

**UNHCR Ecuador**

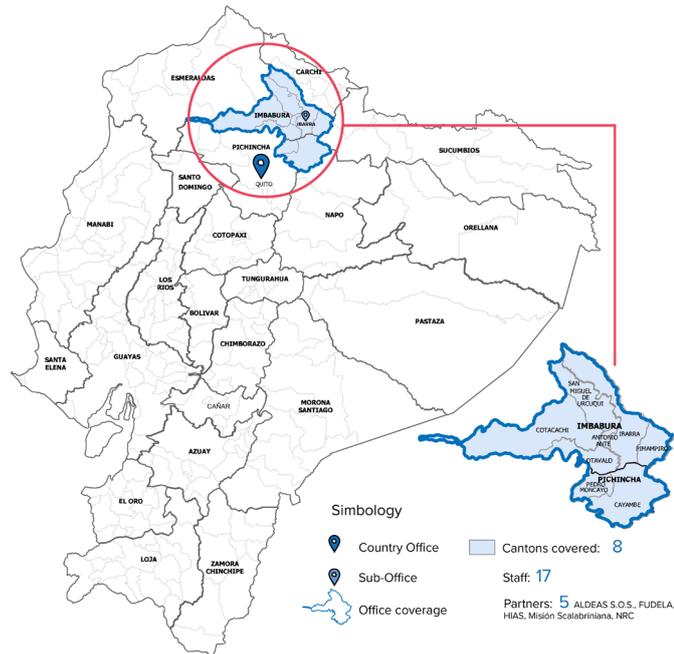
**Ibarra**  
**October 2023**



**Operational context**

UNHCR opened the Ibarra Field Office in 2000, covering Imbabura Province, as well as two cantons in Pichincha Province: Cayambe and Pedro Moncayo. Strategically located half-way between the Colombian border and Quito, Imbabura has a long tradition of welcoming refugees and asylum-seekers. Most Venezuelans and Colombians seeking safety in Ecuador cross Imbabura along the Panamerican Highway. While Imbabura is transit hub, there is also a significant number of forcibly displaced people who have chosen to locally integrate in Imbabura due to the opportunities to work in agriculture, textiles, and tourism sectors.

Despite the long history of hosting refugees, Imbabura faces high levels of xenophobia and discrimination in some communities. In recent years there has been forced evictions of Venezuelans, and public protests against Venezuelans and service providers in various cities in Imbabura. Peaceful coexistence remains an on-going priority for all actors. Furthermore, UNHCR continues to work on improving reception conditions, access to humanitarian assistance, education, health services, and livelihoods to promote local integration as a durable solution.



**Key figures:**

**Recognized refugees in Imbabura Province**

**4,645** Colombians  
**135** Venezuelans  
**22** Others

*\*Historical figure until 30 September 2023*

So far this year (Jan. - Sept. 2023)

**285** Colombians  
**26** Venezuelans  
**4** Other

**Forcibly displaced people registered by HIAS, NRC or UNHCR**

**4,995** Colombians  
**22,700** Venezuelans  
**1,469** Other

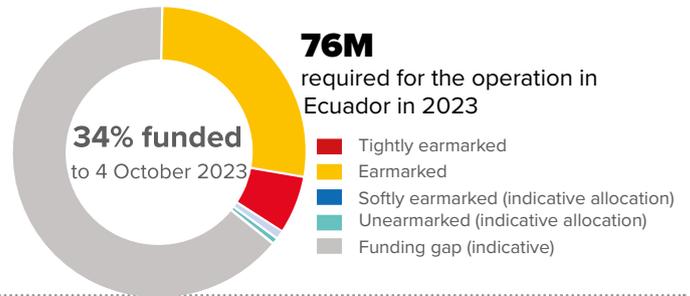
So far this year (Jan. - Sept. 2023)

**749** Colombians  
**1,671** Venezuelans  
**109** Other

**1,128** asylum claims of Venezuelans and Colombians were admitted for processing, 5% (55 cases) in Imbabura.  
*Between January and September 2023*

So far in 2023 UNHCR and partners delivered:

**115** Hygiene kits  
**2,654** Cash transfers



UNHCR Ecuador is grateful for the critical and generous support provided by donors who contributed with earmarked and unearmarked funding so far in 2023.



For more information on funding, please visit [reporting.unhcr.org/ecuador](https://reporting.unhcr.org/ecuador)



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

## Working with partners

UNHCR's Ibarra Field Office develops protection programmes and durable solutions directly and through its implementing partners in accordance with UNHCR Ecuador's Multi-Year Strategy and Global Protection Priorities, and the Regional Response Platform for the Venezuelan population, which it co-leads with IOM. UNHCR works with five partners: HIAS, FUDELA, Mision Scalabriniana, NRC, and SOS Children's Villages, and also provides technical and capacity-building support to the Ombudsman's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Directorate of International Protection and the Cantonal Boards for the Protection of Rights.

### Key activities



#### Protection

UNHCR and partners conducted the following activities in 2023:

- Advocacy with government entities and the private sector for access to services, local integration and exercise of human rights, prevention of evictions and social inclusion.
- Registration with biometrics, case management/provision of protection information and guidance on access to asylum, migration alternatives, access to services and humanitarian assistance programmes.
- Strengthening the refugee status determination process with authorities.
- Prevention and response to survivors of gender-based violence, and provision of a comprehensive response for unaccompanied children and adolescents.
- Capacity-building and technical support for legal advice and representation of refugees and asylum-seekers through the Ombudsman's Office and the Public Defender's Office of Ecuador and the Cantonal Systems for the Protection of Rights (SCPD).
- Support for the Municipal dining hall, the Salesians dining hall and Cristo Peregrino Shelter.



#### Livelihoods and economic inclusion

UNHCR and partners conducted the following activities in 2023:

- Coordination with municipal and provincial authorities and the private sector for livelihood activities with an emphasis on sustainability and resilience to the impact of climate change.
- Livelihood and socioeconomic inclusion projects with HIAS, FUDELA and the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion targeting people with vulnerabilities from Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela, with an emphasis on youth.
- Awareness-raising events with private actors and host communities for labor recruitment and inclusion.
- Coordination with academic institutions in technical vocational training and entrepreneurship innovation processes, with emphasis on the green and circular economy, textile, gastronomy, and agricultural sectors.
- Livelihood activities are closely linked to peaceful co-existence, recognizing that Venezuelans, Colombians, and Ecuadorians working together fosters a sense of belonging and acceptance.



#### Durable Solutions

UNHCR and partners conducted the following activities in 2023:

- Fight against xenophobia and discrimination, together with civil society organizations and public institutions, through information campaigns to promote solidarity and coexistence.
- Improving both access to education and integration, and supporting the initiatives of the Ministry of Education, through the "Respiramos Inclusión" methodology.



#### Coordination

- Co-leader with IOM in the Working Group for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM).
- Support to the Human Mobility Roundtable of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility. Binational coordination with counterparts of the United Nations system (Ecuador-Colombia).