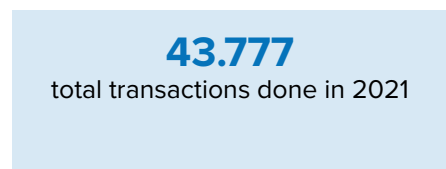
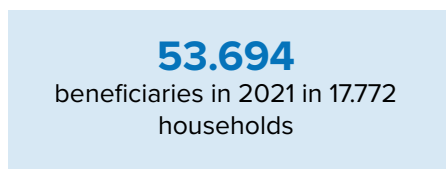




UNHCR Ecuador
Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)
2021

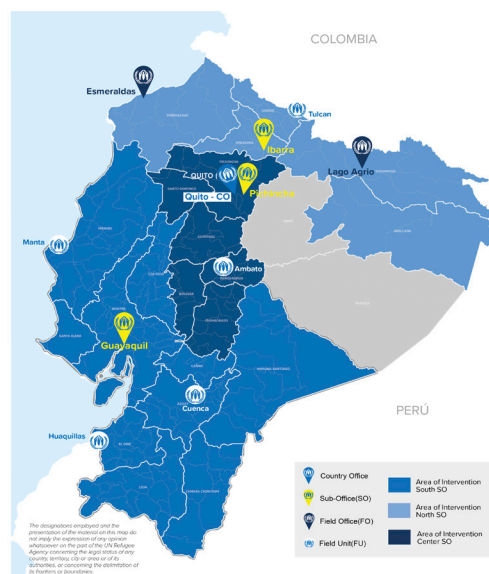
Key figures:



Situational Highlights

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Ecuador face significant challenges to meet their basic needs, thus heightening protection risks. High levels of poverty and unemployment, lack of access to shelter and sufficient food, and the inability to access public services, mainly in relation to lacking a regular status, have significantly deteriorated the living conditions of refugees and asylum-seekers in the country. Without an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, both refugees and locals have seen their livelihoods affected, unable to provide for themselves in a regular manner.

In this context, UNHCR’s multipurpose cash assistance plays a life-saving role in addressing the urgent humanitarian and protection needs of refugees as well as decreasing the risk for families to resort to negative coping mechanisms. It also allows people to regain a sense of control over their lives, recognizing their ability to choose and prioritize their needs according to their situation, while contributing to the local economy.

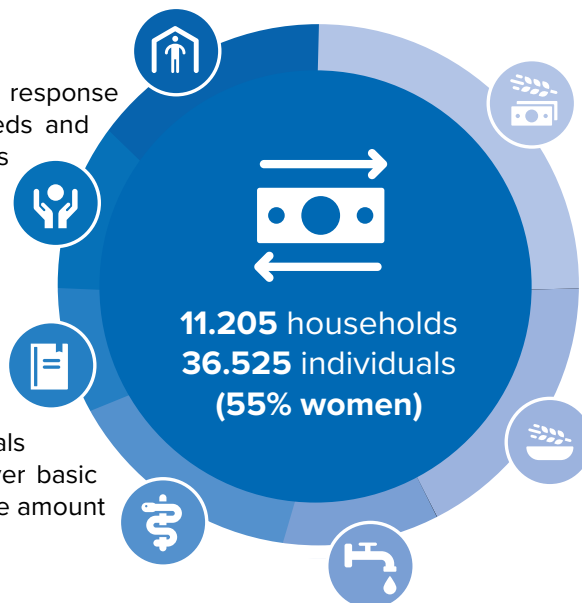


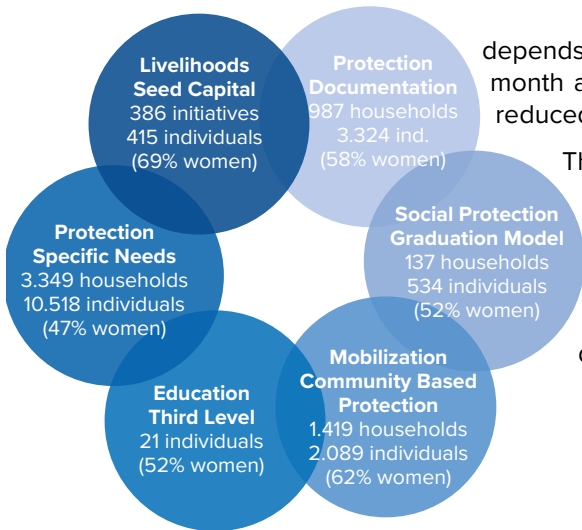
UNHCR’s response

In 2021, CBI response was implemented in six different programmatic response areas, which included multipurpose cash grants (MPG) to cover basic needs and complementary sectorial responses. Depending on the area, different modalities were implemented to ensure efficiency, including card-less ATM codes, bank transfers and cash in hand. A total of 53,694 individuals benefitted from cash transfers in 2021.

Multipurpose cash grants and Complementary sectorial cash

The main response was provided through multipurpose cash grants (MPG), provided for three consecutive months, to the most vulnerable individuals who were targeted using a specific combined protection and socio-economic scorecard. A total of 11,205 households – comprising of 36,525 individuals – benefitted from this assistance that acts as a minimum safety net to cover basic needs like rent, food, health expenses and communication, among others. The amount





depends on family size and ranges between 80\$ and 160\$ each month with a three-month average of 460\$. The MPG is provided through ATM card-less codes which reduced the risks of contact during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The provision of MPG was part of a comprehensive protection response for 292 households (980 individuals, 57% women) where cash also contributed to the school enrollment and/or reduce school drop-outs. During 2021, the use of cash has been progressively incorporated as complementary tool to respond to sectorial needs, including the response to specific protection needs, access to different levels of education, sustainable livelihoods, documentation and community-based interventions.

Good practice: UNCCS

Thanks to the United Nations Common Cash Statement (UNCCS), currently being piloted in Ecuador, UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF have worked together to improve their assistance schemes for refugees and migrants in the country. Through the UNCCS, families only go through a single interview and registration process (ProGres V4), where a partner from the three agencies will make a single assessment for complementary assistance. With this mechanism there is no duplication, reduction of revictimization and a more efficient follow-up of the assistance. In addition, in order to promote a collaborative approach to the harmonization of cash transfer programmes, a shared complementary response plan allows the three agencies to increase the impact of the intervention with more sustainable and articulated cash response. [Find out more](#) about this initiative.



Some Post Distribution Monitoring Data (PDM)

As per UNHCR's Post Distribution Monitoring conducted in 2021, the cash assistance had tangible positive outcomes on the wellbeing of recipients. 92% of households interviewed indicated that their living conditions improved significantly or moderately, and 87% indicated significantly or moderately reduced feelings of stress. People who

benefitted spent the cash support mainly in rent payment (86%), food (72%), hygiene items (34%), basic services (32%) and health (31%), thus demonstrating the vital role of multipurpose cash grants. In addition, 80.4% prefers the cash modality over in-kind assistance or vouchers.

UNHCR Ecuador is grateful for the critical and generous support provided by donors who contributed with earmarked and unearmarked funding in 2021.

For more information on funding, please visit reporting.unhcr.org/ecuador



UNHCR Ecuador is also grateful for the support from private donors, including Australia, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea, Japan, Spain, Swedish Postcode Lottery and USA.