder farmers' productivity and incomes: Agriculture remains the main source of livelihood in Ecuador, employing 28.5 percent of the economically active population - 68.5 percent in rural areas. Women constitute approximately 43 percent of the employed in agriculture. Indigenous women face gender, occupational, and ethnic discrimination limiting their participation and productivity in the sector and resulting in heavy workloads, slight decision-making power, limited knowledge of their rights and restricted access to property titles. By 2014, about 2.53 million people in rural areas lived in adverse conditions, 1.6 times more than the total population in urban areas (INEC, 2015). According to Ecuadorian authorities, between 2014 and 2015 more than 26 percent of the population worked in agriculture, husbandry and fishery (INEC, 2015). Despite the fact that the agricultural sector generates more employment, people working in this sector earn 44.3 percent less than the national average income per capita. In 2016, the rural poverty rate was reported for 43.96 percent, extreme poverty rate for 19.53 percent of the population (INEC 2016).

Sustainable food systems: The sustainability of food systems is threatened by population growth, soil erosion, exposure to natural disasters, reduced land productivity, land and environmental degradation, and climate change. Ecuador is highly vulnerable to natural disasters that cause loss of life and damage to infrastructure. On 16 April 2016, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck the northern coast of Ecuador. Esmeraldas and Manabí provinces were hit the hardest. Government reports spoke of more than 660 people dead and 380,000 people affected. Two thirds of the affected population became food insecure (Emergency food security assessment-April 2016). El Niño Southern Oscillation events with their negative impact on biodiversity, agriculture and fisheries, threaten food production and exert an upward pressure on food prices. In the 1982-83 El Niño losses amounted to more than USD 1 billion and the 1997-98 El Niño losses were estimated to reach USD 3 billion. Poor and food-insecure populations in the areas most vulnerable to climate change (Esmeraldas, Manabí, Guayas, Los Rios, Santa Elena and El Oro) have limited capacity to cope with these threats.

Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

The third National Plan for Good Living (PNBV, 2013–2017) identifies four objectives related to food security and nutrition and Sustainable Development Goal 2: i) eliminate child malnutrition; ii) ensure access to food; iii) ensure the sustainability of food systems; and iv) improve the living conditions of smallholder farmers.

The United Nations and the Government, under the leadership of the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation, developed the 2015–2018 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF, 2015-2018) in line with national priorities. The UNDAF prioritizes five objectives related to the PNBV: i) rule of law and participation; ii) reduced inequality, social cohesion and inclusion and quality of life; iii) eradication of discrimination and gender-based violence, and gender equality; iv) environmental sustainability, resilience and risk management; and v) sustainable and equitable economic development.

WFP contributes to Ecuador's efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 17 by (i) supporting equitable access to information and services, including safety nets, education, health services and training, for displaced people, and analysis of their vulnerability; (ii) supporting the incorporation of nutrition outcomes and nutrition-sensitive interventions into social protection and resilience programmes; (iii) promoting opportunities for smallholder farmers by linking them to national and local procurement platforms and social protection programmes; (iv) supporting the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities by increasing their awareness of climate change and implementing adaptation measures in priority sectors such as environment, water resources, climate monitoring, food sovereignty and security, with a view to achieving gender equality; and (v) providing technical assistance and strengthening national capacity in emergency preparedness and response, and undertaking food assistance and logistics emergency responses to complement government efforts.

In 2016, WFP maintained its active participation in the Humanitarian Country Team, with the participation of IOM, FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO-PAHO, UNHCR, UNESCO, UN Women, Red Cross and NGO partners as well as ministries and state secretariats concerned in the emergency preparedness and response. WFP was recognized as a lead agency in emergency response and as a support agency to the Government for technical assistance and capacity strengthening. For the earthquake response, WFP worked in close coordination with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, the Ministry of Public Health and the Secretariat for Risk Management.

Moreover, WFP has special coordination arrangements with UN-Women on issues related to gender equality, and with UNICEF and UNHCR on protection issues. WFP has worked with FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture to enhance productive capacity and collaborates with UNICEF and WHO to enhance synergies in the efforts to reduce chronic malnutrition. Also, WFP has been working with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Government of Ecuador on developing a new study with a focus on the cost-effectiveness of nutrition programmes, entitled “Closing the Gap: The cost of eradicating chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.”

In 2016, WFP supported the international seminar on “Challenges to overcome malnutrition” with a view to foster South-South collaboration. This seminar brought together representatives of government institutions, academia, and the private sector of Ecuador and other countries in the region. The seminar was led by the Coordinating Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, and the Ministry of Public Health.

In addition, WFP works with the Government of Ecuador, particularly with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries and Local Governments to complement School Feeding Operations. This initiative provides daily rations of fresh products delivered by farmer associations to schools in the northern areas of Ecuador. By partnering with these associations, WFP can stimulate local economies and purchase locally grown, nutritious foods such as fruits and vegetables that improve children’s dietary diversity.

Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

In Ecuador, WFP works to improve the food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations in rural areas, in the provinces affected by the conflict in Colombia or by natural disasters and deteriorating climatic conditions. In 2016, WFP provided food assistance through cash-based transfers (CBT) and strengthened government and partner capacity at local and national levels. WFP’s activities were implemented through a protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), a corporate response emergency operation (CR EMOP), a special operation (SO) and a trust fund.

The **PRRO 200701** for a period of 3 years started in January 2015 with a planned cost of USD 19 million. It was designed to support national social protection policies and development plan, the Government of Ecuador’s refugee integration and migration policies, as well as food security and nutrition goals. The objective of the operation implemented in eight provinces that have a high concentration of refugees was to provide food assistance to newly arrived Colombian refugees and asylum seekers and ensure that their immediate food needs be met. WFP oriented its operational capacity to: a) implementing interventions that provide livelihood solutions for Colombians in Ecuador; b) empowering women and increase their participation in decision making; c) reducing tensions and integrating refugees in Ecuadorian communities; and d) leveraging purchasing power and connecting smallholder farmers to markets.

The **EMOP 200665** was formulated as part of the flash appeal by the Humanitarian Country Team to assist vulnerable people who had been affected by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake along the coast of Ecuador on 16 April. The operation supported adequate access to food and prevented a deterioration of the nutritional status of targeted populations. This eight-month project started in April 2016 with a planned cost of USD 16.7 million and was coordinated with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES). It provided assistance to people in shelters, hospitals and communities through commodity vouchers and cash-based transfers using the national social protection platform.

The three-month **Special Operation 200972** started April 2016, with a planned cost of USD 2 million. The main objective was to improve the coordination, predictability, timeliness and efficiency of the emergency logistics response under the sectorial approach led by the Government of Ecuador, and also support the delivery of humanitarian aid to affected populations by augmenting logistics capacity in the country. Temporary forwarding hubs and office space were established in Pedernales, Manta and Quito.

Through a **Trust Fund**, the Ministry of Environment (MAE) and WFP jointly developed a project in response to climate change-related threats in order to build local resilience and improve food security in rural communities through adaptation measures. The operation had a planned cost of USD 7.4 million. The overall goal of the project was to reduce food insecurity and vulnerability, related to the adverse effects of climate change, of communities and ecosystems, in the most vulnerable cantons.

In 2016, WFP continued its participation in **two inter-agency projects**. Firstly, the implementation of nutrition sensitive activities in a joint effort with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children’s

Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with funds from the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security with the objective to strengthen local capacities for peace and development in the northern border zone of Ecuador through a human security approach. WFP's intervention aligned with Government priorities to defuse tensions between refugees and Ecuadorian communities and promoted integration by simultaneously improving food consumption and diversity and reducing tensions. Secondly, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO), WFP worked to strengthen local food systems and capacity building aimed at improving the production and access to safe food for families with a contribution from the United Nations Sustainable Development Fund.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

The **funding of WFP operations** in a middle-income country like Ecuador remains a challenge. Nevertheless, the evolving situation in Colombia and the April 2016 earthquake aroused significant concerns and donor interest both in national capacity strengthening and emergency response. In 2016, operations received directed multilateral cash contributions from public (mainly USAID and ECHO) and private donors, yet this funding did not fully cover the requirements. Thus some activities had to be prioritized. Two significant multiyear contributions were received that allowed for a better programming of resources: Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) provided support for school meals and the Adaptation Fund supported climate change adaptation.

Due to the magnitude of the **April 2016 earthquake** and the scale of the emergency response needed, the Humanitarian Country Team immediately decided for an international appeal to mobilize resources for the humanitarian response. A Flash Appeal of USD 73 million was approved by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ecuador and formally launched on April 20, 2016, with the objective to provide a three-month humanitarian assistance in priority sectors. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) rapidly granted funds. WFP received for this emergency funds various donors, including CERF.

Ecuador used **cash-based transfers** in all its activities which allowed flexible shifting of resources between priorities. The complementarity between WFP's response and government resources (financial, human and logistic) in the earthquake response created synergies, enhanced effectiveness and led to an optimization of resources. In light of limited funding, general distributions were prioritized over other activities in order to ensure continuity of assistance to newly-arrived refugees and the earthquake affected population. At the same time, food assistance for asset creation had to be scaled down.

Local governments were actively involved in school-based activities and their linkage to small farmers' associations. They also provided, in addition to material contributions, a daily USD 0.10 per child to complement school meals. **Joint resource mobilization** efforts were made by the WFP offices in Colombia and Ecuador, given the linkages between the peace process in Colombia and its impact on Ecuador.

Achievements at Country Level

On April 19, three days after the magnitude 7.8 earthquake, the Ecuadorian Government requested WFP to provide food assistance to people in the earthquake-affected provinces of Manabí and Esmeraldas. For the first time in Latin America, WFP responded to an emergency through the existing social safety net programme of a government. This made the response faster, more efficient and sustainable, strengthened partnership with the Government regarding improved preparedness and faster response to disasters. WFP collaborated with the Coordinating Ministry for Social Development to complement its housing incentive with a monthly cash transfer to cover the nutrition needs of families in the provinces of Esmeraldas and Manabí. For the delivery of cash, WFP used, in cooperation with its main government counterpart, the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES), the platform of the national social protection programme that provides conditional transfers. This platform allowed for a wide coverage of the population through seven banking networks and associated financial institutions. WFP could rapidly introduce cash transfers in an emergency. Prior to the earthquake, as part of its emergency preparedness and response procedures in preparation for El Niño related emergencies, WFP had already determined all processes for the provision of commodity vouchers.

In 2016, WFP also strengthened its relationship with the Coordinating Ministry for Social Development for the coordination of nutrition activities, and for the preparation of case studies such as the "Cost of Malnutrition" in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Following an official request from the Coordinating Ministry, WFP, along with UNICEF, WHO and World Bank, became a member of the Monitoring Committee for the Implementation of the Strategy to Accelerate the Reduction of Chronic Malnutrition in Children.

WFP has collaborated with, and strengthened capacities of, national, regional and local governments to design and implement food security policies and programmes. WFP used an integrated approach in strengthening government capacity to improve access to nutritious foods, build resilience to climate change and provide income opportunities by linking smallholder farmer production with social protection programmes and local markets. This approach was introduced in the school meals programme: WFP and its partners work with smallholder farmer associations that

provide locally grown, healthy, fresh and nutritious food to school meals programmes. This model boosts the local economy, promotes local partnerships and creates a demand for fresh locally grown produce. WFP trained the technical staff at its partner institutions who would, in turn, transmit this knowledge to beneficiary families.

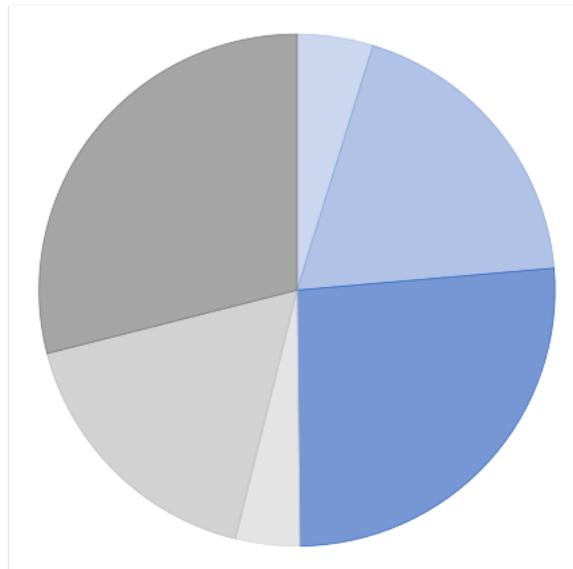


Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	13,315	11,210	24,525
Children (5-18 years)	52,760	48,027	100,787
Adults (18 years plus)	73,252	81,034	154,286
Total number of beneficiaries in 2016	139,327	140,271	279,598

Country Beneficiaries by Gender and Age

- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)
- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)





Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Single Country EMOP	8,100,000	-	350,973
Single Country PRRO	375,468	1,678,980	-
Total Distributed in 2016	8,475,468	1,678,980	350,973

Supply Chain

WFP relied on different transfer modalities: commodity vouchers and cash transfers were provided for the earthquake response; value vouchers to refugees and host communities in areas with access to integrated markets; and cash to local governments to link school meals to the produce of smallholder farmers.

As part of the supply chain assessment, service providers were appraised in each location. Market assessments were carried out to identify supermarkets. In the contracting process of supermarkets for the redemption of commodity vouchers, the linkage between food assistance and smallholder farmers was emphasized. WFP monitored prices and services throughout the year and conducted an end-year appraisal of services. CBT processes were prepared for El Niño related emergencies: a supermarket chain was selected for the provision of assistance and a Stand-by Agreement was concluded.

During the earthquake emergency, WFP established forward logistics hubs under a Special Operation in Pedernales, Manta and Quito. In these hubs, the WFP-led logistics sector facilitated the storage of humanitarian supplies of 13 organizations, including Red Cross, International Medical Corps, Action against Hunger, Save the Children, UN agencies and the Government of Ecuador. The WFP temporary emergency storage service, which included approximately 4,800 square meters of storage facilities and workspaces, was initially offered to humanitarian actors free of charge. Later, WFP shifted to a full-cost-recovery model. As part of WFP support to government emergency preparedness and response capacities, all logistics equipment used during the emergency was handed over to the government. International flights with humanitarian cargo for the earthquake response were coordinated in close liaison with the Ecuadorian Government.

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

The design and implementation of activities in Ecuador benefited from past operations and studies. Programmes were based on consultations with and participation of refugees, host communities, cooperating partners and the Government. Suggestion boxes to receive feedback from beneficiaries and stakeholders were posted in WFP field offices and in partners' offices. **Lessons from consultations** with Government, United Nations agencies and partners highlighted the following:

1. Coordination is most effective when WFP work at the local level is aligned with national guidelines and priorities and involves the inter-sectoral participation of local governments, local chapters of national institutions, other United Nations agencies and partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
2. In the northern border provinces affected by insecurity, cash-based transfers (CBTs) were considered the appropriate modality for improving access to food, dietary diversity, ensuring the protection of beneficiaries and reducing gender-based violence.
3. WFP's work on resilience and adaptation to climate change, based on community-based participatory planning, has had a positive impact on the quality of people's lives, increasing their resilience to and awareness of the adverse effects of climate change. It has also strengthened the capacity of local governments that incorporate experiences into local land management plans.
4. WFP's comprehensive approach to food security is sensitive to local cultures and contexts. WFP has strengthened stakeholders in the grassroots economy through local purchases. Its response to the April 2016 earthquake was integrated with the Government's conditional cash distribution platform and revitalized the local economy.

Through the **earthquake response**, WFP strengthened its position as a key partner to the Government, and helped develop food and nutrition security capacities at national, local and community levels. The response also highlighted the need for increased synergies between the various social protection mechanisms as well as between, national responses and WFP assistance to refugees and vulnerable groups. Various initiatives were launched to strengthen national systems, increase their sustainability and improve their capacities.

WFP strengthened its **partnership with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES)** in the joint emergency response provided under the Government's "Rebuilding Ecuador" plan. This partnership included the training of MIES technical staff in the earthquake-affected areas (Manabí and Esmeraldas) how to sensitize families to healthy eating and hygiene practices and the best use of the cash transfer for the purchase of nutritious foods. The use of the existing MIES platform for conditional cash transfers for human development ensured coordination of assistance and avoiding duplication. The linkage between the beneficiary database and the cash transfer infrastructure allowed real time reporting on the assistance provided. The mechanisms developed during this emergency response strengthened efficient and effective shock response using large-scale government social protection programmes. Linkages between the MIES database and other government registries were also established. This will speed up beneficiary enrolment in future emergencies.

An **evaluation** of the previous Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation 200275 was carried out in 2014, findings informed programs in 2015 and 2016. One of the main recommendations was to standardize the content of the food security and nutrition training material and enhance skills of WFP and partner staff.

Capacity Strengthening

To fulfil the food security and nutrition objectives of the National Plan for Good Living 2013-2017 (PNBV- Plan Nacional del Buen Vivir), the Government developed “Nutrition Action”, the National Strategy for the Accelerated Reduction of Child Malnutrition. During 2016, WFP participated in follow-up discussions about this strategy, and provided technical support to achieve the targets outlined in the roadmap.

As a strategic partner of the Government, WFP provided technical assistance in a series of workshops to government and NGO partners. Trainings of trainers were held to provide information to local communities and schools on nutrition for refugees and other vulnerable populations, on farm management, sustainable farming, smallholders' market access and the cultivation of nutritious foods. Participants also learnt about sustainable and climate resilient agricultural practices. In 2016, over 1.500 small farmers from 65 smallholder farmers associations participated in workshops.

The prompt action by various stakeholders in the aftermath of the April 2016 earthquake showed appropriate preparation and response capacities of national and international organizations. WFP's Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) measures, carried out within the Government Sectoral Agenda, were regarded as a key contribution. WFP provided technical assistance to the staff of the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SGR), carried out training for trainers, monitored and accompanied trainings of local government staff. About 100 national and local institutions and NGOs participated at emergency response trainings.

Upon government request, WFP worked closely together with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) and with the working groups established during the earthquake emergency operation. For the first time in Latin America, WFP responded to an emergency with cash transfers through a National Social Protection platform. This experience will be documented by WFP in collaboration with Oxford Policy Management as part of a broader study to inform regional and global learning on shock-responsive safety nets. [1] In addition to food assistance, communication materials were developed to promote healthy eating habits. MIES technicians were trained in food security and nutrition to sensitize families to the importance of purchasing nutritious and healthy food.

[1] Beazley, R. (2017) 'Shock-Responsive Social Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean: Ecuador Case Study'.

Project Objectives and Results

Project Objectives

According to WFP's Strategic Result Framework, the project was in line with Strategic Objective 1, goal 3 "Strengthen the capacity of governments and regional organizations, and enable the international community to prepare for, assess and respond to shocks".

The main objective of this operation was to strengthen national and sub-national capacities, in collaboration with key local stakeholders to prepare and respond to emergencies affecting food security, in particular to the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), expected to reach its maximum intensity between January and May 2016. El Niño was forecasted to result in extreme weather events that may disrupt harvest patterns, reduce crop yields, livestock and water supplies. These effects are further aggravated in Ecuador by poverty and inequality, geographical location, topography and land-use practices.

Based on the declaration of emergency by the Government and on request of the Risk Management Secretariat (SGR), WFP developed an emergency preparedness operation that provided continuity to the activities initiated under the Regional Disaster Emergency Preparedness and Response (DEPR) project.



Approved Budget for Project Duration (USD)

Cost Category	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	183,772
Direct Support Costs	10,855
Indirect Support Costs	13,624
Total	208,251

Project Activities

Strategic Objective 1: Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies.

Outcome 1.4: National institutions, regional bodies and the humanitarian community are able to prepare for, assess and respond to emergencies.

Six provinces (Guayas, Manabi, Esmeraldas, Los Rios, El Oro and Santa Elena) were selected to strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacities of local institutions and local non-governmental organizations (NGO). Manabí and Esmeraldas provinces were prioritized for the implementation of community-based activities, based on population vulnerability, poverty and past impact of El Niño. To strengthen national capacities, WFP worked together with the Risk Management Secretariat (SGR) to carry out project activities as agreed upon with the Government.

Activity 1. Capacity building for needs assessment and logistics

Local capacities were built in logistics and needs assessments. Workshops were held by WFP in six provinces on Initial Needs Assessment (EVIN-Evaluación Inicial de Necesidades), Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA 72-hours) and Humanitarian Supply Chain. Workshops were attended by staff from national ministries, local governments and institutions engaged in assessments and emergency response. Technical material for needs assessment and preparedness activities was produced with WFP support and distributed to all participants.

In collaboration with the Government, WFP conducted a logistics capacity assessment of the SGR, which included an initial assessment and identification of gaps, a logistic supply chain assessment of humanitarian assistance, the identification of the logistics response scenarios and the mapping of logistics infrastructure.

Activity 2. Support to the development of preparedness plans

In six communities, WFP supported the development of preparedness plans for El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) at community and family level and provided trainings to identify safe places, meeting points and evacuation routes for different threats. The plans were developed together with the community and local authorities. Families received a poster with an explanation on how to structure their family plans. Family emergency plans included a vulnerability assessment of their house and the surrounding area and a mitigation plan. Families were trained to prepare the evacuation plans, an emergency backpack, and to designate responsibilities to each member during an evacuation. Additionally, evacuation routes were identified in the communities and signs were posted in each route and meeting point. As the targeted communities lack safe water, the SGR, with WFP support, decided to support families with water purifiers.

Activity 3. Development of technical material for needs assessment and preparedness activities

Manuals for EVIN, EFSA and Humanitarian Supply Chain were developed, printed, and distributed to SGR technical staff, ministries and local governments staff involved in emergency response activities.

A logistics evaluation was carried out to strengthen SGR local and national logistics chain. An initial capacity assessment was conducted to identify gaps in infrastructure, resources, procedures, as compared to WFP standards while taking into account local context necessities. The process also included a logistics chain analysis to identify the most adequate emergency response and recommendations to improve the functionality of warehouses and their adjustment to the parameters chosen by SGR. Finally, an improvement plan for 2017 was prepared. The plan included suggestions for physical changes to warehouses and possible places to install new warehouses based on airports, roads and ports presence. As a result, the SGR has now an updated cartography with locations of strategic warehouses, logistics corridors and interconnection routes.

Results/Outcomes

Strategic Objective 1: Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies.

Outcome 1.4: National institutions, regional bodies and the humanitarian community are able to prepare for, assess and respond to emergencies.

Activity 1. Capacity building for needs assessment and logistics

Trainings for technical staff on initial needs assessments were held in the high risk zones of Esmeraldas and Los Ríos provinces. 53 technicians (10 women and 43 men) from the National Decentralized Risk Management System (SNDGR-Sistema Nacional de Gestión de Riesgos) participated.

Two trainings were held in Manabí and Esmeraldas on Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA). A total of 51 technical staff (18 women and 33 men) from the Risk Management Secretariat (SGR), local governments, ministries and other institutions involved in emergency response attended.

Two trainings were held on Logistics Chain Humanitarian Assistance for a total of 48 participants (18 women and 30 men), including technical staff from SGR, local governments, ministries and institutions involved in the logistics of emergency response.

The evaluation of logistics capacity focused on five aspects, including (i) an evaluation of the logistics network; (ii) a proposal for a more suitable logistics network for emergency response, including the preparation of maps. Taking into account different shock scenarios, a complete analysis of road access, airports and ports in the area was carried out; (iii) suggestions of standardized processes, protocols and instruments for the management of the SGR logistics chain; (iv) proposals for procurement processes and logistics platform for logistics chain management; and (v) short, medium and long-term recommendations to SGR for emergency response readiness.

Through these activities, WFP strengthened the capacity of a total of 98 governmental and non-governmental institutions at different levels to respond to emergencies. The participation of women in these activities was higher than in previous years.

Activity 2. Support the development of preparedness plans

WFP provided support for the preparation of emergency preparedness plans for El Niño. A campaign to sensitize communities on the need to prepare for the possible effects of ENSO was carried out. This campaign was associated with Ecuador's national communication strategy on emergency preparedness. Messages were delivered through local radio stations and reinforced with written educational material. Local broadcasters supported the initiative by additional promotion of the messages.

Eight communities in Manabí and Esmeraldas were selected due to their high exposure to the adverse events and the recurrent floods caused by El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). In these communities, family and community emergency plans were developed and secure sites were identified. In collaboration with the SGR, the family plan material was adjusted in order to consider special needs of people living with disabilities. In addition, posters were developed representing each family's emergency plan. As the main source of livelihood in communities of the coastal areas is tourism, safe beach posters have been developed in coordination with SGR and local governments.

WFP worked with Emergency Operation Committees (COEs) at municipal level, as the coordinating entities of emergencies, clarifying roles and functions of the different actors, including local authorities. Workshops were held with each COE and 350 manuals to understand the structure and responsibilities of Risk Management Committees were provided. Furthermore, in preparation for emergencies, WFP, SGR and the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) recommended a list of emergency items.

These preparedness measures proved to be vital when Ecuador suffered an earthquake in April: local institutions were well prepared and could provide timely assistance the affected population. SGR technical staff working in provinces not affected by the earthquake could be mobilized to assist the affected population as they had acquired the necessary skills and knowledge through the activities of this project.

As water contamination and its impact of the food security and nutrition on the population has been one of the major challenges faced during previous emergencies, WFP distributed over 600 sets of water purification equipment to strategic locations in communities affected by El Niño, including to health centers, schools and public offices. WFP also provided information on the importance of maintenance and care of the equipment.

Activity 3. Development of technical material for needs assessment and preparedness activities

WFP developed technical material to strengthen emergency response capacities of the SGR, ministries, and local governments, as well as institutions responsible for emergency preparedness and response. 500 manuals for the facilitators and participants of EVIN, ESAE and Logistics Chain were printed and distributed. 400 textbooks of the Sphere Project and the Humanitarian Charter were printed and distributed to ensure minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and strengthen capacities of SNDGR technicians.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Logistic Hub in Pedernales where WFP facilitated the storage of over 2,700 cubic meters of humanitarian supplies of 13 organizations. Cover page photo © WFP/Berta Tilmantaite