

Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

ECUADOR

Integration of Refugees and Persons Affected by the Conflict in Colombia

Project Number	200701
Project Category	Single Country PRRO
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	212,660
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	81,060
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	65,455

Project Approval Date	11 Aug 2014
Planned Start Date	01 Jan 2015
Actual Start Date	05 Jan 2015
Project End Date	31 Dec 2017
Financial Closure Date	n.a.

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	442,961
Cash--based Transfer and Related Costs	14,474,073
Direct Support Costs	2,665,967
Food and Related Costs	301,990
Indirect Support Costs	1,251,949
Total Approved Budget	19,136,940

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	208
Planned Commodities in 2015	181
Actual Commodities in 2015	127

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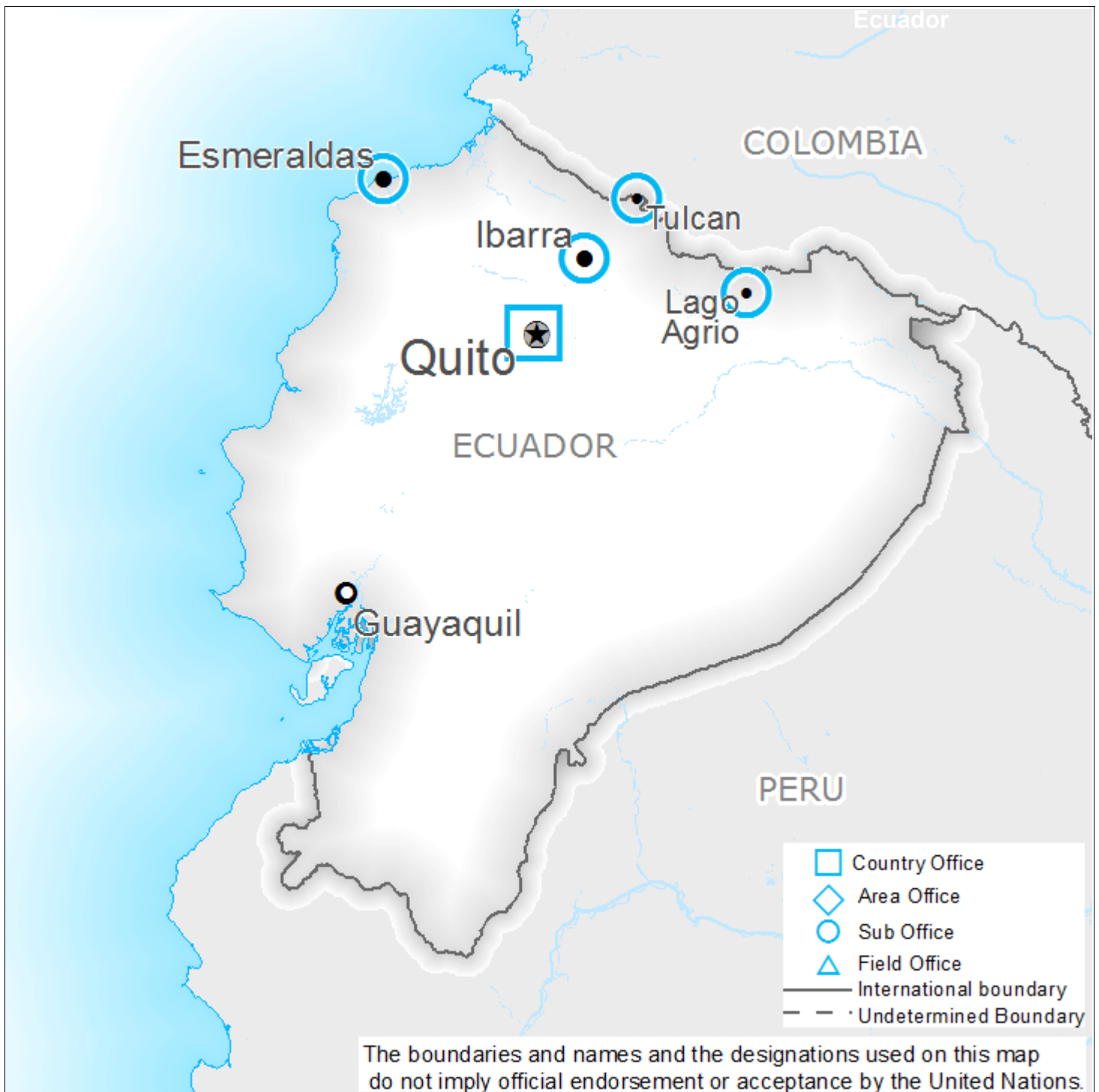
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Country Overview



COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Ecuador is an upper-middle-income country with a population of around 14.5 million people, 63 percent of whom live in urban areas. Having great geographical, social and cultural diversity, Ecuadorians include people of Spanish descent, several indigenous groups, and Afro-Ecuadorians. The increased immigration rates and refugee influxes, particularly from Colombia, have added to the demographic mix.

Although Ecuador's 2014 Global Hunger Index Score is a moderate 7.9 and the 2015 UNDP Human Development Report ranked Ecuador 88th out of 188 countries, income inequality is high, as evidenced by its Gini coefficient of 0.48 (National Institute of Statistics and Census, INEC, September 2015). The national poverty rate is 22 percent, and extreme poverty reaches 7.43 percent (INEC, September 2015). These indicators show that inequality continues to be a persistent problem affecting development in this rapidly changing upper-middle-income country. Dropping oil prices affected the national income, and currency fluctuations had a negative economic impact, particularly in the provinces of Carchi and Sucumbios along the Colombian border.

Overnutrition, chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are pressing issues in Ecuador. Despite several advances in reaching the Millennium Development Goals, the challenge for Ecuador will be to eradicate chronic malnutrition by 2017. Malnutrition is closely related to poor access to nutritious foods, cultural habits, and inadequate sanitation. According to the Ministry of Health (Living Conditions Survey, 2014) approximately 63.9 percent of Ecuadorian children under one year of age are anaemic, and the prevalence of chronic child malnutrition is 23.9 percent in children under five. Furthermore, over 29 percent of children between the ages of five and eleven are overweight. Malnutrition is closely related to poor access to nutritious foods, cultural habits, and inadequate sanitation. Eradicating chronic malnutrition is both one of the greatest challenges and a top priority of the Government of Ecuador. In Ecuador, 6 out of 10 women experience some form of gender violence. One in four women is a victim of sexual violence. Psychological abuse is the most common form of gender violence at 53.9 percent.

Ecuador receives the highest number of refugees in Latin America and the Caribbean. Ninety-eight percent are Colombians fleeing conflict, poor, socially fractured, and with limited access to safety nets. Over seventy percent of asylum seekers who cross the border are in need of food assistance, unable to meet their basic food needs or establish new livelihoods. Men represent 52 percent of Colombians entering Ecuador and many are single. About 43 percent of refugee households are headed by women and 23 percent of women refugees are under 18. Over 90 percent of female refugees are victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and again are confronted with violence in Ecuador.

Ecuador suffers from the effects of climate change. Longer term strategies to address the systemic threats of climate change are a government priority. The country is highly susceptible to natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, heavy rainfalls, flooding, landslides, droughts, earthquakes and forest fires. In 2015, a total of 73,200 persons have been affected by geohazards. Since August 2015, the Cotopaxi volcano shows an increase in activity. The government decreed a yellow alert in the surrounding area to prepare the communities for an emergency. Additionally, El Nino phenomenon is forecasted to severely impact food security in 2016, through floods in coastal areas and droughts in the Central Sierra region.

SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

WFP interventions focus on improving the food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations living in isolated rural areas, provinces affected by the conflict in Colombia, and areas affected by natural disasters and changing climatic conditions.

WFP Ecuador contributes to the Zero Hunger Challenge and the Sustainable Development Goals related to food and nutrition security (SDG 2) and gender equality and empowerment (SDG 5). WFP interventions are aligned with the government's social protection policies and the national development plan and with four of the five proposed results in the 2015-2018 UNDAF. WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) is in line with Ecuador's National Plan for Good Living (2013-2017) objective 2.7, supporting the government to guarantee protection and encourage economic and social inclusion of people involved in human mobility, as well as diverse types of vulnerable families. Additionally, WFP provides assistance in six provinces with high concentrations of refugees.

The PRRO promotes and develops innovative approaches with an assistance based on food security and nutrition needs with local solutions. WFP's food assistance is modelled as a comprehensive approach to stimulate local markets and local production by linking small-scale farmers in the provision of nutritious food in WFP activities. In addition, different actors complement the process, including the participation of local governments, partners and other United Nations agencies. Activities are coordinated between all actors to ensure complementarity to provide a cost-effective and efficient intervention. The volatile security environment and violence along the border area requires a special attention to protection issues.

WFP response strengthens local capacities in order to improve the food security and dietary diversity of small children and their families, by diversifying household diets, particularly by increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables. They also enhance market access of small-scale farmers.

In response to Ecuador's national needs and priorities, WFP continues to work through a Trust Fund upon request of the Ministry of Environment (MAE), and in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture (MAGAP), the Jubones River Basin Public Consortium (CCRJ), and the Provincial Government of Pichincha (GADPP). Since 2011, this project seeks to address priorities established by national and local governments, such as the impact of reduced precipitation levels, increasingly frequent droughts, increased ground frost and other climate-related phenomena affecting food security. The overall goal is to reduce food insecurity and vulnerability related to the adverse effects of climate change, in the most vulnerable communities and ecosystems.

WFP has further strengthened the relationship and coordination mechanism with the government. WFP also supports Ecuador's national emergency preparedness and response (EPR) priorities by strengthening emergency preparedness and response capacities at national and local levels. Furthermore, WFP offers technical assistance to the National Secretariat of Risk Management (SGR).

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	4,318	3,819	8,137
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	15,236	14,979	30,215
Number of adults	11,332	14,140	25,472
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	30,886	32,938	63,824
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	22,203	24,688	46,891
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	30,628	32,819	63,447

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	73	6	47			127
Total food distributed in 2015	73	6	47			127
Total food distributed in 2014	288	66	137	13		504
Total food distributed in 2013	684	110	428	2	10	1,235

Operational SPR

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

PRRO 200701 supported the Government of Ecuador's refugee integration and migration policies and food and nutrition security goals. WFP oriented its operational capacity to: a) implement interventions that provide livelihood solutions for Colombian refugees in Ecuador; b) empower women and increase decision-making; c) reduce tensions and integrate refugees in Ecuadorian communities; and d) leverage purchasing power and connect small-scale farmers to markets.

WFP provided food assistance to newly-arrived Colombian refugees and asylum seekers to ensure that their immediate food needs were met. Additionally, recovery-related actions assisting both Colombian refugees and Ecuadorian host communities were implemented in areas where integration remains difficult. The operation paid particular attention to the needs of women by promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and to protection issues by implementing actions to reduce tensions among all vulnerable groups.

In all activities, WFP's main objective is to increase diet diversity and change unhealthy eating habits through improved awareness and understanding of what constitutes good nutrition, by conditioning food assistance to the attendance of trainings and limiting the redemption of vouchers to healthy and nutritious products. The project's recovery component included support to school-based activities, trainings on production and marketing of nutritious foods, as well as on watersheds protection, under the food assistance-for-assets modality. Furthermore, local production was promoted by linking small-scale farmers' organizations to school-centered activities and to food assistance for refugees, and by strengthening capacities of farmers and local governments in supply chain management, including food quality control, production and marketing.

Capacity development and cost sharing for the school feeding activities with local governments were key elements of the operation. Other support from local governments included: technical support such as trainers and agricultural experts, logistics support (transport and distribution), targeting support, in-kind material contributions, and the provision of office and warehouse space.

RESULTS

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

The PRRO focused on asylum seekers and persons in need of international assistance and protection, including vulnerable asylum seekers unable to re-establish their livelihoods, and Ecuadorian and indigenous communities affected by the conflict in Colombia. Refugees maintain a low profile, in part, because they do not live in camps and move frequently. Over 60 percent of refugees live in urban areas in Pichincha and Santo Domingo and a high percentage in four Northern provinces: Sucumbios, Esmeraldas, Carchi and Imbabura. Food commodities transferred from the previous PRRO were distributed by the first quarter, and the implementation of this project moved to a fully cash based transfer model. The evaluation conducted by WFP and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the evaluation of the previous PRRO found that vouchers conditioned to the purchase of nutritious foods are more effective in achieving dietary diversity and micronutrient consumption than other forms of food assistance.

All beneficiaries under this project must attend trainings focused on food security and nutrition to receive assistance in the form of WFP electronic vouchers. These can be used in local shops to purchase nutritious products only, such as cereals, fruits, vegetables, pulses, dairy products, and meat.

The operation includes two main components:

I. - Relief food assistance is part of a comprehensive package that integrates protection activities and other humanitarian assistance provided by partner organizations, including legal assistance, psychosocial assistance, and employment support as well as assistance to victims of gender-based violence. Under relief efforts, the operation provided food assistance to newly-arrived Colombian refugees and other vulnerable people. In 2015, the planned number of beneficiaries included 9,000 people to receive high energy biscuits (HEB) in case of an emergency. As there was no emergency response needed in 2015, there is a difference between planned and actual relief beneficiary figures. In addition, the number of refugees entering the country has reduced to 900 per month compared to the planned number of 1,300 (UNHCR).

Relief beneficiaries include food-insecure Colombian refugees and asylum seekers. According to the baseline results, around 5,400 persons arriving to Ecuador have a poor and borderline food consumption. The beneficiary targeting process is coordinated with UNHCR, cooperating partners and the WFP team and is based on pre-established criteria: those excluded from existing safety nets; with limited access to food and in extreme poverty; homeless or lacking stable employment; victims of violence and in safe houses; and unaccompanied adolescents.

Assistance was given for an average of six months up to one year, depending on the level of vulnerability and food insecurity of each beneficiary. Newly arrived refugees received an electronic voucher with a bar code. The amount of assistance provided is based on the average gap in individual incomes to allow for a consumption of 2,100 kilocalories per day. Transfers are valued at USD 20 per individual per month with a maximum of USD 40 per family per month. This assistance provided vulnerable, newly-arrived Colombians, irrespective of their asylum status, sufficient time to access basic services and livelihood opportunities. According to WFP monitoring data, over 72 percent of newly-arrived asylum seekers are in need of relief food assistance. Personal interviews are conducted as part of the selection process and repeated after six months, to determine if an individual still requires WFP assistance. Relief assistance also included vulnerable beneficiaries who have not been able to establish livelihoods after the first year of assistance, and extremely vulnerable Ecuadorians of the host communities.

II. - The main activities of the recovery component included food assistance through food for training (FFT), food assistance for assets (FFA) and school meals. Targeting criteria was based on nutrition status, poverty rates, the presence of Colombian refugees, and the vulnerability of the hosting population. Selection of communities was carried out by WFP, partners and local governments. The activity targeted Colombian refugees and Ecuadorians in host communities to promote integration and reduce tensions.

WFP beneficiaries under both the relief and the recovery component received food assistance conditioned to the attendance of monthly trainings on food and nutrition security. The rollout of trainings to all WFP beneficiaries was a strategic measure aimed at improving dietary diversity through the use of vouchers. It has significantly reduced the need to implement separate FFT activities. Whilst the project had envisioned some FFT activities covering gender and livelihood themes, the training materials proposed by partners were unsuitable. FFA activities targeted food-insecure families and included activities to support the local production of nutritious foods and the protection of watersheds and water sources, and reforestation.

WFP incorporated participative methodologies in its trainings, such as theatre, puppets, cooking lessons among others, as an innovative mechanism to empower participants and keep them motivated during the trainings. In some sessions, beneficiaries were encouraged to take the trainers' role and share their knowledge with other participants.

For the implementation of school meals activities in 2015, WFP reached an agreement with the Ministry of Education to assist the most vulnerable primary schools with presence of Colombian refugees or indigenous people, in partnership with local governments and communities. Assistance was provided to all students in the targeted schools. This model was already successfully implemented under the previous PRRO. Based on the number of schools, school days and enrolled children, WFP transferred USD 0.25 per day per child to local governments, and local governments contributed a complementary USD 0.10 per child per day. Total transfer was valued at USD 0.35 per child per day, to be used solely for the purchase of locally produced fresh food provided by small-scale farmers. At the end of the month, local governments prepared a settlement note of purchases with the corresponding receipts. The linkage between demand from school-meal complementary activities and supply from local production is key for this activity: while local small farmer associations provide the food, children improve their food consumption and dietary diversity.

Overall, the actual number of beneficiaries was generally lower than planned as the PRRO was only 60 percent resourced. Project beneficiary planning was based on the National Census, yet the actual composition of households, including that of Colombian refugees was higher than estimated.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number of adults	23,872	23,872	47,744	11,675	14,597	26,272	48.9%	61.1%	55.0%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	12,564	12,564	25,128	15,545	15,240	30,785	123.7%	121.3%	122.5%
Number of children below 5 years of age	4,094	4,094	8,188	4,432	3,966	8,398	108.3%	96.9%	102.6%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	40,530	40,530	81,060	31,652	33,803	65,455	78.1%	83.4%	80.7%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Participants in Food For Training	1,488	1,512	3,000	579	1,163	1,742	38.9%	76.9%	58.1%
Participants in Food For Assets	2,232	2,268	4,500	3,281	2,938	6,219	147.0%	129.5%	138.2%
Beneficiaries of General food distribution (GFD)/ targeted food distribution/assistance (GFD-TFD/A)	18,273	17,786	36,059	9,586	11,228	20,814	52.5%	63.1%	57.7%
Refugees	15,337	15,093	30,430	8,985	9,670	18,655	58.6%	64.1%	61.3%
Children receiving school meals	7,350	7,650	15,000	7,303	7,498	14,801	99.4%	98.0%	98.7%
Cash-Based Transfer Beneficiaries	28,302	28,758	57,060	26,824	28,723	55,547	94.8%	99.9%	97.3%

Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Lentils	67	47	70.8%
Rice	101	73	72.5%
Vegetable Oil	13	6	45.0%
Total for 2015	181	127	69.9%

Cash-Based Transfer	Planned Distribution (USD)	Actual Distribution (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	975,000	387,706.43	39.76%
Vouchers	2,954,400	1,448,040.00	49.01%
Total for 2015	3,929,400	1,835,746.55	46.7%

'Story Worth Telling'

Gloria is a refugee mother who fled violence in Colombia into bordering Ecuador. With the monthly voucher she receives from WFP, she buys food at a local store. This helps her family in the effort to start anew. "Up until now we haven't had work, and the food has helped us survive."

In order to offer refugees like Gloria fresh products and to provide Colombian and Ecuadorian children with school meals, WFP links food assistance to local small producers supporting farmer associations led by women or with a female majority among their members. Women improve their incomes as they provide products to local stores where WFP vouchers are redeemed, or deliver a basket of products to schools for a weekly nutritious menu.

Gloria's son Jose attends a local school. He is in second grade. In schools of the border area, teachers report that children are gradually learning to eat fresh products at school that they have never tasted at home. The school community, including parents, receives WFP trainings on healthy eating habits and nutritious recipes.

Gloria appreciates the programme providing a combination of trainings and vouchers. "The products we buy last us a month. There are foods that are very healthy; so I would like my son to learn to eat them, to learn how to vary what he eats: fruits, vegetables, cereals - not just flour and fats. The most important foods are dairy products, vegetables, fruits, chicken, more than anything else."

Progress Towards Gender Equality

WFP introduced gender and protection strategies into its operations in 2013 and has been working closely with UN Women and UNHCR ever since. As part of the intervention, WFP primarily focuses on female-headed households with children under 5, pregnant women, and nursing mothers.

Assistance is conditioned to the attendance of food and nutrition security trainings with a gender focus, including topics such as the prevention of gender-based violence. WFP trainings are directed to men and women and promote the participation of both sexes in food-related decisions. Trainings provide a space for reflection on roles and responsibilities in food preparation at the home. A didactic video was produced by WFP on this subject, showing how each member of the "Cevallos Family" participates in food preparation tasks. The video was shown as part of the trainings and also in waiting rooms. It aimed to promote participation of all family members in everyday household tasks and especially food preparation, as a means for family union and harmony, and to change perceptions in roles and behaviours that link tasks related to food to women exclusively.

An important component of WFP's efforts is to help put an end to gender violence. WFP offered support to women suffering from domestic violence through food assistance and training. Two shelters for women victims of gender violence in Sucumbios and Tulcan received from WFP and its partner food assistance, trainings, legal advice and psychological support.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
	Target Val	(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Process monitoring. sample size 307 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. sample size 580 households, Programme monitoring.	40	40		38
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Process monitoring. sample size 307 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. sample size 580 households, Programme monitoring.	50	50		52

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

According to data collected in 2015, 98 percent of women and 97 percent of men did not report any security incident. The security issues reported were related to common delinquency that affects the population in general, and to which beneficiaries are equally exposed when going from their homes to the distribution sites. In order to minimize security problems, WFP and partners organized distributions at safe hours and sites, close to participants' communities. In one specific case, a participant was threatened on a public transportation unit on his way to the distribution site. This case was reported to local authorities and followed up by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and UNHCR.

Survey results showed that 80 percent of men and 84 percent of women have received information about the programme. WFP and partners disseminated messages explaining the programme to beneficiaries in diverse spaces of interaction and through educational printed materials. Staff explained operations to beneficiaries and collected information that improved the quality of the program or determined which training messages should be strengthened.

As part of its monitoring activities, WFP conducted regular household visits and focus group discussions with beneficiaries. WFP also introduced suggestion boxes and included a telephone number in the voucher text message to refugees, to be called in case of comments, questions or problems with the voucher or the supermarket. The beneficiary feedback received allowed WFP to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance.

Both Colombian refugees and Ecuadorian host populations participate in recovery activities in communities. This interaction has helped promote a better integration between the two population groups, reducing conflict and discrimination.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
	Target Val	(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Process monitoring. sample size 307 households, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. sample size 580 households, Programme monitoring.	80	73		80
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Process monitoring. sample size 307 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. sample size 580 households, Programme monitoring.	90	95		97
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Process monitoring. sample size 307 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. sample size 580 households, Programme monitoring.	80	79		84
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to/from and at WFP programme sites				
Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Process monitoring. sample size 307 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. sample size 580 households, Programme monitoring.	90	96		98

Outputs

In 2015, the project was successfully implemented using cash-based transfers. The few commodities transferred from the previous project were delivered in recovery activities during the first semester, all subsequent food assistance provided was using solely cash-based transfers. Initially, WFP vouchers could only be redeemed at supermarket chains. Upon evaluating the process, it was recommended that WFP move from providing assistance through supermarket chains to smaller shops in order to improve attention to beneficiaries, get more value for money as prices at smaller shops were more competitive, and access fresher foods. The value of the transfer was based on the cost of the local food basket and the market value of the nutritious products included in WFP's recommended list of products. Recommended products include a variety of fruits and vegetables, meat and dairy products, in order to diversify consumption. WFP continuously monitored local food prices to determine any fluctuation or price hikes. Through the SMART (System for Monitoring and Reviewing Transfers) project management information system, WFP monitored purchases to see whether training messages affected beneficiaries' purchase patterns.

The relief component targeted two beneficiary groups: newly arrived refugees and vulnerable groups. A total of 8,547 newly-arrived Colombian beneficiaries in need of international protection and a total of 12,267 beneficiaries from vulnerable groups were reached.

As the project was not fully resourced, the relief transfer to vulnerable groups was decreased from USD 15 to USD 10 per beneficiary per month (with a maximum of USD 40 per month per family). Assistance was provided for an average of 6.3 months and very few households received up to 12 months of assistance. In Ecuador, the school year runs from September to June. In three provinces with a high refugee presence, WFP complemented school meals by providing lunch in addition to the breakfast provided by the government programme. During the course of the school year in 2015, WFP provided food assistance during the total number of planned school days and training to parents and teachers on food security and nutrition. Menus of nutritious meals were prepared together with the school teachers and parents. Complementary food for the school lunch (cereals, fruits, vegetables and pulses) were delivered by small farmer associations. WFP and local governments provided technical guidance and paid for the products. These efforts complemented the breakfast provided by the Ecuadorian Government, consisting of high energy biscuits and a fortified beverage.

In the school meal activities, WFP reached a total of 14,801 children enrolled at 108 schools, equivalent to 98 percent of the target. The new cash-based transfer model for schools required a linkage with small farmers to provide fresh food. Despite various efforts to link small farmers associations, no links could be established in Esmeraldas province and assistance to schools was solely provided through in-kind food baskets reaching 3,714 children for a limited period of two months. Commodities used were transferred from the previous PRRO. The shorter duration of assistance in Esmeraldas also reduced the overall quantity of cash distributed under the school meals programme. In April, after a joint analysis with the local government and the Ministry of Education, it was decided not to continue with school meal activities in Esmeraldas, as conditions for implementing cash-based transfers could not be met. Instead, schools of this province would be placed under the government programme. For the other provinces, 1,191 small producers organized in 15 associations provided fresh foods to schools, 75 percent of these producers were women.

For recovery activities (FFT/FFA), WFP assisted 28,812 beneficiaries, reaching 98 percent of its target. Twelve projects accounting for over 30 percent of participants, received assistance through in-kind food rations that contained commodities transferred from the previous PRRO. Once these commodities were finished, the cash-based transfers were introduced. Recovery projects had an average duration of 3.7 months; however, 52 percent of participants carried out activities in one-month time spans.

In FFT activities, seven trainings modules were developed: four aimed to strengthen capacities of participants to implement income-generating projects and the other three related to protection, the prevention of domestic violence, the promotion of sexual rights, and the prevention of teenage pregnancies.

Under the FFA activities, sixteen food production projects were implemented through family or community gardens, corn or rice fields, and breeding of small animals. Prior to their participation in this project, beneficiaries had no experience in agriculture. Through this activity, participants learned farming methods which allowed them to plant, harvest and reap crops to increase their incomes and be food self-sufficient. A water-source protection project in Imbabura created and protected water sources, restored firebreak roads and ensured reforestation around water sources. These climate change activities had indirect beneficiaries at a community level.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO 1: GFD				
C&V: Number of beneficiaries receiving vouchers	Individual	27,060	20,814	76.9%
C&V: Total cash equivalent of food redeemed through cash vouchers	US\$	2,729,400	1,354,380	49.6%
SO 2: Capacity Development - Emergency Preparedness and Response				
Number of participants in beneficiary training sessions (community preparedness, early warning, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation)	Individual	550	541	98.4%
SO 2: FFA				
C&V: Number of beneficiaries receiving vouchers	Individual	9,000	18,156	201.7%
C&V: Total cash equivalent of food redeemed through cash vouchers	US\$	112,500	66,320	59.0%
Hectares (ha) of forest planted and established	Ha	41	41	100.0%
Number of assets built, restored or maintained by targeted communities and individuals	Asset	1,483	1,232	83.1%
SO 2: FFT				
C&V: Number of beneficiaries receiving vouchers	Individual	6,000	1,776	29.6%
C&V: Total cash equivalent of food redeemed through cash vouchers	US\$	112,500	27,340	24.3%
Number of participants in beneficiary training sessions (health and nutrition)	Individual	3,000	1,742	58.1%
SO 2: School Feeding				
C&V: Number of beneficiaries receiving cash transfers	beneficiary	15,000	14,801	98.7%
C&V: Total amount of cash transferred to beneficiaries	US\$	975,000	387,706	39.8%

Outcomes

In the first year of implementation, a baseline survey was conducted. Follow-up surveys on beneficiary households were conducted after 6 months relief assistance, as well as upon reaching the end of the recovery activity.

Under the relief component, the baseline shows that 23 percent of female and 30 percent of male headed households had poor food consumption. After 6 months of assistance, 83 of female and 96 percent of male headed households had reached acceptable food consumption levels. As to dietary diversity, beneficiaries consumed food from four groups (cereals, fats, sugars and vegetables) at the onset of the assistance. After six months, both male and female headed households improved their dietary diversity by increasing consumption from 4 to 6.7 food groups (fruits, pulses, meats, cereals, fats, sugars and vegetables).

In order to define the Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index, WFP met with the Risk Management Secretariat and local governments to examine emergency preparedness at a local level: emergency preparedness capacities of the local governments of Carchi, Imbabura, Sucumbios and Esmeraldas Provinces were low. Using these findings, workshops were organized in coordination with the Technical Secretariat for Risk Management to evaluate initial needs, strengthen local capacities in food security, threat analysis and early warning. The disaster risk management capacity index, however, could not yet be measured due to changes in local authorities. This process is expected to conclude in 2016.

Refugees entering Ecuador usually live on the periphery of large cities or in rural areas, causing tensions with the host population. According to the baseline study interviewing Colombian refugees and host communities, 32 percent of people entering the country perceived tensions between Colombians and Ecuadorians. After six months, the data collected showed a slight decrease in this value, down to 30 percent. This modest reduction, in spite of WFP efforts towards integration, could be related to the particularly harsh economic conditions at the northern border of Ecuador.

Community projects were developed in the Esmeraldas and Imbabura provinces. Projects were carried out according to plan, and benefitted 37 communities. In recovery projects with an average duration of three months, monitoring data collection took place in the first month and upon project conclusion. At the end of the assistance, the dietary diversity of households had increased, from a consumption of six to seven food groups.

With regard to the Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) in children under 2, results showed an increase from 59 percent of children eating acceptable diets to 71 percent, after they had received food assistance. It has to be noted that only 18 percent of Colombian families entering the country have children under 24 months of age.

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Strategic Objective 1: Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies				
Diet Diversity Score Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 820hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 520 hh, Programme monitoring.	5	3.9		5.9
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households) Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. sample size 820 households, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. sample size 580 households, Programme monitoring.	5	4.1		5.9
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households) Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. sample size 820 households, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. sample size 580 households, Programme monitoring.	5	3.5		5.9
EPCI: Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity Index Base value: Oct-2015, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	2.5	2.16		2.5
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 820 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 520 hh, Programme monitoring.	90	40.8		92.2
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (female-headed) Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 820 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 520 hh, Programme monitoring.	90	40.9		90
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (male-headed) Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 820 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 520 hh, Programme monitoring.	90	40.7		97
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 820 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 520 hh, Programme monitoring.	10	34.3		4.9

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (female-headed) Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 820 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 520 hh, Programme monitoring.	10	36.4		6.3
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (male-headed) Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 820 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 520 hh, Programme monitoring.	10	29.6		1.9
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 820 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 520 hh, Programme monitoring.	0	24.8		2.9
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed) Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 820 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 580 hh, Programme monitoring.	0	22.7		3.7
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed) Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 820 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 580 hh, Programme monitoring.	0	29.6		1.1
Tension Perception Score Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 820 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 580 hh, Programme monitoring.	32	32		30
Strategic Objective 2: Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies				
Average number of school days per month when multi-fortified foods or at least 4 food groups were provided Base value: Apr-2015, Secondary data. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Secondary data.	20	20		20
CAS: percentage of communities with an increased Asset Score Base value: Apr-2015, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	80	0		37
Diet Diversity Score Base value: Oct-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring.	6.8	6		6.5
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households) Base value: Oct-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring.	6.9	6.1		6.4
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households) Base value: Oct-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring.	6.5	5.7		6.7
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score Base value: Oct-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring.	90	82.7		94.9
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (female-headed) Base value: Oct-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring.	90	87		93
FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (male-headed) Base value: Oct-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring.	90	71		100
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score Base value: Oct-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring.	10	13.2		4.4
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (female-headed) Base value: Oct-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring.	10	11		6
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (male-headed) Base value: Oct-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring.	10	19		0
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score Base value: Oct-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring.	0	4.2		0.7
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed) Base value: Oct-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring.	0	2		1
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				

Outcome	Project end Target	Base Value <i>(at start of project or benchmark)</i>	Previous Follow-up <i>(penultimate follow-up)</i>	Latest Follow-up <i>(latest value measured)</i>
Base value: Oct-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, Programme monitoring.	0	10		0
Proportion of children consuming a minimum acceptable diet				
Base value: Apr-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 78 hh, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 78 hh, Programme monitoring.	70	59		71
Tension Perception Score				
Base value: Oct-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, WFP survey. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, PDM. Outcome monitoring. Sample size 115 hh, WFP survey.	10	10		5.8
Strategic Objective 3: Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs				
Food purchased from regional, national and local suppliers, as % of food distributed by WFP in-country				
Base value: Apr-2015, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	20	15		31

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

This operation is implemented under a comprehensive strategy that promotes the coordination of all actors at sectoral level (government entities, NGOs, the private sector, UN agencies); as well as at horizontal level with mainly government entities. It aims at strengthening local capacities to respond to the food needs of vulnerable beneficiaries providing a comprehensive package of assistance and strengthening community integration.

Relief activities assisting newly-arrived Colombians and vulnerable groups followed an innovative, comprehensive model. After the needs of the participants were identified, an exit plan was set up by national and local actors to achieve food self-sufficiency of beneficiaries. Furthermore, WFP and local governments linked small farmer associations to small retailers, who in turn provided project beneficiaries with fresh products, thus stimulating local economies and farmer families' incomes.

During 2015, WFP participated in a UNHCR Graduation Model pilot programme, which integrated various assistance components to help vulnerable households to overcome poverty and become self-reliant. UNHCR assistance was complemented by WFP food vouchers and trainings on food and nutrition in order to guarantee that targeted families cover their basic nutrition needs.

The recovery food assistance model facilitated market linkages by connecting food assistance (FFT/FFA/ SFP) to local production and provision of fresh food from small farmers. In this process, WFP also advocated for environmentally sustainable farming practices.

The model fulfils the objective of food assistance, enhances women's empowerment, integration, family cohesion, household incomes, and reduces tension and local migration. In collaboration with national and local actors, WFP focuses on strengthening the legal, administrative and operational structure of local farmer associations. As a result, in order to gain direct access to other public and private retailers, associations incorporated certain elements of the WFP model such as clean production techniques, improved food quality procedures and service. Using WFP tools, several associations prepared proposals and participated in government tenders. Technical assistance and training received under the WFP programme, allowed associations to negotiate prices and make bids, and to access public procurement processes. Associations became interested in the direct sale of food to consumers, some of them prepared food and offered catering services to children centers, schools as well as to elderly care facilities that are part of the national social protection system. These initiatives contributed to the sustainability of the project.

In 2015, WFP conducted an international seminar "Challenges to Overcome Malnutrition" in partnership with the Coordinating Minister for Social Development, and with participation of the Minister of Health and the Vice Minister of Economic and Social Inclusion. WFP made a presentation on the situation of malnutrition in Ecuador. International nutrition experts discussed strategies to eradicate malnutrition in Latin America and reviewed experiences of successful nutrition programmes in the region. The presentation of past experiences and cost-effective actions in the region constitutes an important basis for the joint development of strategies and actions to overcome malnutrition. Subsequently, the Coordinating Ministry of Social Development organized a meeting with key actors of the multi-sectoral committee of the "Nutrition Action" programme.

WFP also has a solid relationship with the National Risk Management Secretariat (SGR). Recent initiatives in technical assistance and capacity development led to joint training workshops: WFP trained 541 national technicians from 95 local governments, 10 central government institutions, two Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and UNICEF, in various topics related to emergency preparedness and also carried out training-of-trainers for government staff.

WFP and the Ministry of Education agreed to review lessons learned and experiences of the school meals model to implement a pilot programme that, if successful, could be integrated into the government school feeding programme. Representatives of the ministries of Education and Health attended the Regional School Feeding Seminar in Peru, a South-South cooperation event facilitated by WFP, where governments of the region exchanged their experiences on national school feeding programmes.

INPUTS

Resource Inputs

Cash contributions enabled WFP to provide assistance to reach beneficiaries in all targeted provinces. Cash contributions were used for cash based transfers, in particular for relief activities. Local governments used own resources to complement WFP activities.

Private donations allowed WFP to continue support to schools by linking school meals to small farmer associations. WFP participated in an inter-agency proposal to implement activities in the northern border area of Ecuador as part of PRRO activities. WFP received funds from the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and from the United Nations Sustainable Development Fund, to implement nutrition-sensitive activities in a comprehensive, joint intervention with other UN agencies.

Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

All food commodities distributed under this PRRO originate from carry-over stocks from 2014, no further commodities were purchased in 2015. Starting April 2015, all food assistance was provided through cash-based transfers. Local retailers were selected for Sucumbios, Esmeraldas, Carchi, Imbabura and Pichincha provinces to enhance the local economy by supporting small retailers who can market the products of small farmer associations and ensure the provision of nutritious foods to beneficiaries.

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

This project had a transfer of commodities from the previous PRRO. Commodities were delivered until April to local warehouses for final distribution.

Post-Delivery Losses

Losses were minimal and related to transport, the commodity value lost was recovered through deductions from transporters' invoices.

MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

The current PRRO 200701 is aligned to WFP's Country Strategy approved by the Ecuadorian government in 2012. It supports the Government of Ecuador's refugee integration and migration policies, as well as food and nutrition security goals.

During 2015, WFP Ecuador focused on forging strategic partnerships with the government to strengthen horizontal and vertical mechanisms for a better coordination of food assistance. WFP provided beneficiaries with food assistance with a nutrition sensitive focus, linked to small farmers and local purchases. As a consequence, it was essential to strengthen strategic partnerships with leading national institutions such as the Coordinating Ministry for Social Development, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fishery, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, and the Ministry for Economic and Social Inclusion, among others. The current food assistance model also constituted a platform of exchange with decentralized local governments (GADs), local small-scale farmer associations and small retailers who provide fresh and nutritious food to WFP programmes.

WFP worked in close coordination with local authorities in the targeted provinces and utilized a comprehensive approach. Moreover, WFP maintained memorandums of understanding with provincial and municipal governments, including joint work and coordination plans. Furthermore, WFP programmes were implemented in coordination with NGOs and UN agencies.

An important partnership comprised of almost 3,000 small farmers organized in associations provided fresh food to approximately 14,000 girls and boys through school-meal complementary activities implemented in Carchi, Imbabura and Sucumbios provinces. Partnerships with small farmers were also important in areas where they supplied goods to retailers, where refugees and vulnerable populations could redeem their vouchers.

WFP programmes activities also relied on coordination with UN agencies, especially UNHCR, UN Women, FAO, WHO, UNICEF and UNDP. In 2015, WFP and UNHCR strengthened their commitment to coordinate efforts. At a local level, this coordination implied monthly meetings, and regular monitoring of joint working plans at country office level. Currently, technical teams from both agencies are reviewing targeting tools to be shared with other partners. WFP participated in two inter-agency programmes of the UN: 1) the UN Trust Fund for Human Security aimed to strengthen local capacities linked to peace and development in Ecuador's northern border in collaboration with UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNESCO; and 2) an interagency project to strengthen local food systems and build local capacities for improving production of and access to safe, nutritious food in Imbabura Province in collaboration with FAO, PAHO-WHO and UNICEF.

In terms of emergency preparedness and response, WFP maintained close coordination with the SGR and the Humanitarian Country Team formed by UN agencies and international NGOs. The food security cluster was created during the fourth quarter of 2015, to initiate preparedness actions and coordination for the surge in activities of the Cotopaxi volcano, for floods and droughts that could be triggered by El Nino, as well as for other natural disasters.

The international NGO HIAS was WFP's main cooperating partner in five of the six provinces. While targeting of beneficiaries was their main responsibility, they also delivered training sessions and distributed vouchers to beneficiaries. Coordination with NGO partners was maintained through regular meetings at national and local levels, in order to review activities and make necessary adjustments to project implementation.

Finally, WFP conducted activities with other complementary partners such as the Catholic Relief Service, Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio, the Escalabrinian Mission, the Sucumbios Women's Federation, Tarabita Foundation, and World Vision. Coordination allowed WFP and partners to avoid duplication in assistance and maximize results for the benefit of their beneficiaries.

Partnerships	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	4	3		6

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project end Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
	Target Val	(at start of project or benchmark)	(penultimate follow-up)	(latest value measured)
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services				
Base value: Jan-2015, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	5	0		11
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners				
Base value: Apr-2015, Programme monitoring. Latest Follow-up: Dec-2015, Programme monitoring.	40	0		77

Lessons Learned

In 2015, efforts to further align WFP's strategy with government priorities resulted in improved relations and successful joint activities. The WFP International Nutrition Workshop with ministerial level guest speakers from various countries, was successfully held in November and fomented South-South cooperation, a priority for the government. Joint work on this important theme resulted in positive high-level relationships between WFP and key ministries in the social sector: this also set the roadmap for the joint implementation of innovative nutrition activities in the field.

WFP learned that nutrition trainings need to be more interactive in order to capture the participants' interest and increase their participation. This was addressed in Sucumbios by setting up a theatre group. This group was composed of already integrated refugees who volunteered to participate in WFP trainings aimed to assist recently-arrived Colombians. The group presented sketches related to nutrition, hygiene or women's empowerment to increase women's decision-making role in the family. Scripts were previously checked by WFP to ensure relevance and accuracy.

Another lessons learned relates to the positive side effects of the active participation of women farmers in the provision of nutritious food to WFP schools. This opportunity provided women farmers with an increased income and new market opportunities and has also had a positive impact on family cohesion. Some women indicated that their husbands or partners decided to stay and support agricultural production rather than migrate to other regions looking for work.