

Ecuador

Monthly Update

N.9 | November 2022



Carlos and his family arrived to Ecuador not knowing para-karate would give him a new dream: making it to the Paralympics. Photo: UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Figures at a glance

Population figures

74,320 Historical figure of refugees recognized by Ecuador¹

59,379 refugees with active cases registered on UNHCR's database¹

96% from neighbouring Colombia

Our 2022 response in figures

373,407 people supported as of the end of November 2022

23,191 people assisted with cash for basic needs and protection

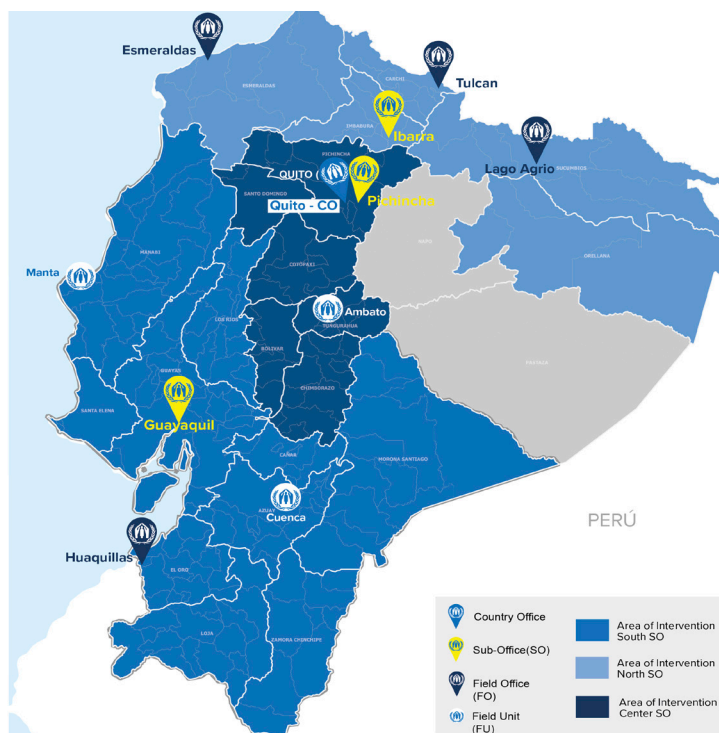
2,798 people provided with entrepreneurship or business training

77,091 people received legal guidance & assistance

7,058 GBV survivors supported

42,540 people received hygiene kits

18,006 people supported with emergency shelter



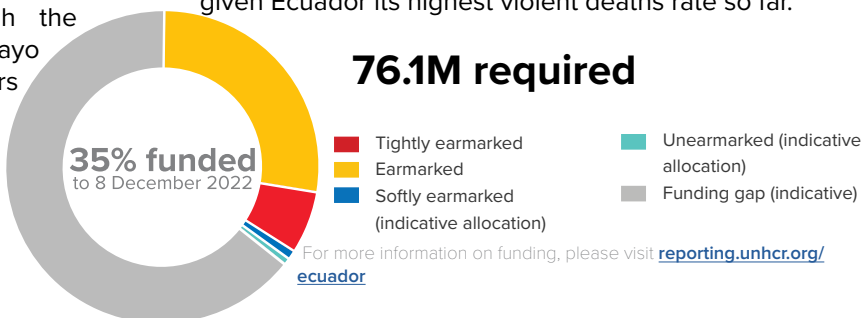
Operational context

The regularization process continues, with people of all nationalities who entered regularly to Ecuador registering and a significant number of Venezuelans applying for their visa (see page three for detailed updates).

People in need of international and other types of protection continue entering and/or transiting through the country. Colombians fleeing violence in Putumayo remain a concern, especially community leaders without specific networks in Ecuador.

Moreover, while the number of Venezuelans and Colombians on the move is at a steady rate, Ecuadorians moving northward is increasing, with many hoping to reach the United States.

Violence in some parts of the country continues with a series of attacks reported in Esmeraldas, Guayas and Santo Domingo provinces, all refugee-hosting locations. A state of exception and curfews were declared for these provinces in November as a result of this increasing violence which has given Ecuador its highest violent deaths rate so far.



¹ Historical figure registered by the government. UNHCR registers active refugee cases in ProGres to end of September 2022.

Main populations forced to flee hosted by Ecuador

Venezuelans



Venezuelans continue to lead in numbers of arrivals in Ecuador. 34,799 people entered Ecuador in November, with a daily entry average of 1,160 Venezuelans.

Key figures

502,200 Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Ecuador²

73% estimated to be in an irregular status³

42% estimated to be between 26 and 35 years old³

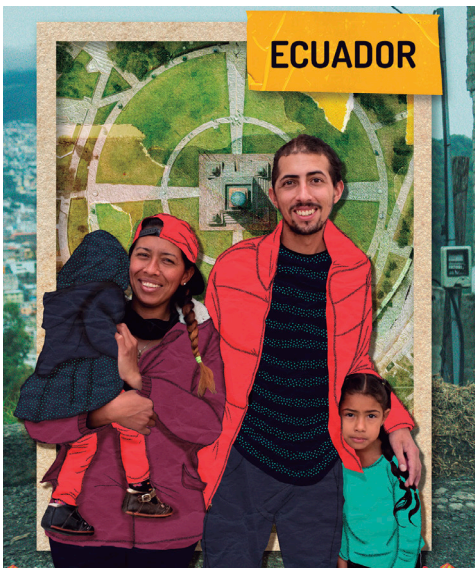
23% estimated to have a higher education degree⁴

Main needs

83% access to food³

64% access to housing or shelter³

53% access to livelihoods or employment³



See [UNHCR, IOM and partners appeal for US\\$1.72 billion for refugees and migrants from Venezuela](#)

The Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V), co-led by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), launched a regional plan to support the ongoing needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Within this plan, the R4V in Ecuador - GTRM - will convene 71 partners organization in 2023 to respond to the needs of over 519,000 refugees and migrants, requiring a budget of US\$300.92 million.

Colombians

3,980 Colombians were registered in need of international protection in 2022²

355 were registered in November

Main needs of Colombians in Ecuador

69% access to food, housing, clothing⁵

24% access to employment and services⁵

6% access to documentation⁵

The arrival of Colombians in need of international protection continues, with 3,980 so far in 2022. 355 Colombians sought asylum in the country in November fleeing renewed violence in some parts of their country of origin.

² According to data estimated by UNHCR and its partners within the Refugee and Migrant Working Group (GTRM, by its acronym in Spanish)

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

⁴ Third R4V Joint Needs Assessment. www.r4v.info

⁵ 2021 Protection Monitoring available at our [data portal](#)

SPECIAL FOCUS: REGULARIZATION PROCESS

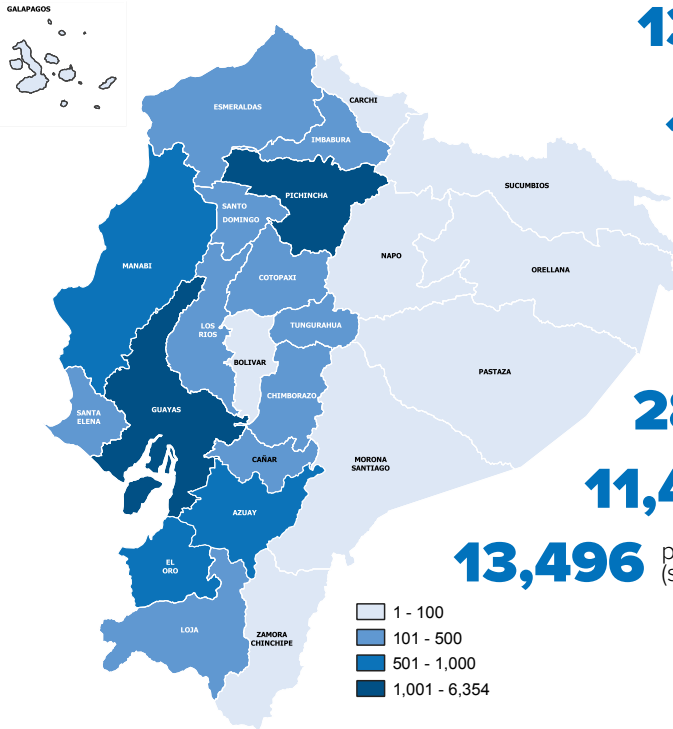
The first phase of registration, which began with Decree 436, is meant to register all Venezuelans and other foreigners as well as to regularize Venezuelans who entered regularly prior to the issuance of the Decree with a VIRTE visa. Registration is also divided in phases: first, Venezuelans who entered regularly beginning on 1 September 2022; second, people of all nationalities as of 16 November 2022; and third, all Venezuelans who entered irregularly beginning on 17 February 2023.

Regularization of Venezuelans who entered regularly began on 1 October, and over 41,000 visa applications had been lodged, over 28,000 visas had been granted and just over 13,000 IDs had been delivered by 16 December.

Registration continues, with over 130,000 people having appointments for their biometric registration and nearly 95,000 people who have a stay certificate, by 16 December 2022.

Province of residence per VIRTE visa applicant

Source MDI



134,590 people registered through the official website (source: MDI)

130,726 people with appointments for biometric registration (source: MDI)

95,624 people with a stay certificate (source: MDI)

41,182 VIRTE visa applications (source: MREMH)

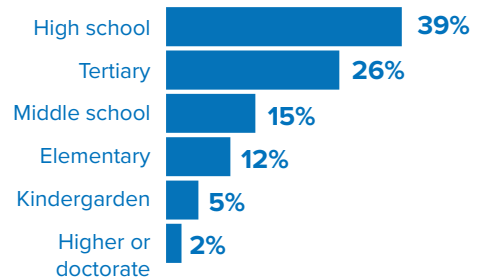
28,888 people with VIRTE visa (source: MREMH)

11,444 people with appointments to issue ID (source: DIGERCIC)

13,496 people with ID (source: DIGERCIC)

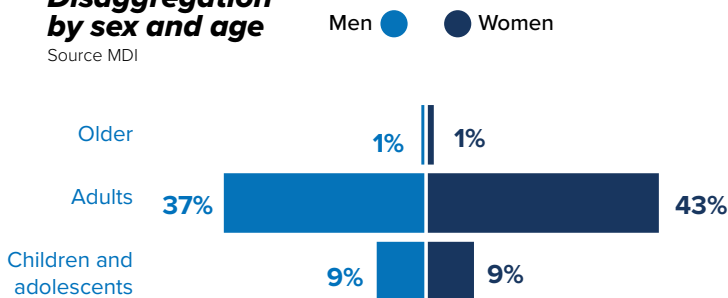
Last education level achieved

Source MDI



Disaggregation by sex and age

Source MDI



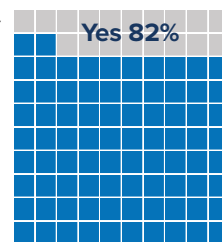
Support staff financed by UNHCR and IOM for the regularization process

Source MDI



Desire to stay

Do you wish to stay in Ecuador permanently (over two years)?
Source MDI



This infographic was created jointly by UNHCR and IOM, co-leads of the Interagency Working Group for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM) providing technical support to the government in carrying out the regularization process in Ecuador. This infographic was created with information provided by the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility to 16 December 2022.

DELIVERING PROTECTION

NATIONAL

Refugees, migrants and locals commemorate 16 days of activism



UNHCR and partners in Ecuador carried out more than 100 events around the country to commemorate the 16 days of activism to end violence against women. Parades, marches, workshops, film screenings and other activities took place to raise awareness and promote action. UNHCR and HIAS developed and launched a regional study about how gender-based violence affects women in human mobility, which is available at www.segurasenmovilidad.org.

Moreover, UNHCR has been strengthening a network of over 850 community leaders and defenders on legal and protection tools to respond to gender-based violence survivors. Finally, more than 2,000 printed products about gender-based violence were delivered at the national level.

MACHALA, EL ORO

UNHCR and Directorate for International Protection continue missions to reach refugees with registration services



In Machala, UNHCR coordinated and accompanied a documentation brigade led by DPIN, where 303 Colombian and Venezuelan asylum seekers were registered. The brigade was supported by UNHCR, HIAS, the Public Defender's Office and NRC, who assisted in registering identity documents and caring for children while their parents completed the paperwork. For the past months, UNHCR has been carrying out brigades to deliver protection to refugees and asylum seekers. More brigades will take place in other cities of the country during the next months.

PROMOTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

LAGO AGRIO

Children build organic crops to learn about food security

UNHCR and the Higher Technological Institute Crecermas (ISTEC) held the first workshop to promote a culture of healthy eating and environmental protection for 60 children from 5th and 6th grade studying at Las Americas school. This workshop is part of the innovation project which seeks to teach children about food security while raising awareness on preserving the river.

Students built their own organic crops while learning about the importance of eating organic food and recycling.



CARCHI & IMBABURA

62 health units have new equipment thanks to the support of UNHCR and KOICA

In Ibarra, UNHCR donated medical equipment to the Ministry of Public Health, including blood-glucose meters, stethoscopes, portable ultrasound machines, stretchers and Doppler machines and others in a supply of 290 items.

This donation will help 62 health units in the provinces of Imbabura and Carchi currently serving more than 16,000 people including refugees, migrants and locals. This donation is part of the project financed by KOICA in Ecuador.



PROMOTING SOCIOECONOMIC INCLUSION



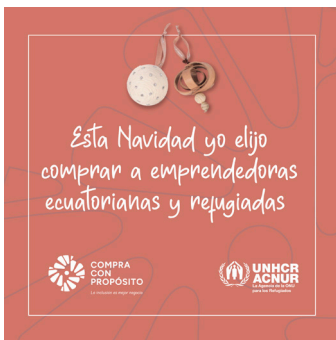
See [New IFC and UNHCR initiative to boost private sector engagement for refugees and their host communities](#)

The Joint Initiative will promote knowledge sharing to facilitate the engagement of private sector stakeholders in refugee-hosting areas. The initiative will tap into private sector expertise, financing, and innovation to improve the quality of life for those forcibly displaced and their hosts, through job creation, better and affordable services, financing infrastructure, and much-needed capital for small and medium enterprises.

In Ecuador, UNHCR is engaging international financial institutions to boost the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees while leveraging support from the private sector to facilitate a context conducive for local integration. [See more](#) about UNHCR's work with the private sector in Ecuador.

NATIONAL

UNHCR and refugee entrepreneurs launch Christmas Catalogue



Thinking about what to give this Christmas to your loved ones?

UNHCR and several refugee and migrant entrepreneur finalized a catalogue containing a wide range of products, from Christmas decorations to stuffed animals, cups and delicious jams.

This catalogue is part of the UN Compra con Propósito (Purchase with a Purpose) initiative, which will make these and any other products available in partner stores nation-wide soon.

Download the complete catalog and [place your order here](#).

CUENCA

UNHCR promotes labor inclusion of refugees and other displaced people



UNHCR finalized the hospitality workshop at Selina Hotel with the third group of this formative process. Since the project started, 11 people have finished the process and received international certification allowing them to be hired by Selina and other hotels in Ecuador and around the world. Following these trainings, one Venezuelan woman has been hired by Selina and other have been called for working on high-demand seasons.

TULCÁN

UNHCR supports local livelihoods fairs



UNHCR delivered 8 tents to the Parish Government of Urbina which will be used to support local livelihood fairs, while HIAS also provided support through the Agronegocios to boost livelihoods for participating families and promote integration among refugees and locals. With these new supplies, more livelihoods fairs are expected to take place in the area.

CLIMATE ACTION

GUAYAQUIL & SAN GABRIEL

Recycling, Kayaking and parades to boost climate action



Climate change and natural disasters continue to aggravate displacements and prevent integration for refugees in some parts of Ecuador. To address these challenges, UNHCR has been developing and implementing a national strategy to engage refugees and their hosts in climate action. In Isla Trinitaria (Guayaquil), UNHCR, CDH and DELFI foundation began a project focused on creating integration space of 20 refugees and Ecuadorians practicing Kayak and collecting plastics from the Estereo Salado river inlet which has high levels of pollution.

In San Gabriel, the Environmental Protection Directorate of Montúfar with the support of UNHCR and FUDELA, started the “Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan”, where 300 Ecuadorians, refugees and migrants learned about environmental preservation.

PROMOTING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

NATIONAL

UNHCR launches Goal Click initiative: Lives of the Displaced through the Lens of Football



Goal Click

Photographic and written series from Goal Click with UNHCR chronicles personal stories from refugees and football’s role to help re-anchor lives and open paths to a brighter future.

Goal Click gave each participant a disposable camera to highlight football’s role in their lives in several locations in Ecuador.

[Read their stories here.](#)

QUITO

Around 100 participants joined to brainstorm on how to use art to promote inclusion



UNHCR, the Secretariat of Culture, Cumandá Park and the Camaras a Camaradas Project held the event “Art and Culture for Social Inclusion in Cities”. At this event almost 100 artists, community projects participants, representatives of collectives, cultural organizations, civil society, NGOs and public institutions participated in three panels and three roundtables to share their best practices, challenges and commitments to promote inter-institutional collaboration.

MANTA

Podcast help counteract violence

After a couple of virtual sessions on communication with communities, 25 community leaders identified information needs of refugees about gender-based violence. Participants registered their testimonies with the aim of creating different podcasts and encourage the population to fight against all forms of violence.



EL ÁNGEL, CARCHI

New Wi-Fi spots facilitate access to on-line services



As part of a connectivity project implemented by UNHCR and the Municipal Government of Espejo since 2020, 19 new Wi-Fi spots were located spread among rural and urban areas, facilitating access to internet. Refugees and locals can now easily enroll in school, start their regularization process, schedule of medical appointments, among other services. This new infrastructure was made possible thanks to funding from KOICA and the Canadian government.

Stories from the field



Para- karate gives second chance to shine to Venezuelan in Ecuador

[▶ Learn more about Carlos](#)

Carlos Acosta, a Venezuelan refugee, has won in para-karate competitions for his new home Ecuador. Photo: UNHCR/Daniela Pérez Obando



Carlos Acosta is a tireless dreamer. Being in a wheelchair does not impede him from leaving his house to reach them. While preparing his suitcase with sports clothes, this champion smiles with excitement to start practicing a sport in which he is a pioneer in Ecuador: para-karate. He has been practicing this discipline for two years and even though he has already won several national competitions, he still feels that he must practice a lot to qualify for the Paralympic Games.

“I adopted this discipline as motivation and to show Ecuador that as Venezuelans, we can contribute to the country as well,” he explains, firmly believing that through sports he can give back to the nation that welcomed him and his family.

Carlos’ dedication made him an official athlete of the Ecuadorian Karate Federation; four-time national Para Karate gold medalist representing Pichincha; provincial champion of Pichincha; and gold medalist of the 2022 South American championship representing Ecuador.

He demonstrates that disability is not an obstacle, but a tool that allows him to demonstrate that talents are cultivated, and dreams are fulfilled. [Read more about Carlos.](#)

You can help people like Carlos who had to leave their homes and now dream of rebuilding their lives. [Donate now.](#)

We thank the contributions of our donors

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