



# Annual Report Ecuador 2016



**World Food Programme**



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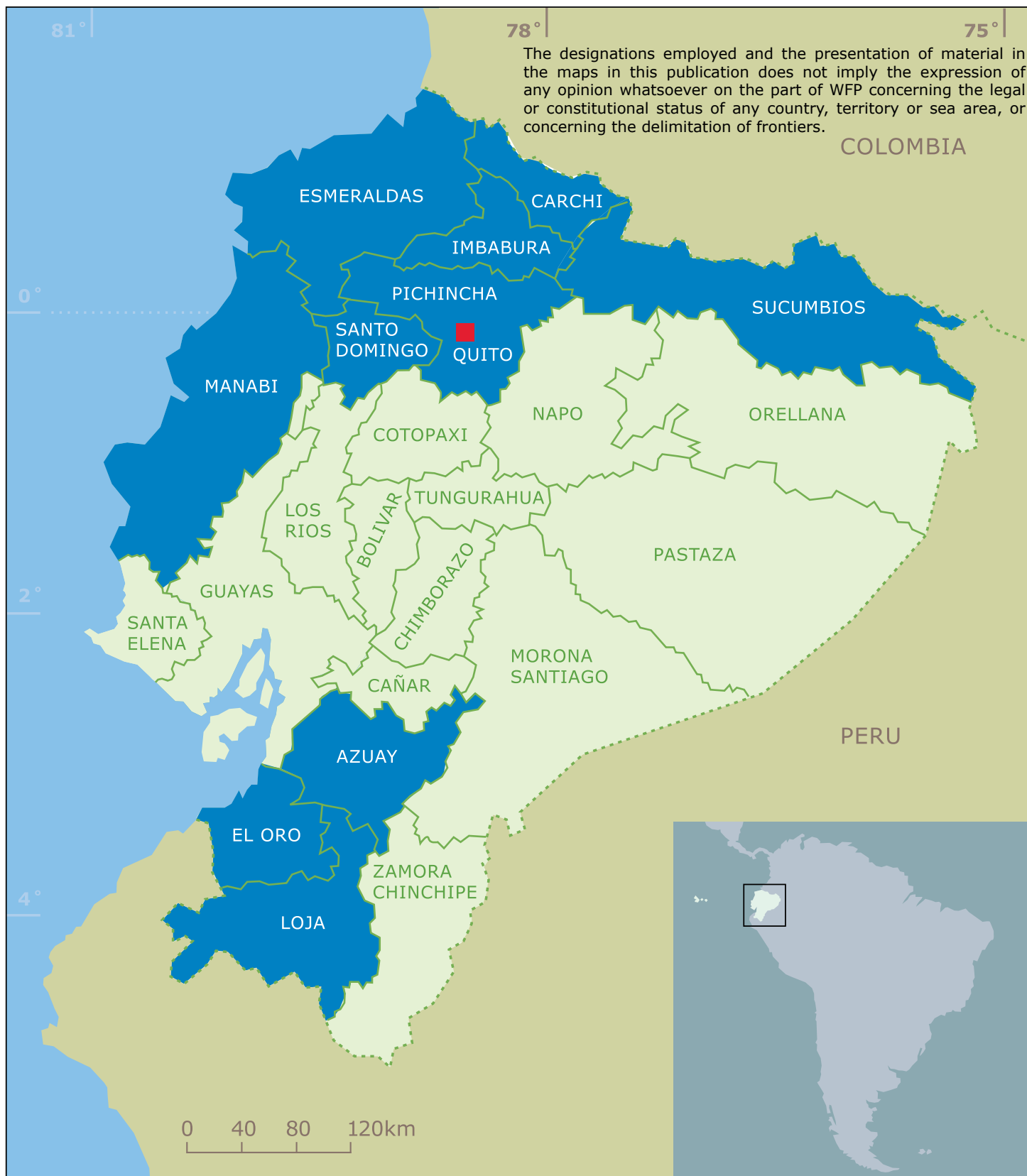
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## Ecuador: Facts & Figures

Number of people assisted during the emergency	279.949
Number of children who received meals through the School Feeding Programme	16.307
Smallholder farmers linked to WFP's assistance model	1.911
Number of people who participated in the climate change adaptation programme	15.000
Number of people in situation of human mobility who received food assistance through electronic voucher	18.596

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# Foreword of the WFP Representative in Ecuador



Natural disasters around the world are becoming more and more frequent. The number of people affected, killed and infrastructure destroyed is bewildering and devastating. Emergencies have put food security in danger for thousands of people living in areas prone to flooding, volcanic eruptions and other natural disasters. In 2016, the 7.8 earthquake that shook the coast of Ecuador affected around 520.000 people and with more than 30.000 people who sought refuge in shelters.

Whilst the number of people in need of help is reaching high levels, there are equally considerable opportunities to save lives by lending immediate food assistance to vulnerable families. WFP's response, coordinated with the government, contributed to the national efforts to provide thousands of families with food in less than 72 hours after shock.

WFP's priorities in responding to the earthquake align with those of the government and complement their emergency response efforts, as outlined in the "Reconstruction Plan". For the first time in Latin America, WFP delivered food assistance to families affected by the earthquake using the government's social security platform. Thanks to this

joint collaborative effort, WFP was able to increase the scope of its assistance in the affected area and strengthen its relationships with government entities.

Working together in a clearly outlined, comprehensive, and complementary way is crucial to reaching the targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Examples of these joint initiatives include:

- Assisting people in situation of human mobility and vulnerable groups;
- Linking smallholder producers to commercial channels;
- Implementing measures to adapt to climate change with an emphasis on food security; and,
- Performing studies and research regarding how to best strengthen capacities for food and nutrition security.

WFP seeks to join forces and develop innovative assistance strategies in order to eradicate poverty and hunger in Ecuador. To achieve this, WFP developed the Country Strategic Plan 2017-2021 through a collaborative consultation process in with the national government, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, local governments and civil society. This Plan identifies areas of cooperation in four lines of action aligned with Ecuador's national strategies. It supports the government's commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially to objectives 2 and 17.

This report highlights the joint efforts carried out with our partners and the results we have achieved in 2016 in support of the most vulnerable populations living in Ecuador.

**Kyung-Nan Park**  
WFP Representative in Ecuador



# 2016: The year in review

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1. After the earthquake on April 16th, WFP carried out a joint response with the national government and provided cash transfers to the affected population through the state's social protection platform.
2. WFP's Logistics Operation provided technical assistance to government institutions, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and other partners during the emergency.
3. Working with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), WFP provided school meals in schools affected by the earthquake in the Muisne canton.
4. In accordance with WFP's food security framework, WFP provided technical assistance to strengthen the government's capacity in emergency preparedness and response to adverse events.
5. WFP strengthened cooperation with the Government through joint collaborative efforts and the implementation of inter-agency projects to build up national capacities in the fight against hunger.
6. WFP delivered food assistance through electronic vouchers to vulnerable populations, improved families' dietary diversity and coordinated local projects to promote sustainable livelihoods.
7. WFP developed and provided educational materials using a holistic approach adaptable to local contexts. This approach focuses on improving families' food and nutrition security and also incorporates information on gender equality, social protection, climate change and emergency preparedness.
8. The Ministry of Environment (MAE) and WFP developed climate change adaption measures with an emphasis on food security and gender equality. A total of 50 measures were implemented through the FORECCSA Project.
9. During the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) WFP organized a parallel event entitled "Urban Safety Nets: Strengthening National Capacity for Disaster Response". Both national and international panellists participated in the event.
10. WFP Executive Board members witnessed how WFP interventions in Ecuador contributed to government priorities in a middle-income country.



# A coordinated response to the earthquake in Ecuador

Ecuador, like other countries in the Andean region, is highly vulnerable to various natural hazards. On April 16th, 2016, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake occurred due to movement in the shallow fault-lines in the South American and Nazca plates.

Manabí Province and the southern part of Esmeraldas Province were the most seriously affected areas. The Risk Management Secretariat (Report No. 59) registered 30,223 people in shelters, 670 deaths, 6 missing persons and a large amount of affected infrastructure. In the face of this emergency, the Ecuadorian government declared a national state of exception, as well as a state of emergency in 6 provinces: Manabí, Esmeraldas, Santo Domingo, Guayas, Los Ríos, and Santa Elena.



The Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), carried out in May 2016 in the provinces of Manabí and Esmeraldas by the World Food Programme (WFP), showed that 31% of the population were experiencing severe food insecurity; 38% were experiencing moderate food insecurity; and 29% were experiencing marginal food security. In other words, two-thirds of households were classified as suffering from severe or moderate food insecurity.

WFP designed and implemented the “Emergency Operation” to support vulnerable people experiencing food insecurity in the affected areas for an initial period of three months. This response contributed to the efforts of the national government to respond quickly to the emergency with food assistance. In the first phase, WFP and the government distributed food kits, which benefitted more than 105,000 people living in camps, health

centers, and hospitals in the provinces of Manabí and Esmeraldas. Food kits were designed with the government as part of the emergency preparedness process. Each ration contained items such as cereals, legumes, canned tuna, sardines and oil, along with other goods. These products provided the necessary amount of energy and basic proteins to meet nutritional needs immediately after the earthquake. In the second phase, WFP signed a memorandum of understanding with the national government and developed an operational plan with the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) to provide food assistance through cash-based transfers for people affected by the earthquake who had registered under the Registry of Affected People (RUD). Under the leadership of the Ministry for the Coordination of Social Development (MCDS), and through the RUD, 383,000 affected people in need were identified (RUD, July 2016).

The government’s immediate response was outlined in the “Reconstruction Plan” that provided vouchers for rent and accommodation. These vouchers were complemented by WFP’s food vouchers administered through the national social protection platform. This intervention was carried out in collaboration with family social workers from MIES’s technical staff.

Families registered in the RUD who received the MIES vouchers for accommodation also received a monthly food voucher of \$100 for a period of 3 months. This amount represented 40% of the basic food basket. The transfers were linked to seven financial networks with more than 400 distribution centers where participants could go to receive food assistance by presenting their identity card. Using these resources, families were able to purchase food at local markets.



WFP delivered food vouchers to 37,776 households, or approximately 129,949 people, with an investment of more than \$8,000,000 dollars





WFP also supported MIES through a call center to contact participants and send SMS text messages to notify them when their food vouchers had been authorized.

Additionally, the population a free telephone line provided by WFP and MIES at its disposal, as well as reception desks to clarify any questions regarding food vouchers. To support good nutrition during the assistance period, WFP and MIES created materials with educational messages regarding the appropriate use of the cash-based transfers and healthy eating habits. This material was delivered physically at the financial centers and during MIES social workers' home visits.

Additionally, WFP sent messages to participants' mobile phones via text messages. WFP also provided technical assistance to carry out modifications within the Government Social Protection Platform.

This investment allowed for enhanced information processing to speed up payments, as well as the implementation of the first phase of an application used to collect data. These instruments have been integrated into state systems and the platform. WFP provided a comprehensive response during the emergency by being a key partner in supporting the government's food and nutritional assistance efforts for affected families.

## United Nations as an important partner for Ecuador's national response

**Alexandra Narcisa Guillén Salvatierra**  
MIES Family Undersecretary



"We believe that the contribution of the United Nations has been important in strengthening and pooling institutional efforts for assistance interventions and the care of the affected population. This has also contributed to strengthening the technical capacities of the

teams involved in direct care for the victims of the earthquake and their families. Furthermore, it is important to note that the initiatives developed and promoted by the national government are the same ones that have been supported by non-governmental organizations."

"These initiatives have had a positive influence on achieving the planned goals for assistance, prevention, raising awareness and promotion of each of the services, as well as creating conditions that help to boost local economy."

# WFP leading the logistics response to emergencies

In emergencies, WFP provides food assistance and the necessary logistical support, organising all resources with the aim of guaranteeing that life saving food and humanitarian assistance reach affected populations.

Around the world, WFP operates a transport network of approximately 20 ships, 5,000 trucks and 70 airplanes that transport food to more than 70 countries. It also has extensive local networks and technical knowledge, which allows WFP to efficiently manage complex and large-scale logistical operations.



After the devastating earthquake that affected the Ecuadorian coast on the 16th of April, the Humanitarian Assistance Logistics Cluster led by WFP was activated. As a result, relief efforts started by improving the coordination and efficiency of the logistical emergency response under the sectoral approach led by the Ecuadorian government.

In coordination with the international humanitarian community and the government of Ecuador, a logistical analysis assessment was conducted to address the emergency. It identified three main gaps: logistical coordination, information management with the support of the geographic information system, and temporary storage near the affected areas.

In order to respond to these gaps, WFP established Logistics Hubs in Pedernales, Manta, and Quito to facilitate the storage of different items for shelter, food, healthcare, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, nutrition, construction, protection, agriculture, and logistical and operational support. More than 2,700 cubic metres of humanitarian

supplies were stored from 13 organisations, including: the Red Cross, the International Medical Corps, Action Against Hunger, Save the Children, the Ecuadorian government, and United Nations agencies.



The United Nations Humanitarian Response Depots (UNHRD) is a shared service administrated and provided by WFP that acquires, stores, and transports emergency supplies for the humanitarian community. At the beginning of the emergency response, UNHRD facilitated the transportation of 113 metric tonnes of humanitarian assistance from World Vision International, Catholic Relief Services, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, WFP and the Panamanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

With more than 50 years of experience in providing food assistance in some of the most remote and insecure regions of the planet, WFP has become a strategic partner in humanitarian responses to emergencies at the global level.



2,706 cubic metres of relief supplies were stored by WFP for 13 organizations.

4,800 square metres of storage installations and work spaces were available for the humanitarian actors.



WFP transferred \$650,000 in technical assistance and supplies to the government.

# Emergency Preparedness and Response:

*an opportunity to strengthen institutional capacities  
and the Ecuadorian people's resilience*

Each year, earthquakes, floods, droughts, and other natural threats cause thousands of deaths and injuries and lead to millions of dollars in economic losses around the world. This is a reality that directly affects countries like Ecuador that are located in geographic areas prone to natural disasters. Ecuador's location, in addition to its geomorphological conditions and the effects of human activity, have led to a gradual increase in the number of natural phenomena and the severity of their impact. In fact, in August 2015, the Geophysical Institute of the National Polytechnic School (IGEPN) warned of an increase in activity of the Cotopaxi Volcano. In January 2016, the World Meteorological Organization announced an increase in the intensity of climatic effects brought about by the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon.

These are clear examples of the country's vulnerability to natural disasters, which is the main reason why emergency preparedness is key to saving lives. Emergency preparedness involves strengthening the risk management capacity of institutional organizations, as well as providing tools for populations in vulnerable areas to increase their resilience and preparedness. For achieve these goals, WFP worked closely with the National Risk Management Secretariat (SGR).

Through a special operation that provided workshops on the Initial Needs Evaluation (EVIN), the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), and the Humanitarian Assistance Logistical Chain, WFP trained 152 national and local government technical staff in order to strengthen institutional capacities during the response to emergencies.

A key element of emergency preparedness is the Family Plan for Emergencies that was developed by the SGR in coordination with WFP. According to the SGR, the Family Plan is "the set of activities that a family must carry out with the aim of reducing risks that negatively affect their well-being; and carrying out preparations to react appropriately in case of emergencies". It constitutes a useful and practical instrument that allows for the identification and mitigation of risks faced by families, in social settings or in the natural environment and incorporates prevention and preparation activities

of the population. In Manabí and Esmeraldas, two provinces that are vulnerable to ENSO, families worked on the development of Emergency Plans.

Being prepared is the responsibility of everyone, but by strengthening institutional capacities, we will be able to reduce the social and economic risks that we face after adverse events. Joint efforts in emergencies are a clear example of efforts to further strengthen national technical capacities.





# Strengthening national government capacities through interinstitutional programmes

## *The first thousand days of a human being's life as an entry point for development*

In accordance with the Accelerated Reduction of Chronic Child Malnutrition Strategy led by the MCDS, WFP and other United Nations agencies implemented the “1,000 Days Activity” that prioritizes assistance for pregnant or breastfeeding mothers with children under two years old. This activity has been rolled out in the province of Imbabura in the parishes of Cotacachi, Angochagua, Imantag, La Esperanza, and Lita. With the support of the provincial government, the Ministry of Health (MSP), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGAP), and MIES, comprehensive support was provided to 350 participating families.

With the goal of meeting the nutritional needs of the families, WFP delivers food baskets each month, prepared by smallholder farmers associations linked to the project. To receive the baskets, the mothers must attend monthly medical check-ups and participate in trainings on adequate food consumption in the home, thus encouraging eating habits that promote a diversified and healthy diet.

These training sessions in food and nutritional security are developed by WFP with provincial government technical staff in order to improve knowledge in nutrition, care, and childrearing. In Imbabura, the “Tierra del Sol” and “Yo Prefiero” associations prepare food baskets and receive technical assistance from MAGAP and the provincial government’s Production Development Unit. By linking smallholder farmers, WFP seeks to strengthen their capacities by connecting them to markets, thus allowing for direct sales with competitive pricing.

The project’s long-term sustainability is promoted by providing technical assistance to families to set up family gardens in order to increase long-term access to food in MAGAP’s National Program for Participatory Technological Innovation and Agricultural Productivity.

The “1,000 Days Activity” seeks to empower local participants with the aim of replicating this programme in other areas and linking it to new partners. This method promotes the coordination and integration of efforts among different actors. This coordination has allowed for better use of available resources and technical staff, as well as for the efficient implementation of field work with the community, where each institution provides its expertise to attain a better impact within the territory.

## **A coordinated effort in support of national priorities**

### **Gabriela Rosero**

*Coordinating Minister for Social Development*



“WFP was a strategic partner in the implementation of the Strategy for Accelerated Reduction of Chronic Child Malnutrition, led by MCDS, whose approach is to intervene in all areas that directly or indirectly cause malnutrition in Ecuador,”

asserts the social sector’s Coordinating Minister, Gabriela Rosero.

“Ecuador is committed to the fight to reduce chronic malnutrition in children because we know the importance of ensuring and guaranteeing adequate development for our children.”

This joint effort with the government is fundamental for WFP. Working with the government, WFP contributes to the government’s efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular, Goal 2. Regarding this shared goal, Gabriela Rosero explained that WFP “has been a strategic ally in the struggle against chronic infantile malnutrition when it comes to consolidating actions”.

### ***An innovative climate change and regional resilience project***

Climate change affects temperature and precipitation patterns. These changes directly impact local communities, diminish agricultural yields, and negatively affect Ecuadorian's livelihoods and their food and nutrition security.

The World Food Programme is aware of this serious problem and in 2011, it implemented the "Strengthening of the resilience of communities to the adverse effects of climate change with an emphasis on food security and gender considerations" (FORECCSA) Project after reaching an agreement with MAE and in coordination with MAGAP, the Consortium of the Jubones River Basin, and the Autonomous Decentralised Government of Pichincha Province. The FORECCSA Project is aligned with Ecuador's Climate Change Strategy (2012 – 2025), in which one of the prioritised sectors for adaptation to climate change is food sovereignty, agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, and fisheries.

In accordance with the framework of the 22nd United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-22) held in Morocco, the Minister of Environment, Walter García, shared the experience of FORECCSA as an innovative project that implements climate change adaptation measures.

These initiatives contribute to mitigating desertification and loss of biodiversity, as well as discussing alternatives to motivate smallholder farmers to use sustainable practices to adapt to climate change, addressing priority areas such as food security and gender equality as key aspects to combat hunger in the world.



### ***Extending assistance to populations in a situation of human mobility***

In 2016, WFP continued to provide food assistance to people in need of international protection, mostly of Colombian origin. More than 14,000 people, including recent arrivals and people who had been living in Ecuador for over a year, received this assistance through electronic vouchers that could be redeemed for food at points of sale associated with WFP.

WFP extended its food assistance to the provinces of Azuay and Guayas. This geographic expansion was carried out in accordance with the framework outlined in an agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which seeks to complement humanitarian assistance for populations in need of international protection by improving the food consumption of families that are part of their assistance programme. This programme uses a strategy called the "Graduation Model," whose objective is to move participating families out of extreme poverty and promote sustainable livelihoods.

In addition, in order to improve participant targeting, an agreement was signed in 2016 with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to extend coverage of food assistance delivery in Esmeraldas, Carchi, Sucumbíos, Imbabura, and Pichincha, which complements the coverage provided by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS).

Under the new human mobility law, which includes the concept of universal citizenship and the recognition of the right to migrate, WFP seeks to expand its assistance. In this new context, it is necessary to carry out an analysis to rethink the concept of human mobility linked to the food assistance that currently focuses mainly on vulnerable people and the refugee population. This analysis will allow for the strengthening of assistance mechanisms for assistance to migrants, immigrants, asylum-seekers, stateless persons, internally displaced persons, and victims of trafficking.

# What's behind WFP's comprehensive programmes?

David Yauzén is a smallholder farmer and a member of the Maquipuashpa Association. He delivered fresh, nutritional products on a weekly basis to schools where WFP has complemented the Ministry of Education's National School Meals Programme for the past three years.

Delivering his products to selected schools was, according to David, "important because it revitalised the family economy, not only for members of the association, but also for our neighbours, our family, and our communities. This trade system strengthened our productivity, helped us to diversify products and to promote continued sowing".

"Furthermore, in various families it led to better cohabitation, preventing fathers from having to migrate due to scarce economic resources (...)

We learned how to define prices and improve production, now we don't sell at the prices that the market was telling us. We know the value of our products."

After strengthening its associative and productive capacities, the Maquipurashpa Association managed to enter new markets and participate in public procurement processes. "So far, we have several market spaces at fairs and via direct trade to consumers, delivering our products at fair and competitive prices, and strengthening the household economy of smallholder farmers who are part of the association," David explained.

For David, working his land creates family harmony and is his livelihood.

**"Our 'chakras' (family gardens) are mainly used to provide us with food, and the surplus is sold off or traded. It is a small family business. Moreover, these chakras are at the centre of family life. I also believe that it is where age-old knowledge shared by our ancestors can be handed down to the youngest generation"**





# School Meal Programme in schools affected by the earthquake

In response to the devastating earthquake that struck the northern coast of the country, WFP and the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) implemented a humanitarian response operation in 51 schools in the area of Muisne, Esmeraldas. To do so, WFP implemented a comprehensive model that connects smallholder farmers associations with schools where they deliver their products. This model was designed by WFP and has been implemented successfully here and in other provinces.



The innovative aspect of this model lies in integrating smallholder farmers associations into the local purchase system in order to revitalise the local economy. The smallholder producers receive training and advice to strengthen their capacities, which in turn allows them to join larger markets and therefore improve their family incomes. This strategy was particularly successful in revitalising local economies after the earthquake. In fact, in the case of Muisne, with the support of MAGAP, the Federation of Black and Mestizo Organizations of the South West of Esmeraldas, Atacames and Muisne (FONMSOEAM) was incorporated into the programme. This Federation delivered fresh fruit and vegetables on a weekly basis for children participating in the School Meal Programme.

Thanks to this intervention, they succeeded in adding local products such as peas, beans, coconuts, onions, lentils, broad beans, pepper, tomatoes, carrots, fish, watermelon, and passion fruit into the schools' daily menus.

Additionally, the model sets up a complementary system that involves parents and teachers through the school Food Committee in the development of the school meals according to the nutritional

guidelines outlined by WFP. The School Food Committee is responsible for requesting the necessary products on a weekly basis from FONMSOEAM. This setup empowers parents and teachers and highlights the importance of promoting an adequate and diverse diet both at school and at home.

In addition, collaboration between the school and the community has allowed for improved access and availability of healthy, nutritious, and diverse foods for the affected population, thus improving the food security of children affected by the earthquake.



4,765 students (2,405 boys and 2,360 girls) from the affected areas were part of the school meals programme.

The programme not only contributed to their nutrition and to dietary diversification, but also strengthened the people's resilience mechanisms.



## Improvement in families' dietary habits

The World Food Programme seeks to improve nutritional behaviour and dietary diversity. Through coordinated efforts with the national and local government, WFP has implemented nutrition-sensitive activities that enhance the food assistance provided to participating families.

The nutritional component implies a constant introduction, training, and nutritional guidance to different partners and implementers, who in turn replicate their knowledge at the local level.

Nutritional training activities promote the development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes on food security and nutrition, leading to a change in the dietary behaviours of the people and communities with which WFP works.

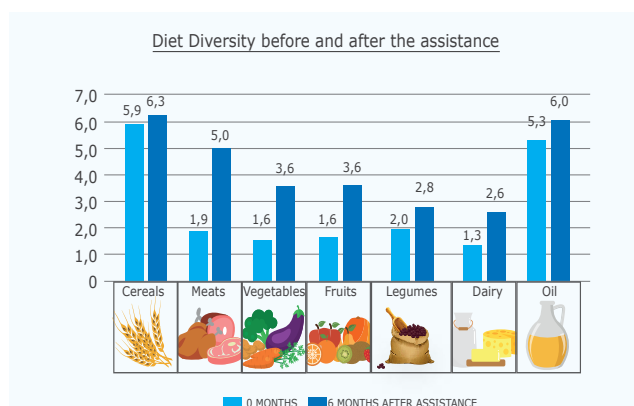
Ecuador emphasizes attention for the vulnerable groups such as children under five years old, as well as pregnant and lactating women and their families. With this focus in mind, WFP has developed a comprehensive training toolkit that incorporates fourteen modules addressing nutritional issues throughout the life cycle, including hygiene, family farming, gender equity, and social protection. This allows the facilitator or trainer to provide comprehensive counselling in food and nutrition security. The facilitators and trainers play a leading role by implementing educational programmes aimed at promoting personal and social changes.

WFP and the Ecuadorian government have set up a conditional assistance model. In order to receive assistance, families must attend nutrition trainings and attend regular medical check-ups through the Ministry of Public Health's Primary Health Care Unit. With this model, WFP creates a comprehensive partnership through nutritional advising to improve participating families' health and well-being.



## Results guide our action

Many factors influence the nutritional habits of the population, including access to, availability, and consumption of food. In emergency or crisis situations, these habits can vary significantly, increasing affected populations' food insecurity.



### Assistance to refugees

Families on the move report that they consume an average of four food groups, based on carbohydrates and oils. WFP's food assistance, together with food and nutrition training, allow families to improve food consumption. The chart above shows the change in household diet diversity from the consumption of four food groups to more than six, after six months of assistance. This implies that WFP food assistance and training have a positive impact on the food consumption of all groups and therefore that participants are consuming an adequate amount of macro- and micronutrients, especially targets groups.

### Assistance to people affected by the earthquake

After the April 2016 earthquake, vulnerable populations suffered from limited access to food. The delivery of WFP food assistance with cash-based transfers through the government's Social Protection Platform enabled people to access food at local markets. Market rehabilitation allowed families to improve their eating habits and dietary diversity. In Manabí, households that received food assistance reported an improvement in dietary diversity, consuming an average of 6.9 food groups after receiving assistance, compared with the average of just four food groups consumed initially.

## Gender violence increases hunger and malnutrition. Hunger and malnutrition increase gender violence.



“The World Food Programme has enormous potential to contribute to world change. By providing food assistance and in turn incorporating the gender perspective to, for example, improve food distribution and the work load at home, it can contribute to a change in popular consciousness and the social structures that sustain inequality, promoting a vision of equality of rights for men and women. In this way, not only we change food culture but we also have a positive impact on the culture and beliefs of families, improving their quality of life in an integral and holistic way.”

**Nidya Pesantez**  
UN Women

### What does it mean to work with a focus on gender ?

“It means including, throughout a project’s entire management, the necessary tools (conceptual and methodological) and indicators that allow us to identify social, cultural, and economic differences that exist between men and women. This allows us to understand if these differences create inequality and how this inequality impacts women’s rights and programmes’ objectives and goals in any type of intervention (local, sectoral, or demographic).”

“Development programmes often don’t identify these differences or the inequalities they produce, inequalities that are known as gender gaps. When we don’t identify gender gaps when tackling a development problem and we act, in a local region or with a certain demographic, as if the gaps didn’t exist, assuming that the impact of the project on men and women will be equal, we are acting in what is known as a gender blind. This, on top of not generating specific impacts and/or benefits to even out gender gaps, also generates the risk of deteriorating or weakening women’s quality of life. This risk is common in programmes that are based on the traditional role of women as someone who improves their family’s quality of life without realising the implications of this.”

“In addition, the incorporation of the gender focus ensures that programmes identify gender gaps and act accordingly, increasing the quality of the results precisely because it can bring about the restructuring of inequalities, thus improving the quality of life of all people in the sphere of intervention.”

### How is gender related to food and nutrition security?

“Establishing strategies that increase the amount and quality of families’ food to improve their nutritional status requires a gender-focused approach. This makes it possible to include essential factors such as the distribution of food within the families, taking gender differences into consideration (women’s age and reproductive status, as well as challenging the belief that boys require more food than girls, among other things).”

“Activities like training, for example, that promote changes in dietary habits with the aim of improving them for better nutrition can and must also provide for changes in habits that sustain gender inequality, promoting a fair distribution of food and shared responsibility in caring for the family to create a nourishing environment for all of its members. In doing so, we are assured that men, women, girls, and boys alike are all adequately fed.”



# Climate change and food security:

## *focus on resilience against climatic and social challenges*

In 2011, the Ministry of the Environment (MAE) and WFP worked in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fishery (MAGAP), the Pichincha Provincial Government, and 37 local governments in the Jubones River Basin in the provinces of Loja, Azuay and El Oro to implement the FORECCSA Project. This project seeks to respond to the new challenges that threaten the country's sustainable development. This includes innovative alternatives aligned with national priorities regarding climate change and food security, where women's important role in agriculture and couples' shared responsibility in families' food and nutrition security are fully integrated.

The FORECCSA Project includes two approaches: community-based adaptation and ecosystem-based adaptation. In the first case, the priorities identified by regional communities regarding their vulnerability to climate change and food insecurity, along with gender gaps, are taken into account. These are reaffirmed by the national government and local governments using different techniques to facilitate citizens' participation. This method not only guarantees a participatory process starting with the design of the adaptation measures, but it also generates valuable inputs from the locals' perspective, taking into consideration their ancestral knowledge, which ensured the sustainability of the measures implemented in the territory.

The second approach addresses the need to increase resilience in maintaining and conserving water supply services in moors and forests, which go hand in hand with the productive capacity of agricultural fields as a key element for food security.

An aspect that makes this project unique at the regional level is the mainstreaming of the gender equality approach. The FORECCSA Project creates spaces so that women are not only taken into account as participants but are also considered and valued as agents of change and viewed as essential players in implementing adaptation measures. This occurs as their work is made easier by reducing the hours required to complete it.

In order to strengthen communities' resilience, 37 participatory climate change adaptation measures were designed in the Jubones River Basin, while 13 were designed in the province of Pichincha. All measures included a focus on food security and gender equity.

By using a participatory approach, these adaptation measures respond to social and regional realities and vulnerability levels in the communities where they are implemented. This process was carried out by field specialists and promoters who were engaged in the project's implementation.



These measures have been developed through a joint-construction process with men and women, and local and provincial leaders in accordance with local priorities. Vulnerability studies were conducted in order to understand the problem linked to climate change, with an emphasis on food security. After this analysis, the project laid out actions to be taken by collaboratively creating an Adaptation to Climate Change Plan, which identifies climatic threats that directly affect food security.

Finally, in accordance with available resources, a comprehensive process was initiated in each parish through the implementation of an adaptation measure that guarantees food security, participation, and access to the assets of women who benefitted of the project. This plan serves as a guide for the local government for future actions. By the end of 2016, 11 local governments have incorporated climate change, food security, and gender variables into their development plans and land use plans.

In this context, an analysis of the 50 adaptation measures was carried out. In accordance with design characteristics, they were grouped in nine different types:

1. Strengthening community irrigation in drought-affected areas;
2. Providing irrigation for land plots;
3. Setting up home gardens to diversify diets;
4. Managing organic fertilizers to promote moisture retention in soil;
5. Promoting silvopastures to create microclimates;
6. Strengthening drought-resistant seeds;
7. Raising small animals as a source of local protein;
8. Improving water supplies for human consumption; and
9. Protecting water sources.

Based on these nine types of adaptation measures, it has been possible to create a project monitoring system to track the results in the field, which also contributes to MAE's analysis and measurement of adaption levels in participating communities.

As a pioneer in mainstreaming climate change, gender equality, and food security. The FORECCSA

Project is not only an example of public policy that was created based on the needs of actors in the territory. It is also a pioneer in the creation of tools for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of public policy aligned with the National Strategy for Climate Change in specific territories.

Thanks to the lessons learned and best practices drawn from this experience, WFP is working in direct coordination with the Under Secretary for Climate Change through MAE's Adaptation Directorate to developing a binational project with Colombia. This project will use actions from the FORECCSA Project and replicate them with populations vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, giving priority to ancestral peoples and populations displaced by violence.

Finally, it is necessary to highlight that all these actions guided by climate change adaptation, food security, and gender equity contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. It has also been shown through practice that it is possible to make alliances in order achieve goals through joint efforts.

**Climate change affects every country on every continent. It has a negative impact on the national economy and the lives of people, communities, and countries.**

## Successful interinstitutional coordination for the implementation of adaptation measures of to climate change with a focus on food security and gender



**María Victoria Chiriboga Nielsen**  
Undersecretary for Climate Change

María Victoria Chiriboga, MAE's Undersecretary for Climate Change, believes that the FORECCSA Project actions "allow for the creation of a public policy that is more closely related to territories and is not just something made in the office, as is often the case, but rather is a policy closely associated to local realities".

In addition, María Victoria is clear in stating that solid interagency communication is key in producing the project's expected results. In this sense, she highlights that the success of the relationship between MAE and WFP corresponds directly to the coordination of actions framed in the National Climate Change Strategy and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in Ecuador.

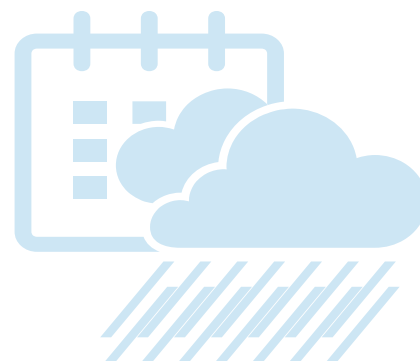
She emphasizes that this joint work has contributed to "strengthening both MAE in the creation of new policies, as well as WFP in using new approaches to international cooperation". In fact, through the

implementation of the FORECCSA project, MAE has strengthened its understanding of how climate change adaptation measures are implemented in the territory, which contributes to the construction of a public policy more closely related to local realities. Additionally, the types of adaptation measures developed in the project's framework will further strengthen the monitoring process and ensure the implementation of public policy in the territories. Likewise, it emphasizes that through community participation, local people are able to take ownership of the project, guaranteeing the measures' long-term sustainability.

As for WFP, this intervention allowed it to incorporate and strengthen its nutrition and food security approach in the climate change adaptation strategical framework.

Another aspect that María Victoria highlighted is the exchange of experiences and tools with other institutions that has made it possible to strengthen the intervention. She emphasizes the work carried out with UN Women for gender mainstreaming, which uses an in-depth analysis of the context of each locality to determine their needs and not just "to ensure that there are the same number of women and men in the development of their activities".

In conclusion, the coordinated efforts among these institutions have been a great challenge that was successfully achieved. The actions have produced valuable lessons that feed into the implementation of public policies to ensure that they effectively comply with government plans and programmes.





## **“Now my community has water every day”**



**“Being the President of the Water Board was an opportunity that was not easy, since I had to be absent from home sometimes. But all the effort turned into joy and satisfaction when the irrigation water came to the homes of my community”**

María Susana Alcozer, lives in the parish of La Esperanza. Along with her husband and her three children and is engaged in agriculture as part of a family tradition. María represents more than 200 families in the El Rosario neighbourhood as President of the Water Board.

The area of Esperanza has suffered the effects of climate change, “is real, because each time we observe how the Cayambe Mountain is losing its snow covered. The irrigation canals had lots of water before, and in some cases, they overflowed like rivers and we didn’t lack water when the dry season came,” affirms María.

Facing adverse effects that affected her crops, María Susana and her community worked alongside with the FORECCSA Project to implement a reservoir that allowed them to have a permanent source of water that reduced the impact of climate variations on her agricultural production and food security. “Now my community has the irrigation water that we can fill in the reservoir that we are working on with the FORECCSA Project,” she mentions.

On a weekly basis, María Susana organizes the families in cooperatives where they work together with the technicians of the project in the development of the reservoir of the zone. Now, through the assistance provided, María Susana’s community receives daily water supplies that have facilitated their sowing activities, which has allowed them to maintain a constant agricultural production throughout the year, and to promote an organized way to sell their products. “Now I have irrigation water every day to plant in my small plot and I have food and safe water for my family and my animals. Before, I used to go to the local fairs to buy and resell products; now, I go with my colleagues to the fairs every week and I sell my own products,” the smallholder farmer says.

As part of this comprehensive intervention, local smallholder farmers associations have been strengthened. María Susana belongs to an association of women that every Sunday participates in agro-ecological fairs where they sell the products of their small plots, increasing the family and local economy.



# Food and nutrition security in the New Urban Agenda

In 1976, the United Nations and national governments began a process of recognising the magnitude and consequences of rapid urban growth in cities around the world, and the first UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I) was held in Vancouver, Canada. Twenty years later, the second conference, Habitat II, was held in Istanbul, Turkey, where governments committed themselves to the goal of obtaining adequate housing for all people and promoting sustainable human settlements.



In 2011, the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene a third Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) hosted in Quito in 2016. With the goal of invigorating the global commitment to sustainable urbanisation and to implement the New Urban Agenda aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 by the 193 United Nations member countries. This conference sought to renew political commitments for sustainable urban development, to outline the achievements made within this framework, to look for solutions to poverty, and to determine and discuss new and emerging urban problems in the global context. Quito was the headquarters for the Habitat III conference where around 45,000 participants were present, including heads of state, representatives from United Nations member states, specialised agencies, non-governmental organisations, and members of civil society.

In this framework, the World Food Programme in Ecuador received its first visit from the Executive Director, Ertharin Cousin, and the Deputy Executive Director, Amir Abdulla, who participated as speakers and panellists in different information sessions, conferences, and panel discussions where they presented the relevance of incorporating food and nutrition security into the New Urban Agenda.

WFP held the side event “Urban Safety Nets: Strengthening National Capacities for Disaster Response”. National and local authorities attended the event, including Minister Gabriela Rosero of the Coordinating Ministry of Social Development and the mayor of Pedernales, Néstor Gabriel Alcívar, as well as international experts from the European Commission for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid, the World Bank, and the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development.

The side event presented the response to the April 16 earthquake as an example of the coordinated use of social safety nets. In addition, panellists explained how these urban safety nets contributed to social cohesion and improved the resilience of cities. Panellists emphasized that social safety nets are an important tool for achieving the long-term Sustainable Development Goals and eradicating poverty and hunger. In the words of the Executive Director of WFP, “We need food systems that support the production of nutritious food and logistical systems that bring the food to cities so that that everyone in need has access to it year-round”.

WFP’s participation in Habitat III concluded with the presentation of its official policy in a roundtable discussion, “Leave no one behind”. At this discussion, WFP reaffirmed its support for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through an inclusive and coordinated governance, as well as the strengthening of urban-rural links and the commitment to work for the fulfilment of the second Sustainable Development Goal, to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture” aligned with the UN Secretary-General’s Zero Hunger.

# A country strategy aligned with national priorities

In November 2016, the World Food Programme began the implementation of a new Institutional Strategic Plan to build a new operational and planning framework. This Strategic Plan provides a framework to reinforce WFP's emergency, life-saving, and logistical contributions through effective partnerships, as well as a strategy to end hunger and malnutrition. This work is essential to supporting countries' efforts to achieve the SDGs, with a focus on strengthening local actors' capacities.

In 2016, WFP in Ecuador developed the new Country Strategic Plan with the active participation of the national government, who agreed that the document was "relevant and complementary to Ecuador's development priorities" (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2016).

The strategy focuses on four areas of work: food assistance to vulnerable populations, smallholder productivity, adaptation and response to climate change and resilience, and strengthening of local and national capacities. The country's Strategy Plan was approved in February 2017 with the aim of reducing food insecurity and malnutrition in Ecuador.

**"The Country Strategic Plan seeks synergy with the national government's priorities in order to contribute to development and knowledge transfer, supporting Ecuador's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with an emphasis on Objectives 2 and 17,"**

WFP Representative in Ecuador,  
Kyung-Nan Park states.

In the framework of the WFP's Strategic Plan, the Ecuadorian country office received a visit from the Executive Board, WFP's global governing body. Comprised of 36 United Nations member states or Food and Agriculture Organization member nations, the Board is responsible for guiding policies and overseeing WFP corporate activities. The delegation was comprised of delegates from Guatemala, Hungary, the United States, the European Union, Liberia, Bangladesh, and Denmark.

During their visit, board members had the opportunity to observe WFP operations in the provinces of Imbabura, Esmeraldas, and Manabí. Additionally, board held meetings with local and national authorities and United Nations representatives in Ecuador, where the importance of creating inter-institutional programmes in order to strengthen national and local capacities was emphasized.





