



HIGHLIGHTS

60,524

People recognized as refugees, **87.5%** of them are Colombian citizens, while **12.5%** are from other nationalities

423

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

226,185

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

2,100

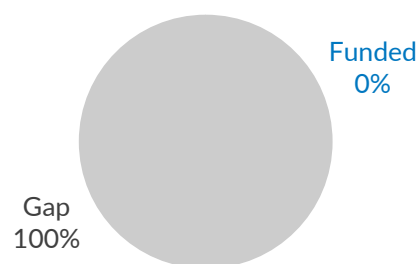
Households of interest will participate in UNHCR's Graduation Model programme, nationwide

Context Information

- Since 2000, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, works 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 the neighbouring country Colombia.
- Since 2014, UNHCR has been implementing a multi-year comprehensive solutions strategy, which allows the operation to respond holistically to the situation of 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 as an economically active population, which enjoys the same rights as Ecuadorians and have the same livelihoods opportunities to contribute to the development of their country of asylum.

Funding requirements

USD 22 million requested



UNHCR Presence

Staff:

72 national staff

36 international staff





Offices:

1 representation office in Quito

5 field offices in Quito, Guayaquil, Esmeraldas, Ibarra and Lago Agrio

1 Field unit in Tulcán



 UNHCR Country Office
  UNHCR Field Unit
 UNHCR Field Office
  Refugee Urban Location

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 (Plan Nacional del Buen Vivir, 2013-1017), encouraging a public policy that contemplates local integration of refugees in Ecuador, UNHCR is one of the 14 UN Agencies that signed the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2015-2018 UNDAF) in 2015. Under this, 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.
- At operational level, UNHCR implements its activities through partnerships with: [Asociación Solidaridad y Acción \(ASA\)](#), [Asylum Access Ecuador](#), [CAI Matilde](#), [Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos de Guayaquil \(CDH\)](#), [Public Defender's Office](#), [Ombudsman' Office](#), [Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio \(FEPP\)](#), [Fundación de las Américas \(FUDELA\)](#), [HIAS](#), [The Foundation for the Refugee Education Trust \(RET\)](#), [Catholic University \(PUCE-SE\)](#), [Jesuit Refugee Service](#) and the [United Nations Office for Project Services \(UNOPS\)](#).

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Implement advocacy activities that aim at expanding the protection space through the promotion of public policies, legislation, enhanced administrative practices and protection interventions.
- Provide technical support on refugee status determination and on asylum procedures to the relevant State institutions in line with international standards.
- Conduct specialized protection activities and capacity-building involving public and government institutions focused on children, the youth and on combating and preventing sexual and gender-based violence.

Livelihoods and Self-Reliance

- Provide vocational training and guidance on labour market opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers in order to improve their access to employment.
- Promote entrepreneurships by stimulating cooperatives and small business initiatives through seed capital and the provision of technical assistance.
- Strengthen the role of the private and public sector in the provision of employment opportunities for refugees.
- Support youth through a scholarship programme, that enable them to complete an upper education level and become self-sufficient.
- Conduct a Graduation Model programme for 2,100 households nationwide lifting them from extreme poverty, as part of UNHCR's livelihood strategy.

Durable Solutions

- Facilitate access to rights, social services and alternative migratory options such as MERCOSUR and dependents visas.
- Conduct a resettlement programme, which is one of UNHCR's contributions to the host country.
- Identify and provide a comprehensive response to unaccompanied children and youth, supporting them to integrate in education programmes.
- Fight xenophobia and discrimination, together with civil society organizations and government institutions, through public information campaigns designed to promote solidarity and peaceful coexistence among the host community and the refugee population.

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