UNHCR Ecuador

Tulcán

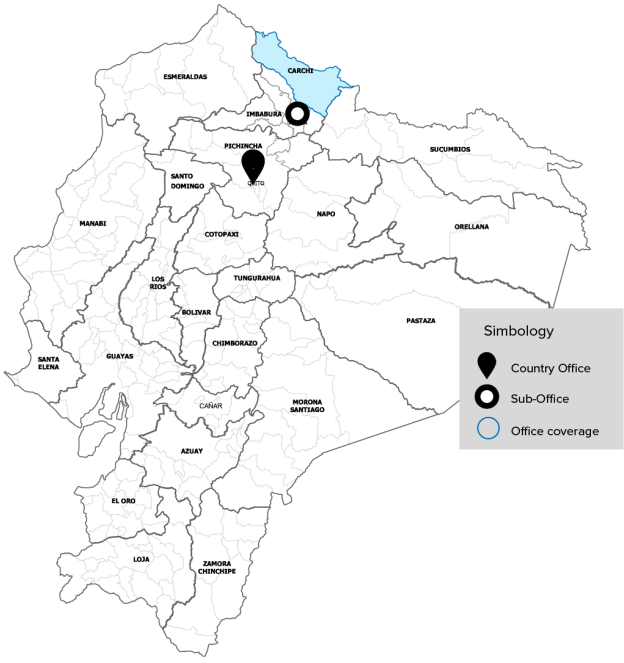
October 2023

Operational context

UNHCR opened the Tulcan Field Office in 2010, covering Carchi Province and Sucumbíos Canton of Sucumbíos Province. Bordering the Colombian department of Nariño, on the northern border of Ecuador, the communities of Carchi have a long tradition of welcoming refugees and asylum-seekers. Tulcan also has the Rumichaca Bridge, one of the main official entry points into Ecuador from Colombia, along with dozens of irregular paths crossing the porous border.

In 2023, Tulcan has received an average of 350 Venezuelans arriving each day. Since 2022, there has been a steady increase in arrivals of Colombians seeking asylum in Ecuador, as well as third-country nationals transiting through Tulcan into Colombia, heading north. In 2023, many Ecuadorians began to transit through Tulcan, heading north. Most refugees, asylum-seekers, forcibly displaced people and migrants will pass through Tulcan in their journey whether entering or exiting Ecuador.

While a significant number of forcibly displaced people continue onward to other parts of Ecuador or third countries, others choose to remain in the area to work in agriculture or other income-generating activities. UNHCR continues to work on improving reception conditions, access to humanitarian assistance, local integration, as well promoting peaceful co-existence.



Key figures:

Recognized refugees in Carchi Province

5,725 Colombians
147 Venezuelans
20 Others

**Historical figure until 30 September 2023*

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

306 Colombians
55 Venezuelans
11 Other

Forcibly displaced people registered by HIAS, NRC or UNHCR

5,587 Colombians
21,470 Venezuelans
1,916 Other

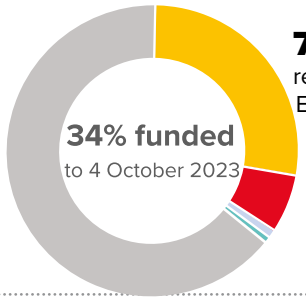
So far this year (Jan. - Sept. 2023)

810 Colombians
1,822 Venezuelans
66 Other

1,128
asylum claims of Venezuelans and Colombians were admitted for processing, 13% (143 cases) in Imbabura.
Between January and September 2023

So far in 2023 UNHCR and partners delivered:

2,470 Hygiene kits
2,521 Cash transfers



76M
required for the operation in Ecuador in 2023

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

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

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 Tulcan 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 four partners: HIAS, FUDELA, 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 Government Temporary 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, gastronomy, dairy, 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).

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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