



Created by a Venezuelan, El Cayambeño promotes the financial inclusion of refugees and locals through small credits. Photo: UNHCR/Jaime Gimenez

Figures at a glance

Population figures

72,912 Historical figure of refugees recognized by Ecuador¹

57,991 refugees with active cases registered on UNHCR's database¹

96% from neighbouring Colombia

Our 2022 response in figures

52,162 people supported as of the end of June 2022

11,902 people assisted with cash for basic needs and protection

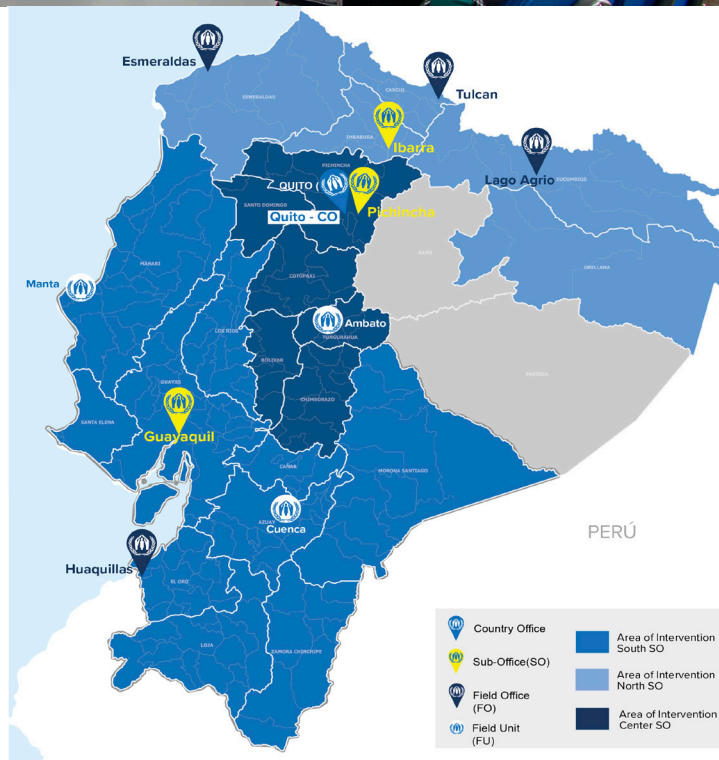
1,103 people provided with entrepreneurship or business training

32,666 people received legal guidance & assistance

3,180 GBV survivors supported

19,000 people received hygiene kits

11,482 people supported with emergency shelter



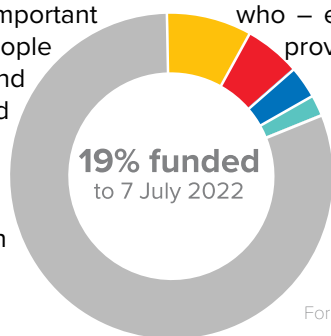
Operational context

Ahead of World Refugee Day, the world hit a new record in forced displacement trends, passing the 100 million mark by the end of May. New and ongoing conflict, human rights violations and lack of access to rights continued to force people to flee their home in search of safety. The region of the Americas is now facing unprecedented levels of displacement, bearing witness to population movements towards north and south of the continent.

In this context, Ecuador continues to be an important transit and host country for thousands of people on the move, maintaining an upward trend since 2017. With one of the largest recognized refugee and migrant populations in Latin America, this country is home to over half a million refugees and migrants, accounting for around 3 per cent of Ecuador's total population and a considerably young work force.

For more information on trends, please see our recently published [National Trends Report](#).

Despite progress, the impact of COVID-19 continues to push people into poverty throughout the region, including in Ecuador where, [according to the FAO](#), 36,3 per cent of the population is food insecure and 15,4 per cent is malnourished. With a population many times limited to the informal sector, it is likely this impact is higher among refugees and migrants who – especially those in an irregular status – cannot provide a regular income to their household.



76.1M required

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

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

June was marked with an 18-day long national strike led by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities CONAIE. Government and strike leaders reached agreements with the mediation from the Church and established working groups to address pending issues. Refugees and migrants

were also affected by the national strike, with many unable to make ends meet and were targeted with acts of xenophobia. Many others were left stranded on their way to other cities or countries. UNHCR and partners adapted to support the extremely vulnerable.

Ecuador issues regularization decree



The Government of Ecuador issued Decree 436 providing amnesty to Venezuelan refugees and migrants who entered the country regularly and are currently in an irregular status in the country. Ecuador’s decision to begin regularizing their status will start providing them with legal protection and stability, it will ease their access to rights, basic services and the job market, helping fast-track their socio-economic integration in Ecuador.

See [UNHCR and IOM welcome Ecuador’s move to regularize Venezuelan refugees and migrants](#)

UNHCR as co-lead of the Working Group for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM) along with other organizations reiterate their support to the Government of Ecuador in this initiative, and offer their expertise, capacity, presence and resources to keep strengthening the process and ensure no-one is left behind.

Secondary legislation is currently being finalized and the registration campaign is expected to start early September.

Main populations of concern in Ecuador

Venezuelans

Key figures

513,903 Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Ecuador²

62% estimated to be in an irregular status³

45% estimated to be between 26 and 35 years old³

23% estimated to have a higher education degree³

Main needs

87% access to food³

65% access to livelihoods or employment³

53% access to housing or shelter³

Venezuelans continue to lead in numbers of arrivals in Ecuador. 27,366 people entered Ecuador in June, with a daily entry average of 900 Venezuelans.

Colombians

1,696 Colombians were registered in need of international protection in 2022²

364 were registered in May and June

Main needs of Colombians in Ecuador

69% access to food, housing, clothing⁴

24% access to employment and services⁴

6% access to documentation⁴

The arrival of Colombians in need of international protection continues, with nearly 1,700 so far in 2022. Despite the national strike and difficulties to move, 123 Colombians sought asylum in the country in June 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 Third R4V Joint Needs Assessment, www.r4v.info

⁴ 2021 Protection Monitoring available at our [data portal](#)

Special Focus

..... World Refugee Day

NATIONAL

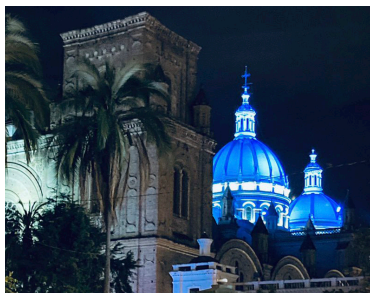


Each year, 20 June is the date set to commemorate World Refugee Day, a moment to reflect on the predicament of people forced to flee their homes to find safety. This year, Ecuador joined commemorations through the initiative RefugiArte, a nation-wide call to action to continue welcoming refugees.

Due to the national strike, many activities were postponed and will be taking place through 2022.

Check out our programme

NATIONAL



Ecuador was dressed in blue on World Refugee Day

Several cities in Ecuador shone blue lights on some of their most emblematic monuments. The Cathedral of Cuenca and the Ferris wheel in Guayaquil, the lighthouse in Huaquillas, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Quito were among them, along with other

cities like Manta and Loja. All dressed in blue, these cities sought to create solidarity among the Ecuadorian population towards people forced to flee, using UNHCR's characteristic blue color. See photos [here](#).

NATIONAL

UNHCR launched RefugiArte mural edition to paint Ecuador with one message

To commemorate World Refugee Day, UNHCR launched "RefugiArte: Mural Edition" where refugee and local artists proposed a unique design that reflects that whoever they are, wherever they are or whenever they fled, people fleeing their countries have the right to find safety. The design submitted by

Venezuelan artist Soliver Mota currently living in Ecuador after having had to leave her country was chosen by a jury of 10 refugees and migrants. The first mural was done in Cuenca and this same design will be replicated in walls across the country.



NATIONAL

UNHCR and Independiente del Valle release joint initiative to raise awareness of forced displacement

Sport is a strong tool to integrate refugees in host communities. Worldwide, UNHCR believes in the healing power sports like football has in helping refugees recover their ability to dream of a brighter future. In 2021, UNHCR released the global initiative Dreamball alongside 'Alive and Kicking', calling people around the world to submit designs for footballs – one of them was submitted by local artist Karla Assuero.

In 2022, UNHCR and Independiente del Valle delivered a Dreamball Kit to field offices, journalists and influencers, to help raise awareness about the lives of millions of refugees worldwide and promote solidarity – many of them helping spread the word among their audiences in social media and news. Journalist like Johanna Calderón and Alejandra Boada posted about Dreamball in their social media.

All of them made an appeal to Ecuador to learn of the stories of people forced to flee and to respect their right to start a new life without discrimination, xenophobia and violence.



QUITO

UNHCR and Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched RefugiArte+, an exhibition about forced displacement

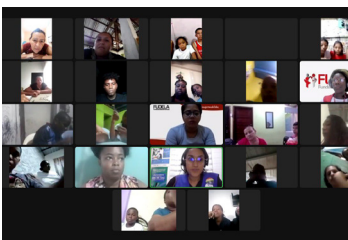


UNHCR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility [launched the exhibit RefugiArte+](#), alongside local artist Bonil and Venezuelan artist Soliver Mota, as well as other high level guests. During the inauguration event, Silvia Espindola, Vice-minister of Human Mobility, said that “every person who has been force flee has the right to access international protection. We are sure that refugees can contribute positivly to their host communities. Ecuador is committed to create a world where peace, inclusion, solidarity and respect for human rights are mandatory.”

RefugiArte+ is composed by artwork from all RefugiArte editions as well as new ones submitted by refugees in Ecaudor. The exhibit is set up at the gardens of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where people can visit until early August. “We all share the responsibility of protecting and integrating refugees - from art, culture, humanitarian work and politics,” said Giovanni Bassu, UNHCR Representative in Ecuador. “We have a shared responsibility, all of us, to create a more caring, safe and inclusive world that benefits all people - including refugees and their host communities.”

ESMERALDAS

Rolling and hosting: a virtual bingo with refugees



In Esmeraldas, UNHCR and partner FUDELA hosted the virtual bingo “Rodando y RefugiAndo” to recognize refugee resilience. Around 300 people, including refugees and Ecuadorians, participated in the recreational activity.

SUCUMBÍOS

Motorcyclists and UNHCR minga to clean the main dock in General Farfan



In General Farfán, UNHCR and the motorcyclists’ association Fieras del Agua undertook a community activity in Ecuador called a minga to clean and improve the main dock, which is essential for the commercial work of refugees and locals. 23 members of the river cooperative and municipal staff participated, and UNHCR delivered materials for the restoration.

LAGO AGRIO

RefugiAndo and singing to life: a music festival in Lago Agrio bringing together refugees and locals

UNHCR, Fudela and Sucumbíos Radio Station organized in Lago Agrio the second edition of “Cantemos a la Vida” a music festival inviting refugees and local artists to submit and perform inedited songs. Several artists sang to give visibility to the positive impact refugees have in communities. Natasha Montero, head of UNHCR in Lago Agrio, commented that music is a bridge to bring people, nationalities and cultures together. “Music is a universal language,” she said.

Many rhythms captivated the public and the winner of the festival was broadcasted live. He received an electro-acoustic guitar, so he can keep composing and making music.

In a piece to camera, UNHCR Representative in Ecuador Giovanni Bassu, highlighted the contributions of refugees to their host communities, and congratulated Ecuadorians for demonstrating solidarity, compassion and humanity for those who have been forced to flee their homes.



GUAYAQUIL

Guayaquil rode and ran kilometres with refugees



In Guayaquil, UNHCR and partner CDH organized a bicycle ride with over 150 people. The event was supported by the national police and its musical group, which closed with a dance therapy activity. In addition, over 600 people ran a 4-kilometer race in Samanes Park to remember the 100 million people who have had to flee their countries around the world.

HUAQUILLAS

Children learn what it means to be On the other side

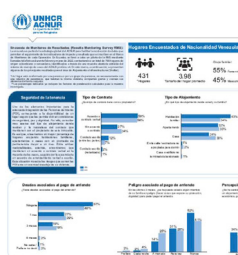


In Huaquillas, 500 students, among the students were refugees from Venezuela and Colombia, from the Monseñor Leonida Proaño school joined in the commemoration of World Refugee Day through the projection of the 360 film, “On the other side”. Watch the [film here](#).

Other updates

Survey results on habitability

in Ecuador



UNHCR is piloting the Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) in Ecuador with nearly 800 people across the country. Download the survey [here](#).

Refugee poets share their

experience



In a poem, Alejandra and Carmen - both refugees in different countries - share their feelings and views about being uprooted. From Ecuador and Panama they share a message of strength to all those forced to flee. Check out [their poem](#).

Stories from the field



Savings cooperative gives hope to entrepreneurs in Ecuador

CAYAMBE, PICHINCHA / Empower | Promoting peaceful coexistence

Created by Venezuelan Henry Chico, El Cayambeño cooperative promotes the financial inclusion of refugees and locals in a small city located in the northern Ecuadorian Andes through small credits.

“After almost two years, we have delivered some \$90,000 in microcredits, most of them ranging between \$200 and \$500. This project has supported many families,” says Henry, 41. “Sixty-five percent of our members are people in human mobility, mostly Venezuelans and Colombians, and 35% are from the host community,” he says, adding that refugees and migrants often face more barriers to obtain credit, especially if they do not have regular status.

One of the people who received a loan is Luis, a 51-year-old Colombian who walks the streets of Cayambe selling sweet corn arepas, a typical dish from his homeland. Under his colorful umbrella, the man pushes a metal cart where he cooks and keeps the arepas warm. Luis bought his cart thanks to the two loans he received in 2021, for a total value of \$600. “I always try to save, but the loan helped me to stock and sell the arepas. And that income now helps me to support my family,” says this street vendor who left when he was young for Venezuela and four years ago had no choice but to go to Ecuador.

Read more [here](#).

We thank the contributions of our donors

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