



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP ECUADOR



COUNTRY BRIEF

May 2026



67,155 people assisted in April 2026
(51% female)



12.3 mt food distributed in April 2026



USD 1.5 M cash transferred in April 2026



USD 5.26 M required in the next six months (May - October 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 has 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 availability to upper-middle-income countries like Ecuador.

Photo Caption & Credit: Launch of the gastronomic book “*Identidades*”, an initiative aimed at mobilizing resources and celebrating culinary heritage in support of humanitarian efforts.

Reporting Period: April 2026

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Emergency response

- In April, WFP assisted 3,846 people affected by floods in the provinces of Guayas and Los Ríos. Beneficiary households received a voucher of USD 130 per family.

Migrant crisis response

- In April, WFP provided food vouchers to 22,827 migrants, including 11,214 pregnant women, girls, and households with children up to 5, across 23 of the country's 24 provinces.
- WFP assisted 8,190 migrants, refugees, and people from host communities with hot meals at shelters and canteens and 5,110 on-the-move migrants received a food kit or a one-time food voucher to buy food at local supermarkets.
- WFP assisted 859 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 April, 150 educational centres received fresh, nutritious hot meals, benefiting 26,323 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 April, WFP, in partnership with República del Cacao and renowned chefs, launched the initiative "*Identidades*": A Journey Through Conscious Gastronomy." The project takes the form of a cookbook that goes beyond the culinary realm, serving as a cultural, social, and sustainability-driven proposal that connects flavors, territories, and stories.

Disaster Risk Reduction

- In April, as part of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project, a series of socialization sessions on the Multi-Hazard Response Plans were conducted with local governments. These

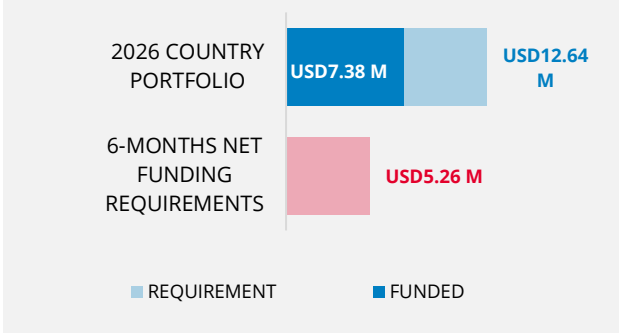
activities took place with the GADs of Gualaceo Nabón, Palestina, and Pedro Carbo, and reaching a total of 66 participants. The sessions aimed to strengthen local preparedness and response capacities by promoting a shared understanding of multi-hazard risks, roles, and coordinated response actions, contributing to enhanced resilience at the territorial level.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

- In April, the closing event of the FRICSAN project and the inauguration of the "Emprende Imbabura" Innovation Center took place, providing a platform to showcase the main results and lessons learned through the joint efforts of WFP, CCMU, the Provincial Government of Imbabura, and local partners, with the support of the Government of Japan and JICA. The event also formalized the handover of the center to the Provincial Government of Imbabura, reaffirming the commitment to the sustainability of project results and to strengthening livelihoods—particularly for women and entrepreneurs in vulnerable situations—through the promotion of local capacities and innovative entrepreneurship models.
- In April, an experience-sharing exchange between Imbabura and Manabí was carried out under the SHEP methodology, creating a key technical space to showcase project progress and to systematize, validate, and transfer lessons between territories. The exchange, held in Manabí, included coordination meetings with local institutions, a technical field visit where producers shared concrete results and innovations, and joint workshops that strengthened capacities in market-oriented planning, commercialization, and organizational management. In parallel, five crop calendar workshops reached 97 producers, and a "Business Creation and Development from Scratch" workshop in Tosagua engaged 25 participants, reinforcing entrepreneurial skills, productive planning, and inclusive local economic development.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)



Donors

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

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