



HIGHLIGHTS

60,329

Recognized refugees, 95% of whom are Colombian citizens

418

Persons on average cross the border in search of international protection each month

233,049

Persons sought asylum in Ecuador, mostly from Colombia from 1989 to-2016

1,500

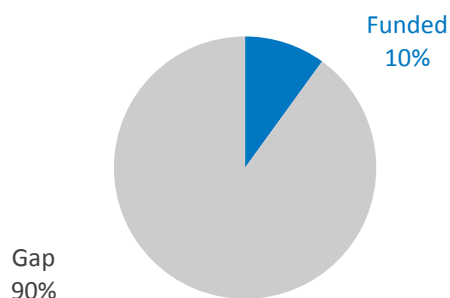
Households of interest will participate in UNHCR's Graduation Approach programme nationwide

Context Information

- Since 2000, UNHCR has worked in Ecuador supporting the State to protect the largest refugee population in Latin America. Ninety five percent of this population is composed of people fleeing the armed conflict in neighbouring Colombia.
- Since 2014, UNHCR has been implementing a multi-year comprehensive solutions strategy, which allows the operation to respond holistically to the situation faced by refugees, facilitating durable solutions and access to rights through a comprehensive approach that integrates legal, economic and social dimensions.
- The strategy aims at the gradual inclusion of refugees in national plans and policies, not only as beneficiaries, but also as economically active persons, who enjoy the same rights as Ecuadorians and contribute to the development of their country of asylum.

Funding

USD 24.9 million requested for 2016



UNHCR Presence

Staff:

72 national staff

36 international staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Quito

5 Field Offices in Quito, Guayaquil, Esmeraldas, Ibarra and Lago Agrio

2 Field Units in Tulcán and Cuenca



Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Printing date: 27 Jul 2016

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- In line with UNHCR's commitment to enhance effective alliances to support the Ecuadorian National Development Plan (2013-2017) and encourage public policy that contemplates local integration of refugees in Ecuador, UNHCR is one of 14 UN agencies that signed the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2015-2018) in 2015. In this framework, UNHCR works in coordination with the UN Country Team and Government institutions such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry Coordinating for Security, the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion and the National Secretariat for Development Planning, among others.
- UNHCR implements its activities through partnerships with: Asociación Solidaridad y Acción (ASA), Asylum Access Ecuador, Integral Shelter Matilde, Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos de Guayaquil (CDH), Comité de Derechos Humanos de Orellana (CDHO), Corporación Mujer a Mujer (COMAM), Public Defender's Office, Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio (FEPP), Fundación de las Américas (FUDELA), HIAS, Hogar de Cristo, Oxfam Italia, Catholic University (PUCE-SE), Jesuit Refugee Service and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Implement advocacy activities that expand the protection space through the promotion of public policies, legislation, enhanced administrative practices and protection interventions.
- Provide technical support on RSD and other asylum procedures to the relevant State institutions.
- Conduct specialized protection and capacity-building activities involving public and Government institutions focused on children, youth and on prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence.
- Lead the protection sector response to the earthquake in April 2016 at national and local level in Manabí and Esmeraldas, and work closely with local authorities to coordinate activities relating to child protection, documentation, prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and other protection risks.

Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

- Provide vocational training and guidance on labour market opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers to improve their access to employment.
- Promote entrepreneurship by assisting cooperatives and small business initiatives through seed capital and technical advice.
- Strengthen the role of the private and public sectors in the provision of employment opportunities for refugees.
- Support youth through a scholarship programme, enabling them to complete higher education and become self-sufficient.
- As part of UNHCR's livelihood strategy, implement a Graduation Model programme for 1,500 households nationwide to lift them from extreme poverty.

Durable Solutions

- Facilitate access to rights, social services and alternative migratory options such as MERCOSUR and dependent visas.
- Implement a resettlement programme, enabling the most vulnerable families to seek protection in a third country.
- Identify and provide a comprehensive response to unaccompanied children and youth, supporting them to integrate through education programmes.
- Together with civil society organizations and Government institutions fight xenophobia and discrimination, through public information campaigns designed to promote solidarity and peaceful coexistence among host and refugee communities.

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