FACT SHEET

Ecuador

December 2023

Over 75,800** **refugees** and 8,900 asylum-seekers are currently registered in Ecuador as of end of September. 95% of them come from **Colombia**.

Ecuador hosts 474,945 Venezuelan refugees and migrants, **the fourth 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 **thrive in Ecuador**, not only survive.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

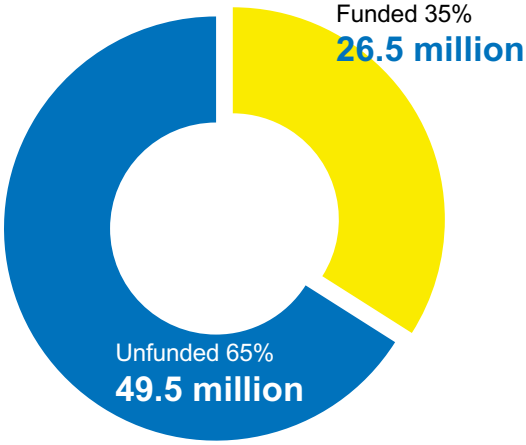
Profile

*Source: UNHCR Ecuador National Trends

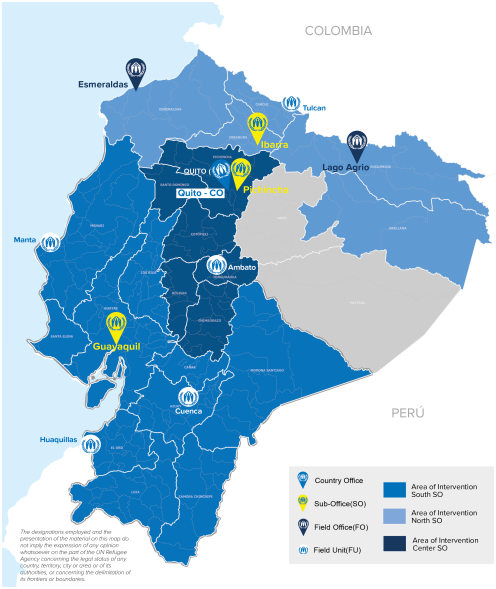
FUNDING (AS OF 15 DECEMBER 2023)

USD 76 million

requested for the Ecuador operation



UNHCR PRESENCE



UNHCR and AÉROPOSTALE launched announced the winners of the art contest and printed the three designs on t-shirts sold nationally in support of refugees. You can buy your t-shirt here.

Working with Partners

UNHCR has one country office and three suboffices covering north, south, and central Ecuador. The UN Refugee Agency works with over 19 partners, with 22 partnership agreements, and supports 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 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 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. UNHCR and partners supported 54,569 refugees and others displaced with access to free and quality legal services (including orientation and representation) so far in 2023. UNHCR continues supporting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in conducting registration and documentation brigades to remote areas to ensure access to procedures, and together with partners, helped thousands of refugees and migrants to register for the regularization process.
- UNHCR and partners continue providing support to the regularization process with counselling and guidance, communications with communities, cash for documentation, as well as brigades to support registration and any other related procedure. So far in 2023, 89,661 people have been supported in the process. UNHCR is also supporting with key technical staff withing Government to strengthen the process.
- The second phase of the Safe Mobility Programme (SMO) began with the opening of online applications through the website www.movilidadsegura.org. UNHCR and IOM staff are working on case management to schedule interviews for eligible applicants. Information about the programme is being disseminated on the social media to prevent fraud against applicants.

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.
- Refugees and locals work together to fight against the effects of climate change while contributing to preserving the environment, including through recycling, clean ups and other circular economy initiatives that help boost livelihoods among community members. Check out our climate action strategy.

Access to rights: Education and Health

- UNHCR and partners work to reduce barriers to access the education system for people forced to flee through advocacy and specialized initiatives that tackle discrimination and xenophobia. Through education interventions, UNHCR has delivered 2,654 educational kits to children or all ages as well as cash for education to promote their permanence in school.
- UNHCR advocates for the effective access of refugees to health and programmes, as well as mental health. UNHCR and partners have provided 16,448 people with mental health and psychosocial support, by the end of November 2023.

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 2023, UNHCR has delivered cash support to 21,743 people.
- Shelters throughout the country continue to receive people in human mobility and to provide assistance. 12,804 people were able to access shelter services, safe, dignified, adequate housing and to community spaces so far in 2023.

Durable solutions, integration and self-reliance

- 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 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.

WITH THANKS TO OUR DONORS

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