

ECUADOR – LIVELIHOODS

COVID-19 Update

22 June 2020



Key Figures

3,491 families assisted through the Graduation Model since 2015, with a **84% graduation rate.**

183 young refugees and Ecuadorians participating in *A Ganar* have continued their training through virtual courses during the COVID-19 crisis.

4,246 deaths due to COVID-19, the ninth country with most confirmed cases and deaths per capita in the region.

19% of funding needs received by 22 June 2020.

Situational Highlights

- Ecuador is the second hardest hit economy by COVID-19 in the region after Venezuela, according to a special report released by ECLAC on 21 April. Ecuador's GDP will decrease 6.5 per cent in 2020, in the context of a global recession due to the COVID-19 crisis and the fall in the price of crude oil.
- The unemployment rate is expected to increase 8 per cent between 2020 and 2022 and the population in extreme poverty will increase by 66 per cent in 2020, based on World Bank projections. Many supply chains have been disrupted due to confinement and steep reductions in demand.

Persons of concern to UNHCR, in particular Venezuelans who were already in precarious conditions before the COVID-19 crisis, are especially affected by restrictive lockdown measures as a result of the health emergency. The vast majority works in the informal sector and lacks a social safety-net. Not being able to go out and make a living, they are unable to cover their basic needs, such as rent and food. Many are evicted and end up on the street where they are subject to xenophobia, discrimination and other protection risks. A short survey conducted by UNHCR with 528 persons of concern revealed that 70 per cent of businesses could only resist a "no-sales" period of 0 to 15 days. After a three months lockdown, 65 per cent of businesses have totally closed their operations, and 30 per cent partially.

UNHCR's Response

- UNHCR, together with IOM, co-leads the inter-agency response to the Venezuela situation.
- UNHCR participates in the Early Recovery Working Group (part of the Humanitarian Country Team) to coordinate livelihoods activities with other UN Agencies and NGOs and ensure alignment with Government programmes and policies.
- UNHCR has redirected its focus on the reactivation of livelihoods lost due to COVID-19, by identifying shifting demands for jobs, products and services as a result of the pandemic. Examples are production of protective equipment (e.g. face masks) and door to door deliveries.
- In alliance with the Alliance for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNHCR supports the design of a more inclusive strategy to promote entrepreneurship and innovation.
- One-hundred and eighty-three young refugees and Ecuadorians participating in the "A Ganar" Programme have been able to continue their vocational training through virtual courses, thanks to an agreement between Fundación Telefónica and FUDELA.

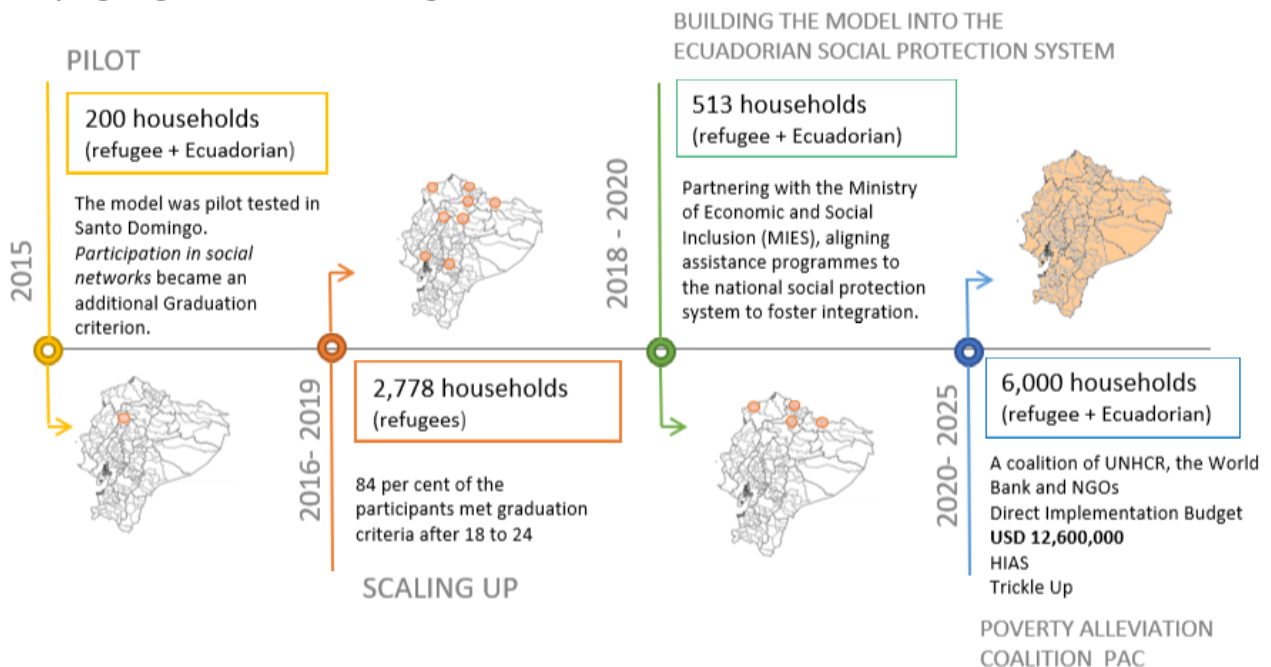
- UNHCR is encouraging multi-stakeholder dialogues with the private sector and local Governments, to reactivate supply-chains affected by COVID-19. The dialogues promote solutions with a social, economic and environmental impact. They will be inclusive (social impact), market-oriented in response to the “new normal” (economic impact) and will use environmentally friendly technologies (environmental impact).
- UNHCR and UNDP are implementing a joint strategy to support the recovery of small businesses through the programme #EnMarchaDigital, while creating new jobs for refugees and vulnerable Ecuadorians in delivery services.
- Through its partners -Fundación HIAS, Fundación AVSI, FUDELA, FEPP and ConQuito- UNHCR is supporting the recovery and creation of new livelihoods through innovation and adaptation of small enterprises to new consumer demands, in line with contagion containment guidelines and biosafety recommendations.

The Graduation Model: reaching families living in extreme poverty

Since 2015 Ecuador is implementing the Graduation Model, a comprehensive programme of support for refugees who are economically active or have the potential to generate income and find themselves in a situation of vulnerability. The Graduation Model consists of a package of services provided in a sequenced and time-bound fashion that combines elements of social protection, livelihoods development, and financial inclusion.

Read the [story of Valeria and Osmar](#), a Venezuelan family selected to participate in the Graduation Model.

Adapting the graduation model for refugees in Ecuador:



Funding UNHCR’s response

UNHCR is appealing for USD 2 million to support the increase of livelihood opportunities and skills while fostering self-reliance and empowerment in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The best way to support UNHCR’s appeal is through softly earmarked contributions. Such flexible funding at global level will be key in allowing a timely response to the evolving needs wherever required.

UNHCR is thankful to the donors who provide funds to Ecuador:

Private donors Australia | Canada | CERF | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Private donors Japan | Private donors Republic of Korea | Norway | Netherlands | Private donors Spain | Sony Corporation | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | UN Children Fund | UN peacebuilding Fund | UN Programme On HIV/AIDS | United States of America | Private donors United States of America

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