



Ecuador Earthquake Emergency Response Report July 2016

Ecuador. Chamanga after the earthquake. Remains of a house in Chamanga, where 90% of the building were destroyed during the earthquake, but left no dead people. ©UNHCR/Santiago Arcos

Background...

On 16 April 2016, Ecuador was hit by a devastating earthquake, 7.8 in magnitude. As many as 663 people were killed and another 18,000 injured. The northwestern coastal area was largely destroyed, affecting some 2 million people. 350,000 people needed immediate humanitarian assistance, including 17,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, who had mainly fled Colombia. Over the following three weeks, these already traumatised communities suffered 1,600 aftershocks – two over 6.7 in magnitude – causing further damage and distress, as well as a new wave of displacement. Over 73,000 people were displaced by the earthquake, and over 15,000 lost their identity documents, making it difficult for them to access basic services.

UNHCR's Rapid Response...

UNHCR responded immediately to the call and were the first agency to airlift vital, life-saving aid to Ecuador, following an urgent request from the Ecuadorian government for support and assistance. Our main priority was to supply tents, sleeping mats and kitchenware so that families who'd lost their homes would have some form of shelter in the immediate aftermath of this disaster.

We delivered Life-Saving Supplies...

The first airlift reached Ecuador on 20 April and carried 900 tents, 3,000 plastic sheets, 175 plastic rolls, 15,000 sleeping mats, 1,000 kits of kitchenware and 18,000 mosquito nets. We concentrated on the worst-affected areas in the west of the country, including areas around Manabí, Santo Domingo, Esmeraldas and Guayaquil.



UNHCR Core Relief Items ready to be shipped to Quito, Ecuador from UNHCR's global logistics hub in Copenhagen ©UNHCR/Viktor Pesenti

A second airlift donated by the UPS Foundation arrived in Ecuador on 1 May, carrying 35,000 sleeping mats, 6,100 solar lamps, 4,250 plastic sheets, 5,950 kitchen kits, and 7,000 jerry cans.





Earthquake survivors shelter under a tent in Chamanga, Ecuador. Plastic sheeting is much sought after following emergencies as it is very versatile helping us to support the creation of a range of structures to keep people who have lost everything out of the weather. © UNHCR Ecuador

All thanks to your support...

Thanks to the generous support of UNHCR's donors, we were able to raise **over \$1.2 million** in just three weeks to deliver the first phase of our emergency response. This helped us to react quickly to the needs on the ground and become fully operational and provide basic supplies straight away. It is often for these life-saving early stages that we especially rely on donors to respond quickly and help us protect people made vulnerable by such an emergency.

	Quantity sent for Earthquake survivors	Price in \$	Total spent supporting 40,000 people
Tents	900	525.00	472,500
Plastic Sheets	3,000	50.00	150,000
Plastic Rolls	175	160.00	28,000
Sleeping Mats	50,000	10.00	500,000
Kitchen Sets	6,950	20.00	139,000
Mosquito Nets	18,000	8.00	144,000
Solar Lamps	6,100	45.00	274,500
Jerry Cans	7,000	2.00	14,000
Total			\$1,722,000

With these funds, we focused on providing shelter and emergency relief for 40,000 of the most vulnerable people hit by the earthquake, including refugees, asylum-seekers and local Ecuadorian families. In the weeks and months since this terrible earthquake, we have been continuing to support the communities affected with ongoing supplies and longer-term recovery plans.

Thank you!

Chamanga after the earthquake "Kero is part of our family, how could we abandon him?"

Karina Renginfo said after she posed for a portrait next to Justin, Aida, Maite and Kero.

Her family was left homeless after the earthquake destroyed 90% of the houses in Chamanga, but she returned to her house to get her puppy who was still chained to the house. Karina and her daughters now live in one of the tents provided by UNHCR.

©UNHCR/Santiago Arcos

