

The GTRM and the RMRP in Ecuador

Questions and Answers

1. What is the GTRM (Working Group on Refugees and Migrants)?

On 12 April 2018, during a meeting of the Executive Committee, the UN Secretary-General tasked UNHCR and IOM to co-lead and coordinate the operational response to the Venezuela situation. Following this decision, an inclusive, overarching Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform was established to steer the operational response to the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Latin America and in the Caribbean.¹

On a national level in Ecuador, the Platform operates as the *Grupo de Trabajo sobre Personas Refugiadas y Migrantes* (hereinafter "GTRM"). The main objective of the GTRM is to provide a platform for the coordination of the activities of various organizations, in support of the Government's response to the Venezuelan situation and is comprised of United Nations agencies, various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as well as other international and regional organizations.

2. What is the RPRM (Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants)?

The Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants (RPRM) is an initiative coordinated by the Regional Coordination Platform to support and complement the efforts of the national governments in Latin America and in the Caribbean.

The Response plan has a one-year duration (January-December 2019) and aims to provide the following:

- A strategy to address the needs of 2.2 million refugees and migrants in 16 countries;
- An operational response to benefit refugees and migrants but also host communities;
- A coordination mechanism to ensure synergies between partners;
- A tool to support resource mobilization;
- A comprehensive vision of the needs and the response.

The RPRM focuses on four key areas of intervention: 1) direct emergency assistance; 2) protection; 3) socio-economic and cultural integration and 4) capacity building and support to host governments.

The RPRM includes a specific chapter describing the response strategy and needs in Ecuador. The budget required for the response in Ecuador amounts to 117.3 million US dollars², with 52% dedicated to the emergency response; 11% to the protection response; 24% to socio-economic and cultural integration and 13% to the support to the host government.³

¹ For more information on regional coordination, see www.r4v.info

² 117,288,607 USD

More information and highlights of the Ecuador chapter can be found in the information sheet prepared by the GTRM (in English and Spanish) and in the Regional Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants.

3. How has the RPRM been developed in Ecuador?

An inclusive consultation process was carried out with several workshops and coordination meetings. With regard to the development of the response plan and the related reporting framework, the following aspects were discussed and agreed upon:

9 October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The needs of the persons of concern were identified and specific objectives and indicators of the Ecuador chapter were developed.
16 October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning figures (persons of concern) were validated; the objectives / indicators were reviewed according to each area of intervention; a list of activities were developed by objective; the KOBO-tool was introduced.
By 22 October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The partners shared their inputs with the KOBO-tool, based on the guidance provided by the coordination team. The inputs were integrated into the response plan.
25 October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inputs of the partners provided through the KOBO-tool, the budget required and the target population of each intervention and objective were presented and validated.
26 October – 1 November 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The partners shared their inputs for the narrative chapter on Ecuador
7 November 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The list of activities was finalised the indicators for the RPRM framework were developed (at the level of the objectives). The highlights of the regional and national plan were presented to the partners.
7-8 November 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft narrative chapter on Ecuador was reviewed by the partners
16 November 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The highlights of the regional and national plan were presented to the members of the UNCT

4. Who is part of the RPRM in Ecuador?

A total of 24 partners took part in the development of the RPRM in Ecuador.

- 11 United Nations agencies, including: ILO; IOM; OCHA; UNDP; UNESCO; UNFPA; UNHCR; UNICEF; UN Women; WFP and WHO/PAHO.
- 13 NGOs, including: ADRA; CARE; Red Cross Ecuador; CSMM-PIDHDD; Diálogo Diverso; FUDELA; HIAS; JRS Ecuador; Misión Scalabriniana; NRC; Plan International; RET and World Vision.

5. How is the operational coordination of the RPRM in Ecuador structured?

To attain its coordination objectives, the GTRM relies on an operational coordination structure composed of several technical working groups, reflecting the structure of the response plan.

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The areas covered by various working groups include food security, health/nutrition, shelter/WASH/NFIs, protection (with gender-based violence and child protection sub-groups) and socio-economic integration (with education and livelihoods sub-groups). The communication component is addressed transversally through an existing coordination mechanism. Cash-based interventions and information management are similarly addressed transversally through the establishment of specialized technical working groups.

To the extent possible, each working group will be co-led by a United Nations agency and an NGO.

6. How are the RPRM and the response by the Ecuadorian government articulated?

The Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean have made numerous efforts to provide protection to Venezuelan refugees and migrants throughout the region. However, the magnitude of the exodus requires these efforts to be supported and complemented.

At the regional level, the RPRM seeks to support and complement the response of the Governments of the region, as for example, through the Quito process. The RPRM activities respond to emergency needs (Area 1 of the Plan), but also include medium or long term responses focusing on the integration of refugees and migrants (Area 3) and the strengthening of the recipient Government's capacities (Area 4).

The Ecuadorian authorities have responded to the Venezuela situation for example by increasing the amount of migration personnel at border points and through the installation of mobile health posts and additional health units. Additionally, a state of emergency was declared at the beginning of August 2018. However, the humanitarian needs of the Venezuelan population staying in Ecuador or transiting to Peru are increasing, requiring greater support from the international community.

The Government of Ecuador published [the International Cooperation Framework for the National Response to Venezuelan People on the Move in Ecuador](#) and presented it to the international community. The Ecuadorian chapter of the RPRM is aligned with, and complements the priority axes of this framework, which was published by the Ministry of External Relations and Human Mobility.

The GTRM aims to establish a communication structure at a strategic level with the appropriate State bodies, with the intention of identifying synergies, avoiding duplications and providing updates on the implementation of the plan. At a technical level, the working groups may also cooperate with local authorities and the technical bodies of the State.