

Ecuador

Monthly Update

18 October 2022

Las Mismas is a football team where refugees and LGBTQ+ women are welcome.
Photo: UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Figures at a glance

Population figures

74,263 Historical figure of refugees recognized by Ecuador¹

58,862 refugees with active cases registered on UNHCR's database¹

96% from neighbouring Colombia

Our 2022 response in figures

336,402 people supported as of the end of October 2022

22,408 people assisted with cash for basic needs and protection

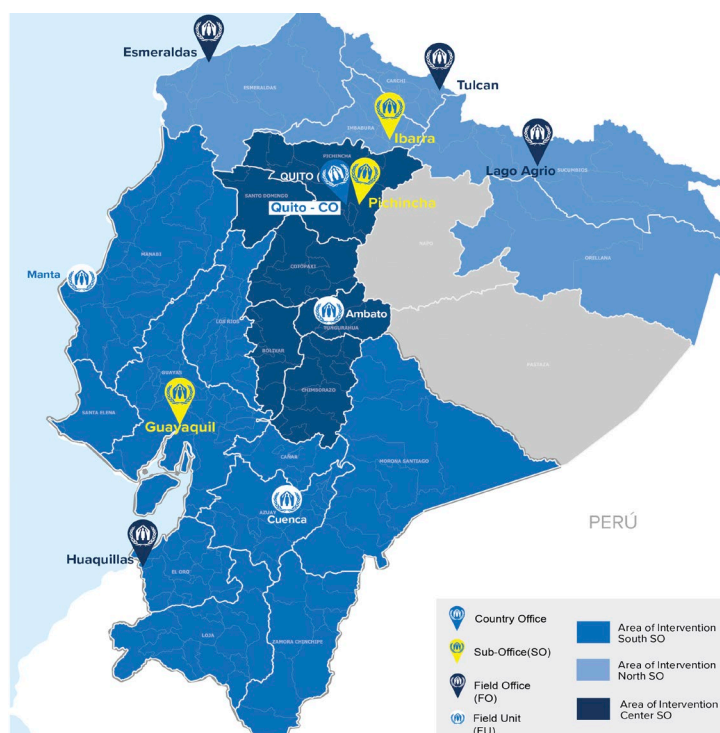
2,594 people provided with entrepreneurship or business training

65,509 people received legal guidance & assistance

6,245 GBV survivors supported

38,026 people received hygiene kits

16,840 people supported with emergency shelter



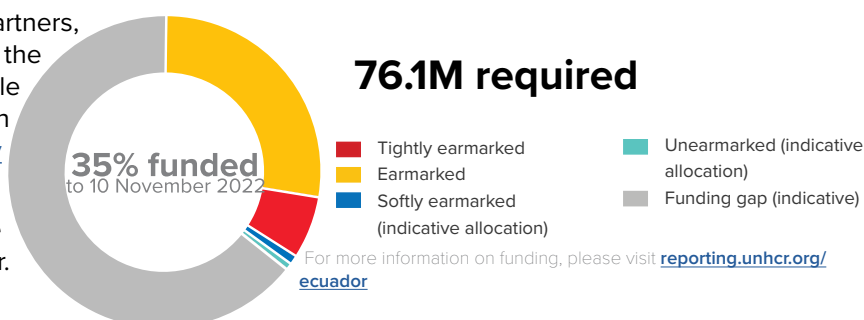
Operational context

The regularization process continues with the ongoing registration of Venezuelans nation-wide, the issuance of visas and the registration of people of other nationalities who entered regularly since mid-November (see page 3 for more details).

UNHCR, with the support from IOM and partners, continues hosting mobile brigades across the country to support registration efforts, while doubling communications efforts to reach people with key information through the [Estoy Aquí](#) campaign.

Meanwhile, violence continues to push people to seek international protection in Ecuador.

The number of Colombians fleeing violence in some parts of their home country continues increasing each month, many claiming to be facing threats, risks of recruitment and increasing levels of extortions by irregular armed groups.



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

Safety and security in some areas of Ecuador, including refugee-hosting areas, remain a concern, with reports of extortions and threats against small businesses and community leaders. UNHCR and partners continue strengthening their community-based protection response to cater for all their needs.



See [Global funding gap spells catastrophe for millions - Ecuador remains critically underfunded](#)

Over recent months, funding shortfalls have forced UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, to make cuts to its lifesaving aid to refugees and other forcibly displaced people in a number of operations across the world. Ecuador continues to have a USD49 million gap to help forcibly displaced people who have sought safety in the Andean country.

[Donate now.](#)

Main populations forced to flee hosted by Ecuador

Venezuelans



Venezuelans continue to lead in numbers of arrivals in Ecuador. 39,168 people entered Ecuador in October, with a daily entry average of 1,305 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

Colombians

3,625 Colombians were registered in need of international protection in 2022²

490 were registered in October

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 3,600 so far in 2022. 490 Colombians sought asylum in the country in October – the highest figure so far in 2022 - claiming to flee 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

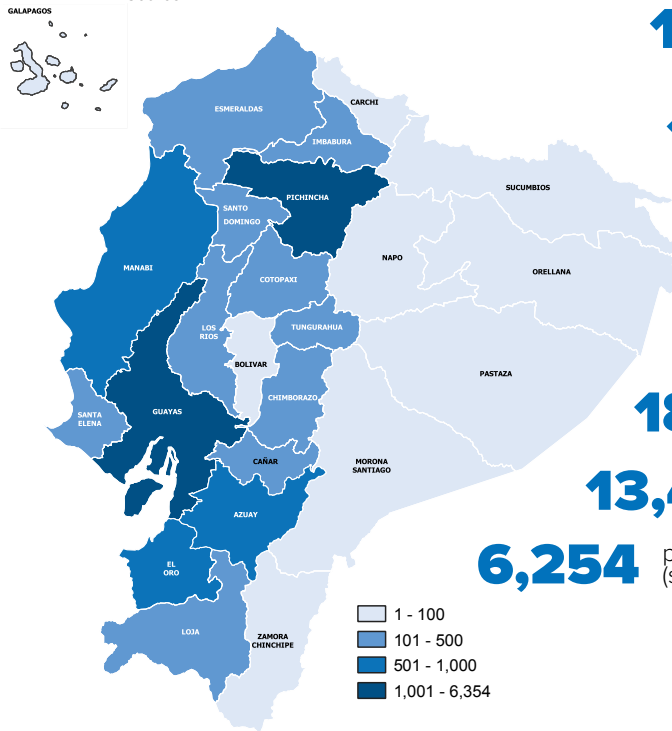
The first phase of registration, which began with Decree 436, is meant to register all Venezuelans and other foreigners as well as to regularize Venezuelans who entered regularly prior to the issuance of the Decree with a VIRTE visa. Registration is also divided in phases: first, Venezuelans who entered 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 despite technological issues, over 32,000 visa applications had been lodged, over 18,000 visas had been granted and just over 6,000 IDs had been delivered by 18 November.

Registration continues, with, over 124,000 have appointments for their biometric registration and nearly 85,000 people who have a stay certificate, by 18 November 2022.

Province of residence per VIRTE visa applicant

Source MDI



127,631 people registered through the official website (source: MDI)

124,013 people with appointments for biometric registration (source: MDI)

84,934 people with a stay certificate (source: MDI)

32,869 VIRTE visa applications (source: MREMH)

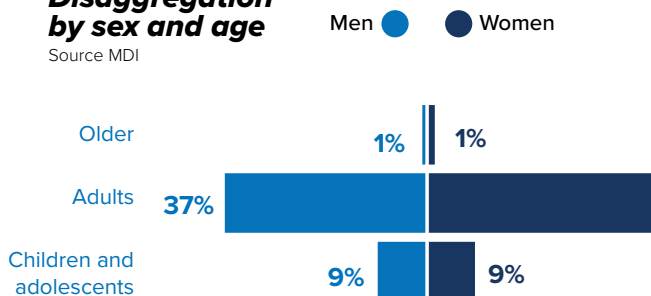
18,726 people with VIRTE visa (source: MREMH)

13,445 people with appointments to issue ID (source: DIGERCIC)

6,254 people with ID (source: DIGERCIC)

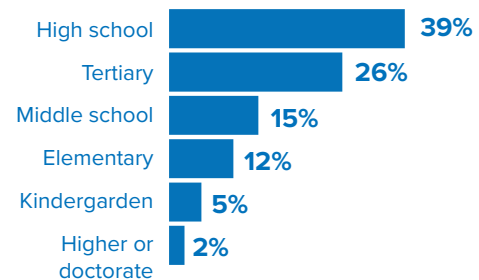
Disaggregation by sex and age

Source MDI



Last education level achieved

Source MDI



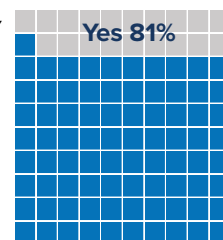
Support staff financed by UNHCR and IOM for the regularization process

Source MDI



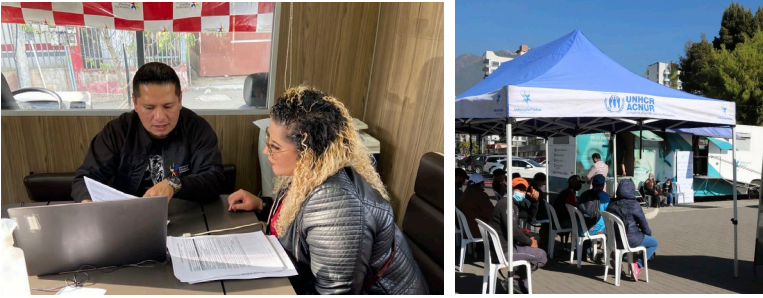
Desire to stay

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



NATIONAL

Public Defender missions support regularization process in Ecuador



The Public Defender's Office with support from UNHCR supported over 1,500 people between September and early November 2022 in accessing the regularization process in the provinces of Azuay, Carchi, El Oro, Guayas, Imbabura, Loja, Manabí, Pichincha, Sucumbíos, Tungurahua. In this effort, the Public Defender's Office conducted mobile brigades throughout the country, including remote rural areas at the northern and southern borders, in order to provide information and legal advice to refugees and migrants and thus facilitate the exercise of their rights.

DELIVERING PROTECTION

MANTA, MANABI

UNHCR and DPIN reach refugees with registration services



In Manta, UNHCR coordinated and accompanied a documentation brigade led by the International Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Relations and Human Mobility. In total, 310 Colombian and Venezuelan asylum seekers were registered in the Coastal city. The brigade was supported by UNHCR, HIAS and NRC, who assisted in registering identity documents and caring for children while their parents completed the paperwork.

NATIONAL

UNHCR conducts participatory assessments across Ecuador



UNHCR carried out 43 consultation sessions with 334 refugees and migrants during a series of participatory assessment exercises between August and October 2022. During these sessions, carried out in 15 locations across the country, men, women, children, teens, LGBTIQ+ people, refugees with disabilities, women survivors of gender-based violence and others provided UNHCR with key information on their wellbeing and needs in the country. Results will contribute to understanding the dynamics inside communities and how networks help refugees integrate locally. Conclusions drawn from these participatory assessments will help UNHCR to better design its action plans.

PROMOTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

MACHALA

UNHCR delivers 72 technological kits to children in Machala

UNHCR and its partner HIAS delivered 72 tablets and connectivity kits to children and adolescents from Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador as part of "La Educación es el Camino", in the framework of the Education Cannot Wait fund and with contributions from the Government of Canada. This activity aims to give technological supplies to students in to reduce the technological gap and ensure access to education in the context of return to classes, after the pandemic.

"Now, I will be able to get online and do my homework without problems", said Derlys Guillén, a 10-year-old Venezuelan student. "I used to use my mother's cellphone, but now it's easier to do my homework", she affirmed. Thanks to this programme, children and adolescents will continue studying, reducing dropout rates.



NATIONAL

UNHCR and CONADIS sign agreement to promote the inclusion of refugees with disabilities

UNHCR and CONADIS, the National Council for Disability Equality, signed a letter of understanding to implement actions in favor of refugees living with disabilities in Ecuador. This collaboration will enable more inclusive public policies that promote the exercise of rights. “Refugees with disabilities live in even more vulnerable conditions, especially because they are often more invisible,” said Giovanni Bassu, UNHCR Representative in Ecuador. “UNHCR considers a priority to work so that people living with disabilities can access basic services and opportunities to rebuild their lives without barriers or discrimination.”

Some of the actions that will be implemented as part of this partnership are reviewing regulation proposals to include refugees with disabilities, awareness-raising workshops on disability and international protection issues, interpretation and translation support during RSD procedures, and generating data on people in human mobility living with disabilities, among other activities. Read more about [this initiative](#).



PROMOTING SOCIOECONOMIC INCLUSION

NATIONAL

UNHCR and Fundación Telefónica Movistar Ecuador renew their commitment to promote the inclusion of refugees in Ecuador



Through a letter of understanding, UNHCR and Fundación Telefónica Movistar Ecuador will seek to support the local integration of refugees and other displaced people through education, volunteering, digital culture and employability initiatives, will generate awareness initiatives and will support the convergence of strategic partners that allow the promotion of the integration of refugees in Ecuador.

Read more about [this initiative](#).

MANTA, MANABI

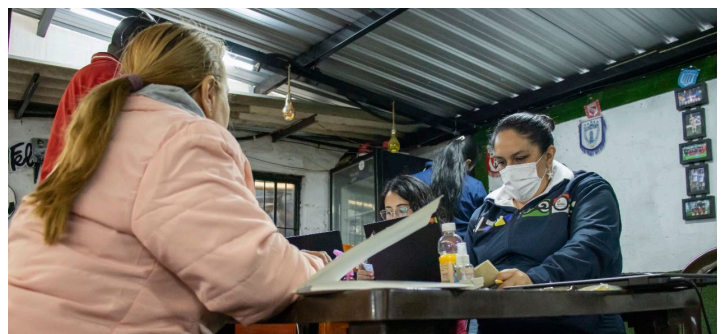
UNHCR receives recognition for its work with refugees



The municipality of Manta presented an award to UNHCR to highlight its work in the protection of rights of refugees and migrants and for contributing to local development.

QUITO

Refugees open bank accounts for the first time



UNHCR and WOCCU helped 55 refugees and migrants open savings accounts at Cooperativa Jardín Azuayo for the first time. The activity included a dynamic and participatory learning day on personal finance management to provide them with tools to manage their income.

CLIMATE ACTION

LAGO AGRIO & CHICAL

UNHCR engages communities in addressing climate change



UNHCR is working with refugee and local families and community leaders in communities in northern provinces in addressing climate change. In Lago Agrio, UNHCR met with teachers, students, parents and others to socialize the Guardians of the Ecosystem project and raise awareness on climate action. In Chical, UNHCR is collaborating with the International Organization on Bamboo (Inbarlac) and Somos Foundation to find innovative ways to use bamboo as a sustainable resource to build community centres.

PROMOTING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

NATIONAL

Over 50 journalists were trained on rights-based media coverage



To promote a human-rights based coverage of refugees and migrants, the GTRM held a series of workshops in Manta, Machala and Cuenca where over 50 journalists participated. In these sessions, they were able to learn more about the local context at each city, meet the organizations and spokespeople of the GTRM at the local level and clarify doubts about the rights and duties of refugees and migrants.

The GTRM also shared some tips and recommendations to avoid discrimination and xenophobia in their news pieces. Topics included a rights-based journalistic coverage, journalism for peace and important definitions in contexts of human mobility. These trainings are expected to have a positive impact on the way the media covers human mobility issues and portrays refugees and migrants.

QUITO, GUAYAQUIL, CUENCA AND MACHALA

UNHCR engages refugees and locals in leadership school

Over 170 refugees, migrants and Ecuadorians have been trained through leaderships schools in Quito, Guayaquil, Cuenca and Machala to reduce discrimination, foster leadership and selfcare with support from UNHCR and partners. Participants learned about refugee law, access to the asylum system, humanitarian shelter, community-based protection, participatory budgets, public regulations and management of social media in humanitarian contexts. Through these trainings, UNHCR and partners look to empower communities of refugees and locals, helping them to know their rights and building more inclusive environments.

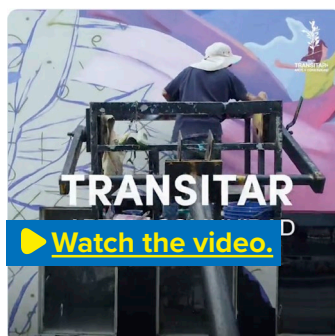


HUAQUILLAS

Communities, humanitarian organizations and authorities paint mural

UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations alongside refugees and migrants and local authorities teamed up to paint the mural 'Transitar+Comunidad' (Transit+Community) in an effort to promote the integration of people in human mobility through art at the Southern border.

In the past year, UNHCR has invested efforts in enhancing arts-related interventions at the national and community levels, to promote protection and integration of refugees.



NATIONAL

Ecuador commemorates the Day of the Girl Child

To commemorate the Day of the Girl Child, UNHCR and partners held activities around the country to promote girl's rights. Activities included dancing, drawing and reading.



Stories from the field

Young Venezuelan in Ecuador dreams of playing a World Cup



▶ **Get to know Yenmany.**

*Yenmany has dreamt of being part of a team since she can remember. In Las Mismas, she has found a home.
Photo: UNHCR/Jaime Giménez*



Yenmany Coromoto loves soccer above everything else. The 20-year-old Venezuelan and LGBTIQ+ woman dreams of becoming the best soccer player on the planet and participating in a World Cup. For now, she has just taken the first step by joining the team Las Mismas, a women's club that opens its doors to refugee women, including LGBTIQ+, in Cuenca, Ecuador.

"When I play soccer, I feel free, I feel fulfilled, I feel happy," said Yenmany. "I've loved playing since I was a child, but I hadn't been able to join a team until now," explains the striker, who in the past was not admitted to other clubs due to lack of resources or discrimination.

The Las Mismas club, which receives support from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and its partner Diálogo Diverso through training and materials like uniforms, was formed in early 2022 with the aim of providing a safe space for women of different nationalities and diverse gender identities. So far, they have welcomed two LGBTIQ+ players in human mobility. One of them is Yenmany, whose mental and emotional well-being has improved since playing for the team.

For the moment, the best news for Yenmany is that she now has a club where she can share with her teammates and enjoy soccer.

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

We thank the contributions of our donors

10 November 2022

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