

Ecuador

August 2024

Over 77,900** **refugees** and 7,300 asylum-seekers are currently registered in Ecuador as of end of July. 95% of refugees are from **Colombia**.

Ecuador hosts 444,778 Venezuelan refugees and migrants, **the fifth largest number** after Colombia, Peru and Brazil according to the GTRM.

UNHCR works with authorities and partners to help refugees, asylum-seekers and their hosts **build resilient communities in Ecuador**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Profile

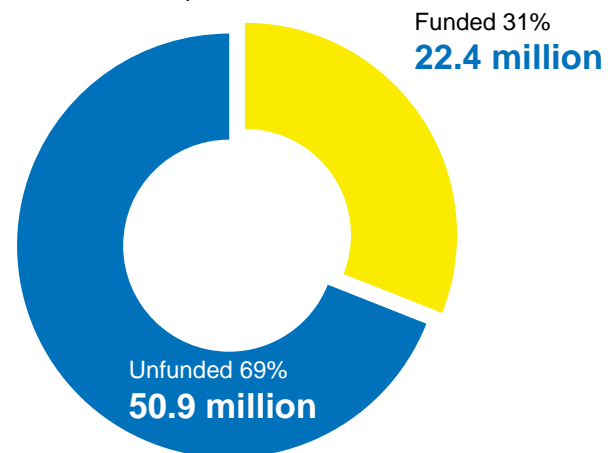


*Source: UNHCR Ecuador National Trends

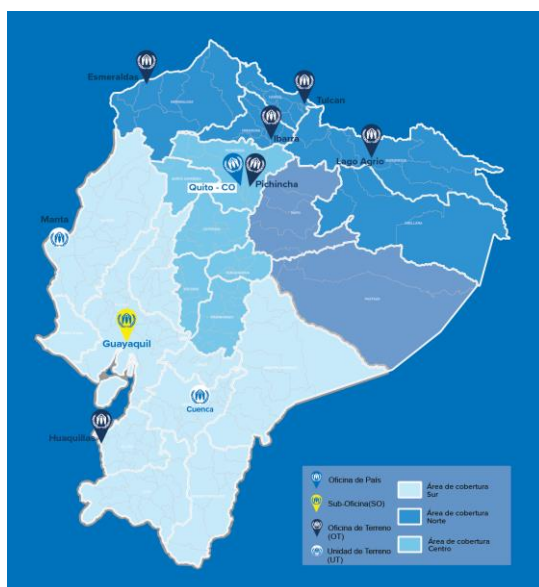
FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2024)

USD 73.3 million

requested for the Ecuador operation



UNHCR PRESENCE



New regularization initiative in Ecuador provides a perspective of stability for thousands of people

This new process removes barriers for Venezuelans, like Elmimar and Roberto, who were previously unable to regularize their status in the country. Now, they are part of the nearly 100,000 people who will have the opportunity to obtain their visa. [Read the full story here.](#)

Working with Partners

UNHCR has one country office, once suboffice and two field offices covering north, south, and central Ecuador. The UN Refugee Agency works with 15 partners to support the Ecuadorian Government in the delivery of protection and solutions to refugees and other displaced people, as well as those from the host community in a vulnerable situation. UNHCR also co-leads with IOM the interagency working group for refugees and migrants (GTRM), a platform coordinating the response to the needs of people forced to flee in Ecuador. Check out the latest [GTRM needs assessment](#) for more information.

Main Activities

Jointly with the government, UN agencies, partner organizations, civil society, faith-based and refugee and migrant organizations, and communities, UNHCR undertakes protection and solutions activities, including:

International Protection

- UNHCR facilitates access to the asylum procedure for people in need of international protection through engagement with government and local authorities to strengthen their capacities. So far in 2024, UNHCR and partners supported 41,860 refugees and others displaced with access to free and quality legal services (including orientation and representation).
- UNHCR and partners continue providing support to the regularization process with legal assistance, communications with communities, cash for documentation, as well as brigades to support people currently finalizing the process. By end of April (deadline to submit visa applications), over 90,000 people had received their Ecuadorian ID. Following the announcements of the Ecuadorian Government, thousands of people could benefit from a new opportunity to finish the process and regularize their stay in Ecuador. [UNHCR and partners are working to support the Government in this exercise.](#)

Community-Based Protection

- UNHCR and partners work to strengthen and support local integration and peaceful coexistence among locals and refugees. Moreover, UNHCR is training refugees and local communities to enhance community communications efforts. By end of August, nearly 7,000 people had been supported through community services.
- UNHCR and partners implement a sport for protection strategy to help create resilience and prevent violence against children and adolescents across the country. In addition, UNHCR engages teens and youth in arts and culture for protection initiatives, to provide them an outlet to express their stories, fears and dreams for the future, including Cámaras a Camaradas initiative.

Access to rights: Education and Health

- UNHCR and partners work to reduce barriers to access education for people forced to flee through advocacy and *Respiramos Inclusión* methodology that tackle discrimination and xenophobia.
- UNHCR advocates for the effective access of refugees to health and programmes, as well as mental health. UNHCR and partners have provided 7,994 people with mental health and psychosocial support, by the end of July 2024.

Responding to needs: Cash-Based Interventions, Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR provides support to refugees and other displaced people through cash grants to meet the most basic protection needs. So far in 2024, UNHCR has delivered cash support to 11,468 people.
- Shelters throughout the country continue to receive people in human mobility and to provide assistance. 20,017 people were able to access shelter services, safe, dignified, adequate housing and to community spaces so far in 2024.

Durable solutions, integration and self-reliance

- UNHCR is engaging with the ministries of Human Rights, Sports and Education to put forward nation-wide initiatives to protect refugees and their host communities through their respective lines of action.
- Ecuador participated in the Global Refugee Forum held in Geneva in December 2023, with pledges ranging from improving access to the refugee status determination procedure and child protection measures, to sports for protection initiatives and the commitment from the private sector to continue pursuing refugee inclusion. [Read more.](#)
- UNHCR continued promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of people forced to flee in Ecuador, including for entrepreneurs and job placement. To date, 1,251 people had been linked to employment opportunities.
- To promote integration and peaceful coexistence, [UNHCR launched Un Mundo Posible](#), an initiative to bring together refugees and locals in exploring ways to create a world where everyone can thrive.
- UNHCR works with international financial institutions to put forward the humanitarian-development nexus in support of refugees and their hosts. This includes conducting joint advocacy. [Learn more here.](#)
- The Safe Mobility Office (SMO) initiative continues to be implemented in the country, providing eligible refugees and migrants with safe and regular pathways to the U.S. Information about the programme is being disseminated on the social media to prevent fraud against applicants.
- UNHCR continues to support refugees with resettlement as a protection and durable solution tool in Ecuador where the projected need stands at 12,840 people. By the end of August, UNHCR in Ecuador has submitted 8,138 individuals to resettlement countries, and 2,163 people have departed to their new homes, including those awaiting travel since 2023.

WITH THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Special thanks to donors who contributed earmarked and flexible funds to UNHCR globally and in Ecuador:

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UNHCR is also thankful to private donors

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