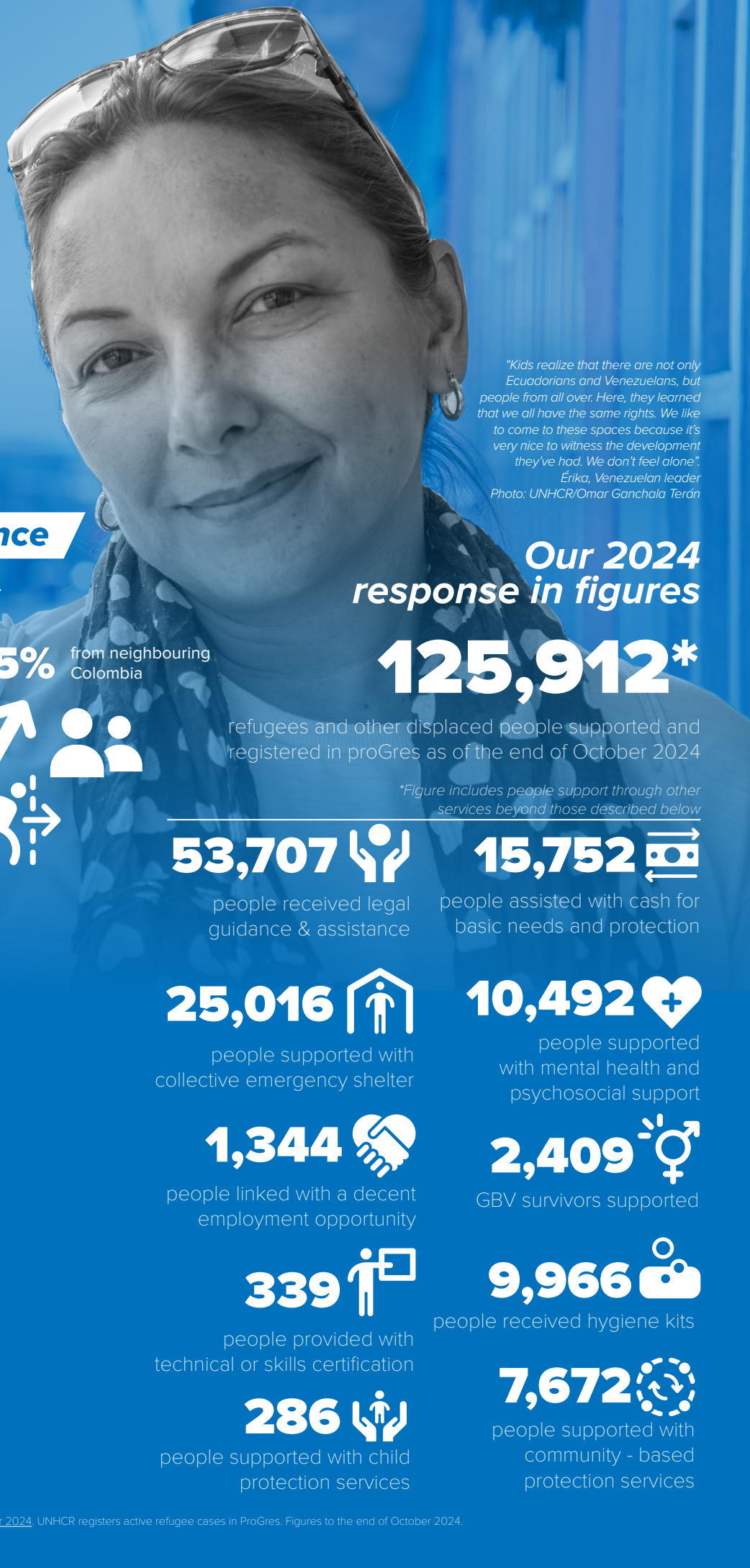


Ecuador

Operational Update

N.10 | October 2024



"Kids realize that there are not only Ecuadorians and Venezuelans, but people from all over. Here, they learned that we all have the same rights. We like to come to these spaces because it's very nice to witness the development they've had. We don't feel alone".
Erika, Venezuelan leader
Photo: UNHCR/Omar Ganchala Terán

Figures at a glance

Population figures

78,385 **95%** from neighbouring Colombia

Historical figure of refugees recognized by Ecuador¹

65,365

refugees with active cases registered in ProGRES¹



Our 2024 response in figures

125,912*

refugees and other displaced people supported and registered in proGRES as of the end of October 2024

**Figure includes people support through other services beyond those described below*

53,707

people received legal guidance & assistance

15,752

people assisted with cash for basic needs and protection

25,016

people supported with collective emergency shelter

10,492

people supported with mental health and psychosocial support

1,344

people linked with a decent employment opportunity

2,409

GBV survivors supported

339

people provided with technical or skills certification

9,966

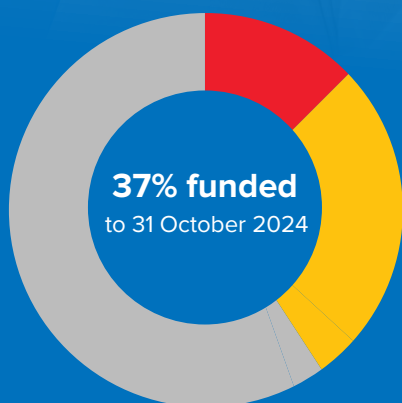
people received hygiene kits

286

people supported with child protection services

7,672

people supported with community - based protection services



73.3M
required in 2024

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

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

¹ Historical figure registered by the government to the end of October 2024. UNHCR registers active refugee cases in ProGRES. Figures to the end of October 2024.

Operational context

In October 2024, Ecuador continued to bear witness to forced displacements to and through the country, particularly in regions along the northern border and urban centers. According to Government figures, by the end of October over 5,991 Colombians had sought asylum – the highest number since 2017.

6,246 Venezuelans sought asylum between January and October 2024. This sustained increase in applications comes amid the results of the July 2024 elections, in which a large number of people, who expected a different outcome, decided to leave the country and seek protection. Thus, the government reports an estimated 2,120 entries and 2,904 exits during the reporting period.

The regularization process continue in the country. The UN Human Rights Committee recognized the measures adopted by Ecuador to address the migratory flow at the northern border, as well as the implementation of the extraordinary regularization process for Venezuelans.

On October 3, President Daniel Noboa declared a 60-day state of emergency in several provinces, including Guayas,

Los Ríos, Manabí, Orellana, Santa Elena, El Oro, and parts of Pichincha and Azuay. This measure was taken in response to the rising violence and the presence of organized criminal groups. The state of emergency includes curfews and restrictions on movement and assembly.

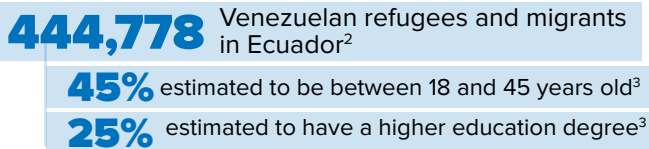
Ecuador has been experiencing a severe drought, the worst in 60 years, which has drastically reduced water levels in hydroelectric dams. As a result, the government imposed daily power cuts of up to 14 hours. This has significantly impacted daily life and economic activities across the country, uncluding UNHCR’s activities. Some appointments for RSD and documentation were rearranged due to the power cuts that prevent the use of computers and systems to adress the needs of the population.

In October, UNHCR continued to work with local and national authorities, civil society, partners, the private sector and development actors, among other stakeholders, to help build a world of possibilities where all people feel safe, included and prosperous.

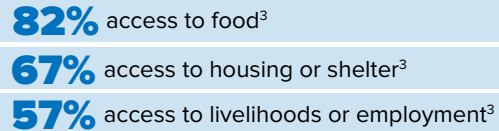
Main populations forced to flee hosted by Ecuador and others of concern

Venezuelans

Venezuelans continue to lead in numbers of arrivals in Ecuador. 21,895 people entered Ecuador in October 2024 (similar figure to previous month 21,535), with a daily entry average of 730 Venezuelans, compared to exit figures registering 21,021 and 701 daily exits on average. Over the past two months, the numbers of entries and exits have remained relatively stable and similar.

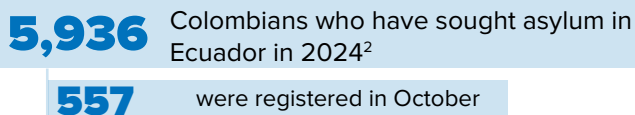


Main needs

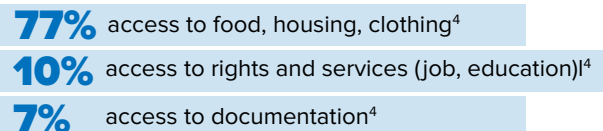


Colombians

According to Government data, 5,936 Colombians have sought asylum so far in 2024, 557 in October, a 19% increase as compared to the same month in 2023. In 2024, the number of asylum claims made by Colombians has already surpassed the number registered in 2022 (4,269) and in 2023 (5,245). With an average of 593 new asylum claims per month this year (with the highest numbers surpassing 883), UNHCR foresees the total number of asylum-seekers will be the highest on record since 2017.



Main needs of Colombians in Ecuador



Ecuadorians

The number of Ecuadorians on the run has increased in the past years, with over 100.000 having crossed the Darien jungle between 2022 and October 2024 and remaining among the top three nationalities to have crossed, behind Venezuelans and Colombians. [By end of October 2024](#), 15,811 Ecuadorians had used this route. Over 92,000 Ecuadorians had arrived irregularly to Mexico at [the end of August 2024](#). Moreover, 66,000 Ecuadorian asylum-seekers were pending a decision on their claims by end of 2023.

² According to data estimated by the Refugee and Migrant Working Group (GTRM, by its acronym in Spanish). The GTRM is assessing a new methodology with the Government to estimate the new stock figure. Figures of asylum claims from the Government.

³ Fifth R4V Joint Needs Assessment. www.r4v.info

⁴ 2023 Protection Monitoring Report available at <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/ecu>

SPECIAL FOCUS: REGULARIZATION PROCESS

The Registration and Regularization process has been key to enabling refugees and migrants to meet their needs and promote solutions as part of a broader strategy of protection and socioeconomic integration.

Between September 2022 and April 2024, the Ecuadorian Government undertook a registration and regularization process that benefited thousands of refugees and migrants of all nationalities with a Certificate of Migratory Permanence that regularized their stay in the territory until they could obtain a VIRTE visa.

By the end of April, 140,277 visa applications had been submitted, 95,809 visas had been granted, and 72,337 identity cards had been issued. More than 199,930 people had been granted a residence permit. Following the signing of Executive Decree Number 370 of August 23, 2024, which established an amnesty process for Venezuelans who are in an irregular situation in the country, the Ministry of Interior

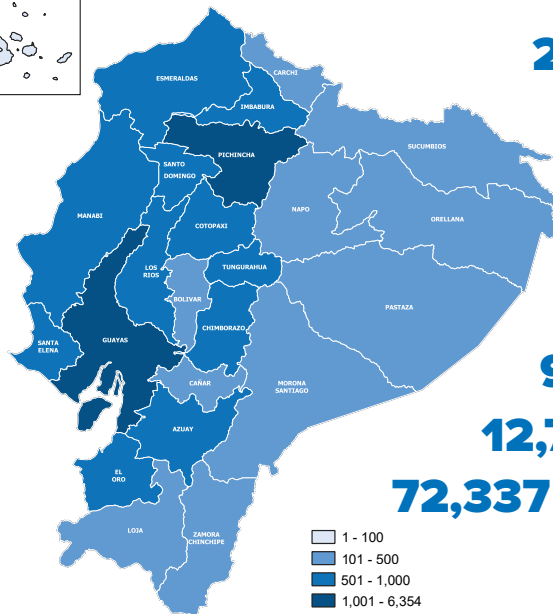
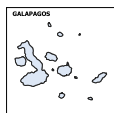
and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility issued ministerial agreements that give way to the processes for the renewal of the Certificate of Migratory Permanence and the renewal of the VIRTE visa respectively.

UNHCR, in collaboration with IOM, created informative content such as explanatory videos with community leaders on the processes of renewal of the Certificate of Migratory Permanence and renewal of the VIRTE visa, cards for social media with key information on each process. These materials have been disseminated on UNHCR's social media and shared with GTRM partners to reach the target population. In addition, through coordinated actions with the relevant parties in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and the Ministry of the Interior, information and answers to doubts and questions from the population are constantly validated.

UNHCR supports this new process thanks to PRM.

Province of residence per VIRTE visa applicant

Source MDI



- 259,084** people registered through the official website (source: MDI)
- 248,416** people with appointments for biometric registration (source: MDI)
- 199,930** people with a stay certificate (source: MDI)
- 140,277** VIRTE visa applications (source: MREMh)
- 95,809** people with VIRTE visa (source: MREMh)
- 12,768** pending appointments to issue ID (source: DIGERCIC)
- 72,337** people with ID (source: DIGERCIC)

CHECK OUT THE CONTENT



Si tu visa VIRTE está próxima a cumplir dos años de vigencia, esta es tu oportunidad para renovarla y mantener tu estatus migratorio regular en Ecuador.

Conoce cuáles son los requisitos que debes cumplir para poder avanzar con tu proceso.

#RenuevaTuVirt #VIRTEII
Translate post



¿Tienes dudas sobre los valores a pagar durante el proceso de renovación de tu visa VIRTE?

Aquí te contamos qué pagos debes realizar y cuáles son las exoneraciones que se aplicarán.

#RenuevaTuVisa #VIRTEII
Translate post

DELIVERING PROTECTION

QUITO

Boosting support for displaced communities in Quito



UNHCR and the Municipality of Quito signed a Letter of Understanding that will allow both institutions to strengthen the response to refugees and other forcibly displaced people, as well as locals. Together with the Municipality of Quito, UNHCR will generate actions so that people can exercise their rights through the implementation of development projects, livelihoods, and other opportunities that promote their integration. UNHCR’s work in Quito is possible thanks to the contributions of all UNHCR donors

MACHALA

UNHCR and partners trained students and professionals in protection



UNHCR and the Universidad Técnica de Machala trained Law students on topics of international protection, response to gender-based violence, child protection, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. In a second phase, students who are part of the legal clinics participated in another cycle of training with the Constitutional Court. Teachers of University, staff from the Public Defender and Ombudsman’s Offices, and the legal area of UNHCR’s partner Movimiento de Mujeres de El Oro also joined. Around 100 people participated in these trainings. Institutions agreed to work together to provide information and guidance to people with international protection needs. These trainings are made possible thanks to the contributions of donors such as Canada, European Union, Aecid, and PRM

MANTA

Transforming attitudes to prevent gender-based violence



In a collaborative effort to eradicate gender-based violence, UNHCR, in partnership with PRM’s Safe From The Start initiative and the local organization Redes con Rostro, launched an innovative prevention programme. This initiative features a series of ‘talking circles,’ creating spaces where men can reflect on their roles, attitudes, and behaviors related to gender-based violence. These sessions facilitate open and honest dialogue, allowing participants to question their own beliefs, gain new perspectives, and develop skills to foster safe and respectful relationships.

PROMOTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

GUAYAQUIL

People exercise their right to access health services

More than 50 people, including children and adolescents from La Chala community, participated in a health brigade. Health personnel conducted first-line diagnostics, measuring temperature, blood pressure, and auscultation for forcibly displaced people, and locals. First-line medication was also provided, including paracetamol, ibuprofen, and cough syrups. People were also able to access dental services, including basic prophylaxis. This brigade took place with the support of UNHCR, HIAS, the Health Directorate, and the Cantonal Rights Board. UNHCR thanks all its donors for their contributions, which make this response possible.



MANABI

UNHCR delivered infrastructure improvement works and equipment to shelters

Infrastructure improvements and equipment were delivered to support communities in Manabi. El Palmar Community Development Center, the Belen Shelter, and two houses of Santa Martha Foundation benefited from interventions in the infrastructure, readjustments of common areas, and construction of facilities like roofs and classrooms. Through these actions, UNHCR promotes a better response for gender-based violence survivors and guarantees spaces for forcibly displaced people and Ecuadorians to exercise their rights in adequate environments.



PROMOTING SOCIOECONOMIC INCLUSION

NATIONAL

UNHCR awarded the Inclusive Company Seal to 102 Ecuadorian companies for their commitment to inclusion



UNHCR recognized 102 companies in Ecuador with the Inclusive Company Seal. For the third consecutive year, the award highlights the efforts of the private sector to integrate refugees and migrants. The evaluation committee, composed of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Embassy of Canada in Ecuador, and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), evaluated 122 applications, of which 102 received the award. 68 organizations received this recognition for the first time and 34 renewed their commitment. The recognized companies and chambers of commerce will have access to technical advice on socio-economic inclusion issues, practical hiring guides, product and service catalogs, among other benefits. UNHCR thanks the contributions of Canada, Japan, Spain, and the United States, which make this initiative possible.

[Read more](#)

CUENCA

16 people completed their training as pharmaceutical point-of-sale assistants



13 Venezuelans, 2 Ecuadorians, and 1 Colombian completed the dual training programme for pharmaceutical point-of-sale assistants. For 3 months, participants attended theoretical and practical classes to learn new skills and abilities that would improve their chances of finding employment in the pharmaceutical sector. The theoretical training was conducted virtually with a total of 101 hours, while the practical part lasted 240 hours.

AMBATO

42 entrepreneurs learned about finance, marketing, and administration



42 forcibly displaced and local entrepreneurs participated in a training as part of the continuous entrepreneurship school. They received workshops on finance, marketing, regulations for entrepreneurs, and legal advice. The Ministry of Production provided also trainings focused on the Ecuadorian quality system. People also held a talk with Administration students to exchange experiences and generate new initiatives and projects in the medium and long term.

PROMOTING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

HUACA

Health Center Staff was trained to promote discrimination-free spaces



UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, conducted a series of inclusion and non-discrimination workshops for 14 staff members of the Huaca Health Center. Attendees are part of the frontline medical personnel who care for Ecuadorian citizens, refugees, and other forcibly displaced people, including the population traveling along the E-35 route. With the help of these trainings, the health personnel now have the tools to provide quality, inclusive, and discrimination-free medical services.

HUAQUILLAS

Four neighbourhoods now have sports spaces that promote inclusion



UNHCR with the support of PRM, and the Huaquillas Cantonal Sports League, developed activities to bring sports and recreational spaces closer to the communities. Thanks to this joint effort, the areas of Manuel Aguirre, Unión Lojana, Martha Bucaram, and El Bosque, which have a high presence of refugees and where violence has increased, now have sports spaces where mainly children and adolescents participate. Karate is one of the sports with the highest participation, as it is a discipline where people learn to manage their emotions and defend themselves. UNHCR thanks to the United States for encouraging sports practice in the communities

Stories from the field

Érika and her daughter attend every week to the Leadership Schools in Juan Montalvo, where they learn about rights, diversity and inclusion.

Photo: UNHCR/Omar Ganchala Terán

Leadership Schools promote rights and contribute to build more inclusive and resilient communities

GUAYAQUIL

Six and a half years ago, Érika Molina and her daughter Bárbara arrived from Venezuela to Ecuador. Juan Montalvo, in Guayaquil, was the neighbourhood that welcomed them and where they decided to rebuild their home and lives. Erika is a psychopedagogue by profession. Precisely because of her experience in this area of Psychology, she values the work of the Leadership Schools directly implemented by UNHCR with the support of the Sin Límites Foundation in the community.

The Leadership Schools are a weekly space where children, adolescents, and their parents learn about culture, diversity, and rights. “Here, the kids realize that there are not only Ecuadorians and Venezuelans, but people from all over. Here they are taught that we all have the same rights. For example, there are also young people and Colombian families. We like to come to these spaces because it’s very

nice to witness the development they’ve had. We don’t feel alone,” says Érika.

The Leadership Schools promote community integration and respect. There, children and their families can talk about rights, protection routes, and also about how to prevent bullying. For Erika and other mothers who attend the schools, these spaces are very important because sometimes it’s here when children and adolescents externalize some of their problems that are difficult for them to talk about at home.

“We take advantage of the things they say in the leadership schools to be able to bring them up again at home and help them. These spaces are not only for people in human mobility but also for the entire community. Thus, together, we can move forward and open other spaces, without losing our community essence,” comments Érika.

You can help us continue building a World of Possibilities to promote community leaderships in Ecuador. [Donate now.](#)

We thank the contributions of our donors

31 October 2024

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



UNHCR Ecuador is grateful for the support from private donors, including those in Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Spain and Sweden.

For more information: Diana Diaz Rodriguez, External Relations Officer diazdi@unhcr.org | For media queries: ecuqumedia@unhcr.org

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