

UNHCR Ecuador

Pichincha and Santo Domingo

Sub-Office Factsheet

December 2021



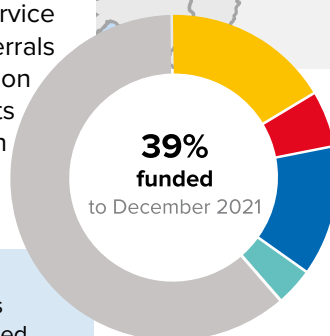
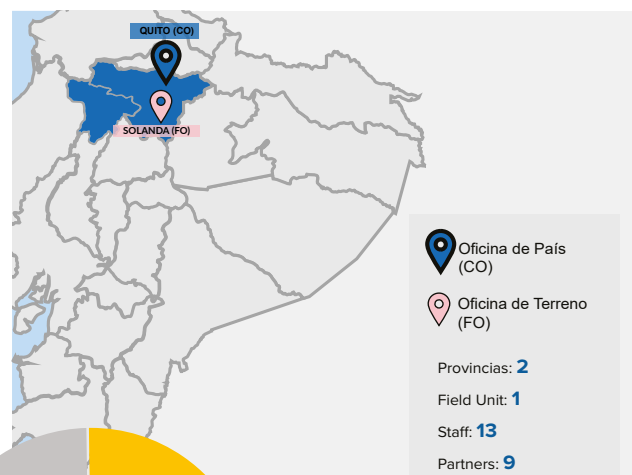
Operational context

UNHCR's Pichincha Suboffice (SOPI) is located in Quito, Ecuador's largest city also hosting the highest number of Colombian refugees as well as the largest population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the country. UNHCR provides protection and promotes the socioeconomic inclusion of Venezuelans, Colombians and other people of concern of other nationalities, as well as host communities. The Suboffice in Quito also covers Santo Domingo and the Sierra provinces of Tungurahua, Cotopaxi and Chimborazo.

Following the ease of health measures UNHCR, partners, and other stakeholders have identified a monthly increase in the number of new arrivals, mainly from Colombia and Venezuela, in Pichincha and Santo Domingo. In both provinces, people of concern are finding a place to settle down, being Quito the major destination, although a significant numbers continue onward to other parts of country or third countries like Peru and Chile. COVID-19 had a strong impact in the cities of Quito and Santo Domingo. Many people of concern have either been at heightened risk of eviction, evicted or have resorted to stay in the streets, having found themselves without a job and with fewer income-generating options. To address this situation, UNHCR and partners continue to providing counselling through face to face services, protection hotlines, information in service fairs for people of concern and the host community, referrals to immediate emergency services and local integration programmes. UNHCR and partners distribute hygiene kits along main routes access and other goods to strengthen

the response at shelters and other spaces, while supporting the response of local governments.

UNHCR also provides technical and operational support to community-based organizations and local governments to enhance access to essential services for people of concern, including internet access, childcare, and safe temporary shelters. Additionally, the UN Refugee Agency promotes peaceful coexistence through integration activities like community mural-painting, community cleaning (mingas), economic reactivation fairs and art workshops.



84.7M

required for the operation in Ecuador in 2021

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

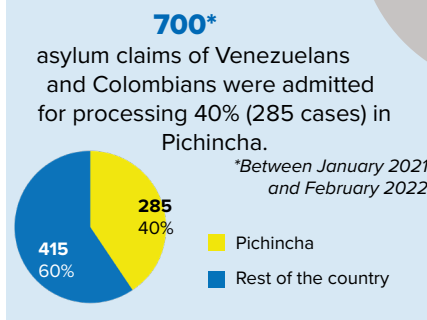
Key figures:

Recognized Refugees in Pichincha 2021-2022

26,293 Colombians

333 Venezuelans

104,439 Venezuelans



Between 2021 & 2022 UNHCR and partners delivered:

- 1.600** Hygiene kits
- 715** caminante kits
- 195** unaccompanied children supported with specialized care
- 430** LGBTI people assisted with psychological support

UNHCR Ecuador is grateful for the critical and generous support provided by donors who contributed with earmarked and unearmarked funding in 2021.



UNHCR Ecuador is also grateful for the support from private donors, including Australia, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea, Japan, Spain, Swedish Postcode Lottery and USA.

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

Working with partners

UNHCR works in Quito and Santo Domingo with 9 partners (ASA, FUDELA, Equidad, World Vision, ADRA, HIAS, NRC, AVSI, CRISFE and JRS), local governments, public institutions, community-based organizations, Economic promotion local agencies and universities to provide comprehensive a protection response to people of concern. UNHCR also provides technical and capacity-building support to the Ombudsman's Office, the Municipality of Quito and the Cantonal Council for the Protection of Rights, and coordinates with several organizations under the inter-agency response platform (GTRM) for refugees and migrants.

Key activities



Protection

UNHCR and partners conducted the following activities in 2021:

- Provided information and counseling through face to face and hotline services. Services provided in Pichincha account for 28% of all counselling; with inquiries relating to mainly legal services, asylum, referrals for economic opportunities, food assistance and shelter.
- Coordinated with social services within local governments to provide comprehensive protection responses to people with specific protection needs in particular survivors of gender-based violence.
- Provided technical support on international protection standards and in the designing of local routes and public policy for the protection of people of concern to strategic actors at the local level.
- Supported local authorities in implementing the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.
- Provided guidance and accompanied people of concern in their asylum claims to the International Protection Directorate, through legal partners.
- Adapted and improved multi-family housing and informal temporary shelters to provide a safe and dignified space for refugees and promote their inclusion in communities and the effective exercise of their fundamental rights.
- Worked with civil society organizations engaged in human mobility issues, community leaders and municipalities to strengthen protection networks, foster local integration and promote peaceful coexistence.
- Improved infrastructure at community centres fostering meeting and intercultural spaces between the people of concern and locals.
- Provided technical assistance to community-based organizations to promote their participation in discussions, decision making and development of public policy.



Livelihoods

UNHCR and partners conducted the following activities in 2021 and early 2022:

- Signed a letter of understanding with ConQuito - Economic Promotion Agency - to provide technical assistance for the development and implementation of programmes that support the economic inclusion of people of concern and generate sustainable livelihoods.
- Signed a letter of understanding with SEK International University to improve employability and entrepreneurship opportunities of people of concern with the technical support from academia. Through the "Speed Mentoring Programme", refugees and migrants received specialized technical training to strengthen their enterprises with current demands from the local market.
- Strengthened entrepreneurship of people of concern, supported the regularization of their business and their financial inclusion through bank accounts and credits.
- Supported the labour inclusion of refugees referring candidates to job vacancies in private companies and providing technical training to strengthen their job skills. Raised awareness with local actors within private companies to promote decent labour inclusion.
- Through its partners and local actors, supported entrepreneurs with seed capital to strengthen their businesses, providing technical support to ensure sustainability and foster stronger value chains.
- In support of 20 local entrepreneurs, developed a virtual catalogue to promote their products, include them in marketing chains and strengthen support networks.



Coordination

- UNHCR contributed to the Human Mobility Working Group (GTRM) in Quito and Santo Domingo to articulate the protection response led by the local governments.