

Annual Results Report

2024

Ecuador

Acknowledgements

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Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

With weakened state institutions, Ecuador has seen a sharp increase in organized crime, leading to unprecedented levels of violence. Enduring structural problems and limited social rights have caused chronic discontent, prompting many Ecuadorians to leave the country. This exodus is now further driven by escalating violence.

In January 2024, following a surge in violence, including the takeover of a state-owned TV channel, President Noboa declared an “internal armed conflict” and labeled 22 criminal groups as “terrorists.” Several localized states of emergency have been declared since. While overall homicides have decreased, extortions, child recruitment, and kidnappings have risen, and the security situation remains challenging, particularly at the community level.

In 2024, Ecuador entered a political campaign for the presidential and national assembly elections in February 2025 and a second round in April. UNHCR has been adapting its protection and solutions response to the security situation, engaging with community leaders, and limiting support in livelihoods to avoid extortion of beneficiaries.

Ecuador continues to witness the forced displacement of people seeking safety. Ecuador remains the main country of asylum for Colombians, recognizing the largest number of refugees globally (an estimated 75,000 according to the Government’s historical figures). 2024 saw the highest number of asylum claims from Colombians on record since 2014, with nearly 7,000. Despite concerns of an influx of Venezuelans due to the July 2024 Presidential Elections, arrivals average 600 per day, with most exiting towards other countries. UNHCR worked with the Ecuadorian government on regularization exercises, including a new decree in August 2024. Ecuadorians continue to be internally displaced or leave the country, with over 103,000 pending asylum applications from Ecuadorians, by mid-2024, in the United States of America and Spain, citing violence and extortion by criminal gangs.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

Forcibly displaced people receive protection according to international standards and in line with their rights and specific needs.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

In 2024, UNHCR and partners registered 48,515 forcibly displaced people, representing a decrease of approximately 19% from those registered in 2023. Around 71% had unmet basic needs, including legal status, education, or severe medical conditions. Nearly 65% of those assisted were Venezuelan, 25% Colombian, and 10% other nationalities. UNHCR supported asylum authorities through the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI), enhancing reception and civil registration. 14,486 individuals were registered with protection needs, an increase compared to the 10,740 in 2023, including 4,117 recognized as refugees, reducing the asylum backlog to 6,997 cases. Refugee recognition rates increased to 69%, and processing times decreased to about five months.

Lack of documentation and regular status remained key barriers. Ecuador continued regularizing mostly Venezuelans with technical and financial support from UNHCR and IOM, providing temporary residence visas (VIRTE). The government registered 259,084 individuals, issued 199,000 migratory stay certificates, and 95,809 temporary residence visas. A new regularization program, VIRTE II, was launched in August 2024 to benefit 100,000 individuals who could not apply for the VIRTE visa.

According to the 2023 Results Monitoring Survey (RMS), 75% of respondents were aware of specialized services to address violence against women and girls. In 2024, UNHCR supported 2,903 survivors through specialized services and protection shelters. Coordination with the Ministry of Women and Human Rights was reinforced to improve access to services for women and girls through Centros Violeta. Child protection efforts included advocacy for the regularization of unaccompanied and separated children. However, the ministries have yet to reach a consensus on the procedure. Child protection case management was strengthened, achieving a BIA process in 70.2% of cases, with 21.7% requiring alternative care measures. In 2024, 122 adolescents received direct support for protection.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

Most vulnerable forcibly displaced people are able to cover their basic needs and access rights, including health and education.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	16.55%	16.55%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	79.71%	79.71%

Direct subsistence support enabled the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers to cover part of their survival needs. The operation targeted 10,636 individuals/3,024 households with the assistance. The PDM confirmed 42% of the people assisted were able to cover half or more of their basic needs with 90.1% being able to access the required goods and services. Although, thanks to the assistance, 91% of the households reported improvements in their living conditions and 89% noted a reduction in stress levels, most households (98%) reported having had to recur to negative coping mechanisms. The gap between the assistance provided and the cost of living was partially mitigated through coordination between UNHCR and the World Food Programme through the provision of food vouchers for part of the population assisted, even though unmet needs still represented a challenge for most of the households. Beyond the policy of universality and gratuity that guarantees access to health services for all people, including those in human mobility, there are serious limitations to making this right effective. On the one hand, there is a process of state weakening, with the reduction of budget allocations for the social sector, which limits the quality and coverage of these services. On the other hand, the presence of criminal groups in certain territories has created a context of insecurity, violence, and criminality, particularly affecting the education sector, forcing parents to withdraw their children from schools. Based on the Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) conducted in 2023, 65% of children were enrolled in the educational system. According to the Ministry of Education, 53,013 Venezuelan children were enrolled for the 2023-2024 period which is 2,746 fewer than in the 2022-2023 period. In terms of health, RMS data from 2023, it shows 79% measles coverage and 97% professional childbirth care.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

Forcibly displaced people achieve self-reliance and progressively find durable solutions in resilient and cohesive communities.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,427	3,878
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknow	9
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	70,649	73,051

Socio-economic integration efforts focused on creating dignified job and entrepreneurship opportunities for refugees while strengthening strategic collaboration with development actors.

Between 2023 and 2024, refugees access to decent work increased by 7 percentage points, reaching 31% of the forcibly displaced population. UNHCR supported 6,050 individuals through business and entrepreneurship training (3,612), employment counselling (1,996), and technical training (442). The private sector network expanded to 170 companies and a coalition of 16 local governments was formed to promote inclusive policies.

Collaboration with development actors, like the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), CAF, and BMZ-GIZ proved useful to promote the inclusion of refugees in government projects and/or local development strategies in the education, labour market and social protection sectors. Working across the humanitarian-development nexus has contributed to responding effectively to the needs of forcibly displaced and stateless people and to find durable solutions for those with the intention to stay in Ecuador.

UNHCR launched a strengthened version of “Un Mundo Posible,” integrating new initiatives like the ToolBox, launched at the end of 2024, to support advocacy efforts in different levels and across several audiences in settings like education institutions, health centers, media, and others. Through an integrated

and streamlined message, UNHCR was able to influence discourse across several audiences.

Resettlement and complementary pathways were also part of the solutions strategy of the operation. In 2024, 11,744 people were submitted for resettlement to the United States of America (USA), Australia, Canada and New Zealand and 3,878 were resettled to these countries. Regarding complementary pathways, 4 individuals were accepted under Canada’s Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot and 9 individuals departed to the USA through the Welcome Corps programme.

Other Core Impact Indicators

Country	Population Type	Baseline	Actual(2024)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work			
Ecuador	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	23.61%	31.22%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education			
Ecuador	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	78.42%	78.42%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education			
Ecuador	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	48.95%	48.95%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark			
Ecuador	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	34.47%	34.47%

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

Ecuador continues to have a favourable protection environment, but with very limited resources to adequately respond to international protection and solution needs and the growing phenomena of internal displacement. Therefore, the country is very dependent on international financing cooperation.

Challenges in 2024 were a continuation of 2023, in terms of governance, limited access to rights, structural socio-economic difficulties and a stagnated economy at 0 growth and further deterioration of the security situation prompting the declaration of an internal conflict. Despite measures undertaken by the Government, no major improvements had been observed, beyond the number of homicides. Nevertheless, territorial disputes, extorsions, kidnappings and recruitment continued, mostly in coastal areas. Insecurity not only affected refugees and migrants, but also Ecuadorians who resorted to displaced internally or to abandon the country. UNHCR had to adapt its localized strategy by actively engaging with communities where the security situation allowed for interventions, strengthening institutions including local governments, increasing collaboration with local organizations and leaders and trying to foster positive change and support building of resilience. However, addressing root causes of violence, and implementing interventions to address social, economic, and environmental factors remains unresolved in Ecuador.

Regarding extreme weather events, 2024 was reported as the driest year in the last 60 years, provoking as of September, an energy crisis with electricity blackouts of up to 14 hours daily. The impact of the electricity crisis called for the operation to find back up mechanisms to guarantee power supply for registration and other service delivery activities.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

Partnerships with key collaborators were essential to UNHCR's ability to achieve results for displaced people in Ecuador. This included UNHCR's leadership and coordination role through the R4V national platform in Ecuador (GTRM, Grupo de Trabajo para Refugiados y Migrantes). Throughout 2024, UNHCR exercised leadership roles in the national GTRM in Ecuador and its sectors and working groups (particularly in Protection, Shelter, Integration, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), Information Management (IM) and Communications) as well as through co-leadership of ten local GTRMs (in Quito, Guayaquil, Tulcán, Lago Agrio, Esmeraldas, Ibarra, Ambato, Manta, Huaquillas and Cuenca) together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This network was key to coordinating the response of 70+ organizations participating in the Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants (RMRP) in Ecuador, with UN agencies, international and national NGOs, including 12 refugee- and migrant-led organizations.

In 2024, UNHCR closely coordinated with 16 non-governmental organizations, including three international and 13 local organizations. A key milestone was the first implementation of grant agreements with 5 grassroots organizations, addressing various issues like healthcare and community protection.

UNHCR coordinated with development actors like the World Bank and the IDB and collaborated closely with government authorities (including the Ministries of the Interior, Social Inclusion, Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Public Health, Education, Women and Human Rights and the local Autonomous Decentralized Governments) to ensure the complementarity of UNHCR's activities in support of the integration of displaced people into national and local development plans.

UNHCR also coordinated activities through the Humanitarian Country Team, the UN Country Team and other mechanisms and initiatives facilitated by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Ecuador.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

Forcibly displaced people are timely identified and referred to protection services

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	98.53%	98.00%	98.53%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	48,369
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,676

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, Ecuador maintained an open border policy for asylum-seekers and refugees, generally complying with protection standards at entry points. UNHCR worked with government institutions to improve international protection delivery and promote sustainability, ensuring forcibly displaced people had access to registration, documentation, legal services, and refugee status determination.

48,515 refugees, asylum seekers and others displaced were registered by UNHCR, a decrease from 60,000 in 2023. This reduction reflects a decline in arrivals, a reduced UNHCR and partner capacity, as well as heightened security risks, including recruitment by criminal groups and invisible borders, combined with limited resources, which restricted individual freedom of movement and access to UNHCR and partner offices.

Despite these challenges, new SOPs enabled UNHCR and partners to carry out data collection, map specific protection needs, and enhance referrals for local integration. Registration practices and data interpretation were standardized, facilitating informed decision-making and situation analysis. Data quality monitoring tools improved overall accuracy by 25%, increasing from 66% to 83% across field offices and partners, strengthening protection responses.

UNHCR worked closely with asylum authorities to implement the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI), developing adequate reception arrangements, including inter-institutional protocols to identify and refer forcibly displaced people at entry and border points, strengthen civil registration and address rights violations. Few protection incidents related to arrivals at airports were reported, and authorities generally guaranteed access to the territory for those seeking asylum. Only five cases of refoulement incidents were registered.

UNHCR supported institutions mandated to provide protection and specialized services for people with specific protection needs, survivors of violence, and children at risk, representing 71% of those registered by UNHCR and partners. This support enabled individuals to exercise their rights and access services, addressing unmet basic needs (28,698 people) and lack of legal documentation (16,028).

Access to registration and documentation for asylum-seekers and refugees was generally guaranteed by law and accessible in practice. However, practical challenges remained for people in remote or border locations, who lacked internet connectivity or needed access to information on their rights or alternative protection pathways.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Forcibly displaced people have access to fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	312.00	200.00	298.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During 2024, the Government of Ecuador registered 14,486 people with potential international protection needs (a substantive increase compared to 2023 mostly by an increase in Colombian applications), recognized 4,117 individuals as refugees (over 12% more than the past year) and reduced the backlog of pending cases to 6,997 people (an 18% reduction from 2023), continuing the positive trends in asylum indicators since 2022. Similarly, among asylum-seekers, Colombian registrations increased continuously since 2021, with 6,878 applications in 2024 due mostly to the grave deterioration of the security situation in

that country, while Venezuelan applications also scored a considerable increase compared to the previous year, with 6,958 new asylum applications in 2024 (due mostly to a strong advocacy for access and the discontinuation of alternative pathways like the regularization). Refugee recognition rates rose, achieving an overall of 69% for all nationalities (compared to the 67.5% of 2023), attributed mainly by the high recognition rate for the Colombian caseload (above 89%). At the same time, the number of Venezuelans recognized as refugees presented a slight decrease compared to 2023, at 24% of all applications, possibly in line with the increase of registrations from that nationality.

Very positively, the average processing time for protection cases was significantly reduced from previous years, to about five months from registration to first instance decision (about just three months from the eligibility interview to the determination decision). In addition, UNHCR continued to support an initiative initiated in 2023 to improve and update government records systems, clarify the current number of asylum-seekers still awaiting decisions and close other inactive cases within the refugee status determination process.

UNHCR provided the Directorate for International Protection (DPIN) with on-site office support with processing needs (such as Guayaquil and Lago Agrio) and reinforced support to deploy mobile registration and eligibility brigades. In total, twelve brigades were carried out (Esmeraldas, Lago Agrio, Machala, Santo Domingo, Manta, Guayaquil, Azogues and San Lorenzo) registering 4,966 people, a significant increase from approximately 3,600 last year, out of which DPIN carried out 1,073 eligibility interviews. UNHCR partners including NRC and HIAS provided additional support and assistance to complement the brigades, particularly through legal and documentation services.

UNHCR facilitated several operational field visits by DPIN central authorities to their field units, to carry out capacity-building activities. For the second year in a row, UNHCR also conducted a protection workshop for DPIN staff, bringing together field and central-level colleagues.

UNHCR also consolidated its role (voice but no vote) in the periodic meetings of the Asylum Eligibility Commission.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Gender-based violence survivors have access to specialized protection responses in a safe environment

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	75.37%	75.00%	75.37%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	84.85%	100.00%	93.01%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
Host Community	4,486
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,959

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR carried out interventions aligned with the pillars of Prevention, Risk Mitigation, and Response to violence against women and girls, ensuring safe and comprehensive actions for 2,902 survivors, including refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants, and host community members.

UNHCR ensured a comprehensive case management framework through continuous capacity-building of case managers, development and implementation of tools, and updating guidelines and standard operating procedures for incidents of violence. This included launching a relocation protocol for survivors and their dependents as an exceptional protection mechanism. According to proGres, 1,064 cases were managed nationally. 8,445 individuals benefited from specialized services, including social work, psychological support, legal counseling, and shelter in safe houses. A satisfaction survey showed 93% of survivors were satisfied or very satisfied of the services received.

Furthermore, UNHCR conducted training sessions for personnel specialized to protect women and girls from violence as well as those who are non-expert in the area. These sessions ensured appropriate and sensitive interventions, such as managing safely the disclosure of incidents of violence. A total of 1,960 individuals from organizations and institutions received training. As part of the Safe from the Start initiative, three safe spaces for women and girls were equipped in Lago Agrio, Cuenca, and Huaquillas, ensuring their operation aligned with interagency minimum standards.

The prevention of violence against women and girls aimed at strengthening community interventions and increasing awareness about harmful behavioral patterns that perpetuate violence. These efforts reached 4,552 refugees, asylum seekers, and host community members. A key highlight was the first-ever implementation of the Engaging Men through Accountable Practices (EMAP) model in Ecuador, including a national training for trainers supported by IRC and a pilot rollout in Esmeraldas. Additionally, two women-led organizations in Manabí and Santo Domingo received grant agreements to implement community-based prevention programmes and establish support networks for women and girls.

Regarding interagency coordination, collaboration was significant to protect women and girls from violence with initiatives with local governments in Carchi, Imbabura, Esmeraldas, Sucumbíos, Manabí, Pichincha, and El Oro. The successful implementation of the 2024 work plan with the Ministry of Women and Human Rights focused on training technical teams, providing advisory support on forced displacement, developing content, supplying equipment to enhance services, and distributing informational materials on protection pathways and available support services. UNHCR also co-led the technical working group on the elimination of violence against women (MEGECI) and continued to provide technical support to other interagency platforms, including the UN Gender Working Group and the Gender-based Violence Subgroup of the Refugees and Migrants Working Group (GTRM).

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Unaccompanied, separated or at-risk children and adolescents have access to efficient protection responses

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	55.41%	99.00%	70.25%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	18.53%	34.00%	18.53%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27.26%	49.00%	21.72%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5,888

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR strengthened case management for children at risk, reaching 70.2% of unaccompanied and separated children. Staff specialized in child protection conducted a best interest assessment and initiated case management. 21.7% of unaccompanied and separated children benefitted from alternative care in strict coordination with the child protection authorities of the Ecuadorian State. Additionally, 122 unaccompanied adolescents over 16 years old, received subsistence support with a protection component. Furthermore, UNHCR trained 934 individuals working for key organizations and institutions on child protection.

On the other hand, insecurity and violence caused by criminal groups in locations increased protection risks for children and adolescents. Mental health issues, school dropouts, exposure to substance use and abuse, and the risk of recruitment, use, or exploitation of children by criminal groups are some of the key protection risks to which this population is exposed. In this context, UNHCR strengthened the participation and involvement of adolescents in their community. Sport for Protection was a central axis in these community interventions, with actions from different disciplines integrating protection concepts into sports activities. UNHCR has also invested significant efforts in developing key alliances with sports actors, including with the Ministry of Sports, further enhancing the inclusion of children, adolescents, and young people in sports programmes across the country. According to the 2023 RMS, 19% of children and adolescents are estimated to have participated in community-based child protection programmes, i.e. 4,942 children and adolescents were reached.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Forcibly displaced people have access to the justice system, legal services and state protection mechanism

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	62,060

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Ecuador has a solid legal framework to protect forcibly displaced and stateless people and a long-standing asylum tradition. The country has recognized asylum and other protection principles (such as non-refoulement, non-discrimination, access to documentation, and rights, among others), at the constitutional

level, and has established specific legislation (LOMH 2021 and its Regulation) on Asylum and Statelessness. The country is also party to all main human rights instruments at the global and regional levels, providing complementarity in international protection to those in need.

The 1951 Refugee Convention and the Cartagena refugee definitions are set in law and applied in practice. National legislation provides refugee status and stateless determination procedures consistent with international standards.

In 2024, in addition to carrying out the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) and through a more robust collaboration with the Directorate for International Protection (DPIN), UNHCR developed strengthened working relations with other relevant justice system actors, including the National Assembly and the Judiciary Council, as well as with human rights institutions that have constitutional oversight of administrative decisions, such as the Public Defender's Office and the Ombudsperson's Office. These collaborations helped to preclude potential challenges in legislation and protection frameworks, by anticipating issues of concern and addressing them through informal means.

In terms of the operational response to displaced people in need of legal services, UNHCR strengthened its programme with the Public Defender's Office. Thanks to this collaboration, in 2024, 63,123 displaced people accessed legal services and representation (an increase of around 23% from 2023). Out of these 63,123, 9,592 received direct legal representation and 5,431 other forms of legal counsel, while 8,449 received legal services and representation within the asylum system and 6,574 in regularization mechanisms. Within the asylum system, 6,454 people received direct legal representation and 1,997 received other forms of legal counsel. Most interventions supported asylum-seekers and refugees access the asylum system, presenting appeals, renewing documentation, and prepare for interviews. In the regularization pipeline, 3,140 people received direct legal representation and 3,434 received other forms of legal counsel. Most interventions provided counsel in regularization, preparing and following up on applications, as well as appeals.

During 2024, UNHCR was involved in drafting and/or providing comments on several pieces of legislation, including the reform of the Human Mobility Law (Ley Orgánica de Movilidad Humana) and the protocols for access to international protection at airports and other entry points.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

Host communities and forcibly displaced people develop strategies to mitigate violence and insecurity risks.

Inclusive community-based networks are strengthened to mitigate protection, security and environmental risks and facilitate social cohesion

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Moderate	Extensive	Moderate
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6.50%	14.00%	6.50%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	55.76%	100.00%	55.76%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
Host Community	140
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	683

07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,932
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	62,060

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR Ecuador carried out community interventions across 13 provinces, reaching 16,271 displaced people and host community members. These interventions supported diverse profiles, including people with disabilities, Afro-descendants, and indigenous people with initiatives that addressed discrimination, xenophobia, and violence exacerbated by insecurity, while fostering peaceful coexistence, solidarity, inclusion, and creating safe community spaces and support networks.

A key priority of the community-based protection strategy was advancing localization initiatives to strengthen and support organizational processes led by displaced individuals and local community members. These initiatives were carried out through organizations and community structures that foster integration, rebuild social cohesion, prevent violence, and promote collective action. A total of 72 community-based organizations received support, including refugee-led and women-led organizations, which were provided with technical assistance, capacity-building, and essential equipment. Additionally, five organizations received grant agreements to enhance their local programmes, focusing on community inclusion, sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention and response, and protection of women and girls from violence. Moreover, five women-led organizations from Quito, Santo Domingo, Lago Agrio, and Cuenca participated in global and regional platforms addressing gender equality, the protection of women and girls from violence, and access to asylum.

Community consultation exercises ensured meaningful participation of forcibly displaced people across different ages, genders, and diverse backgrounds. A total of 823 people nationwide took part in these consultations, offering insights into various challenges, needs, risks, and potential solutions. The most significant initiative was the 2024 Participatory Assessment, which engaged 327 individuals on issues related to confinement and forced displacement caused by insecurity and organized criminal groups. Among the participants, 51% identified as female and 49% as male.

Feedback mechanisms remained essential for two-way communication with displaced individuals. 11,065 people accessed relevant information through the UNHCR chatbot service, and there were 487,751 visits to the HELP page. Surveys among HELP users revealed that 64% were women, 22% had relocated within Ecuador due to economic or security concerns, and 64% intended to leave the country for similar reasons.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

Forcibly displaced families improve access to basic needs and relevant services

The emergency response to forcibly displaced persons is relevant and efficient, including climate change actions, and mitigation of violence and insecurity risks

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4.16%	6.00%	6.40%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	98.57%	100.00%	98.57%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
Host Community	575
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	19,878
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items	
Host Community	1,812
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10,142

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The 2024 PDM confirmed that 42% of assisted households covered at least half of their basic needs, and while 90.1% accessed essential goods and services, 98% relied on negative coping mechanisms. Among the most severe, 64% accrued rent debt, 58% sought financial help from strangers, 47% sold productive assets, and 40% withdrew children from school. Additionally, 40% of households reported rising prices, particularly for food, further straining their ability to meet basic needs.

To respond, UNHCR and partners strengthened safe reception facilities in Tulcán, Ibarra, Lago Agrio, Quito, Santo Domingo, Cuenca, Guayaquil, and Huaquillas, providing temporary shelter to 13,736 people. To further provide safe spaces, infrastructure improvements and equipment upgrades were carried out in 21 additional shelter facilities: 10 for families in transit or homelessness, 6 for unaccompanied children, 4 for survivors of violence, and 1 for LGBTIQ+ individuals. Moreover, 8,991 people received food in community kitchens supported by UNHCR.

Coordination with national and local stakeholders enhanced emergency response, and UNHR trained 281 individuals in shelter management with a focus on emergency response, protection and security.

Aligned with the UNHCR Strategic Framework for Climate Action, efforts were made to reduce environmental impact. Procurement was optimized by prioritizing sustainable materials and suppliers, while framework agreements streamlined logistics and costs. A key milestone in the strategy was the installation of emergency solar backup systems in 5 UNHCR's field offices, 1 shelter, and 1 community center across Ecuador, ensuring uninterrupted critical functions during severe power outages caused by the 2024 drought. Looking forward, this initiative enhances preparedness, reduces carbon emissions, and strengthens resilience against extreme weather events.

Guided by robust data-collection tools and close coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team and GTRM platforms, UNHCR continued delivering evidence-based interventions that integrate preparedness against extreme weather events, disasters and displacement, mitigate risks, and reinforce reception systems. These efforts underscore UNHCR's commitment to sustainability, durable solutions, and long-term impact for displaced populations and host communities.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Forcibly displaced people improve their access to primary health care services, and especially to maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health and mental health and psychosocial support

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	79.17%	100.00%	79.17%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.97%	100.00%	96.97%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
Host Community	1,438
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7,690

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

According to RMS data from 2023 health indicators show a coverage of 79% for the measles vaccine in children aged 9 months to 5 years, and 97% for women with live newborns who received professional care during childbirth. Ecuador continued to maintain universal and free access to the public health system for all people, including refugees and other forcibly displaced people. From a qualitative approach through various consultations with people, it is evident that the economic crisis, the reduction of resources for the sector, as well as issues of insecurity and violence, affected the possibility of maintaining universality and gratuity, resulting in health services with many deficiencies that prevent people from receiving timely responses to their health needs. Complaints about the quality and timeliness of health services were widespread.

In this context, UNHCR sustained support for primary health centers in areas with a significant presence of refugees. Infrastructure and equipment support was provided to the Augusto Egas Health Center in Santo Domingo, where the emergency room and the first reception room for survivors of violence were optimized. This allowed for increased service coverage. Additionally, 15 services in the northern and southern borders received support in sexual and reproductive health supplies to improve their response capacity within the framework of the HIV Prevention and Response Programme.

In Sexual and Reproductive Health, the focus was on HIV prevention in key populations, working with sex workers, LGBTIQ+ individuals (especially transgender people), and adolescents and young people. Through training and awareness sessions, a total of 957 refugees, other forcibly displaced people, and host community members were reached. Additionally, 451 people from organizations were trained. These efforts were complemented with the distribution of 805 HIV prevention kits to people participating in the processes. Finally, significant efforts were made to sustain community-based psychosocial support mechanisms using scalable WHO tools and strengthening the articulation of this community level with psychosocial support services through partners and public health services. 573 psychological consultations were provided. Additionally, psychosocial support was also provided to people in shelters, reaching a total of 9,128.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Vulnerable children and adolescents have improved access to, stay in school, and completion of primary and secondary education in a safe and inclusive environment.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	65.11%	100.00%	65.11%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Host Community	1,870
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	272

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

According to RMS data from 2023, school enrolment of children and adolescents reached 65%. This figure was already lower than the national average, and considering the changes in the context, especially related to the presence of criminal groups and their activities in educational environments, it has been qualitatively identified that families, for security reasons, are deciding to withdraw their children from school. This is affecting both the refugee population and other forcibly displaced persons, as well as the host population. Similarly, it is important to consider that last year there was no Education Can not Wait funding for education interventions (within the framework of MYRP phase 2, which began in 2024). This led to a reorientation of UNHCR's intervention in education. The application of the community model for educational inclusion was maintained through our registration and community-based protection processes, identifying children outside the educational system who were channelled through different actors to achieve their access to the system, and through the protection system to respond to certain specific protection needs that were identified in parallel.

Additionally, the training processes using the "Respiramos Inclusión" (We Breathe Inclusion) methodology were maintained, with necessary adaptations to apply this tool in community contexts and other institutions beyond the initial educational framework. This adaptation allowed for the integration of educational interventions with the "Sport for Protection" work, which began its implementation in 2023X. as a result, the methodology was expanded to include community and institutional actors, from educational, municipal, and sports related sectors. Within this framework, a total of 2,142 people were trained, as well as 756 children and adolescents from educational institutions.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Forcibly displaced people improve their ability to generate income in conditions of safety and dignity and are integrated into local socioeconomic networks

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	29.26%	100.00%	29.26%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4.43%	19.00%	4.43%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Host Community	2,578
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,464

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Despite Ecuador's security and economic challenges, in 2024, UNHCR facilitated economic inclusion for 8,412 forcibly displaced people in 10 cities, indirectly benefiting over 22,000 family members and dependents.

UNHCR provided 3,612 displaced people with business training and entrepreneurship services and distributed financial capital to 201 entrepreneurs to grow their businesses. Through the initiative Purchase with Purpose, UNHCR facilitated access in 58 local markets retailers for 155 refugee and host community entrepreneurs, 32 new businesses obtained licenses to operate, and more than 1,200 entrepreneurs were supported with commercialization opportunities. Together with HIAS, UNHCR provided employment counseling to 1,411 people and 7 job fairs reached 1,500 people with more than 80 companies involved. The employability route project had trained and supported nearly 1,000 people, 500 of whom were formally hired.

UNHCR also enhanced business opportunities in the Green Economy, engaged 234 people in ecological initiatives, supported a Community of Circular Economy in Cuenca with 80+ entrepreneurs involved, while in the northern border 5 agrobusiness (20 households) from Colombian refugees were reinforced. In Manta, the "Guardians of the Ecosystem" solar panel programme empowered refugees and locals with skills for green jobs opportunities.

In 2024, UNHCR strengthened partnerships with financial service providers (FSPs), helping 611 refugees open bank accounts. UNHCR supported the National Financial Strategy and assisted FSPs in adopting November 2023 regulations that ease documentation requirements for refugees for accessing savings accounts.

UNHCR expanded its private sector network from 120 to 170 companies that, in a context of unemployment and economic stagnation, demonstrates UNHCR maintained the agenda of refugee inclusion relevant. The third edition of the Inclusive Company Seal recognized 102 companies nationwide as having positive hiring and employment practices with refugees. In addition, 1,260 people were assisted through Practical Training with Companies, a programme that promotes the development of technical and vocational skills through a combination of technical and practical training with private enterprises.

In the public sector, UNHCR worked closely with 19 local governments and expanded public economic services across 10 provinces. Additionally, UNHCR established a group of 16 local governments committed to developing solutions for forcibly displaced people and promoting inclusive policies. UNHCR also intensified advocacy efforts with governmental entities. For example, the Ministry of Production integrated refugees into public services (National Entrepreneurship Registry, trade fairs and exhibitions); the National Secretary of Higher Education streamlined the process for recognizing university diplomas; and the Ecuadorian Institute for Social Security revised its taxonomy to offer alternative codifications for asylum-seekers.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

An increased number of forcibly displaced people are resettled through strengthened and efficient mechanisms

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,962	11,060	11,744

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Resettlement remained a key component of UNHCR’s protection and solutions strategy in 2024. Ecuador continued to surpass figures recorded in previous years, submitting 11,744 individuals to the United States of America, Australia, Canada and New Zealand compared to 2,972 and 1,585 individuals in 2023 and 2022 respectively. UNHCR Ecuador met and exceeded resettlement quotas for 2024. The number of individuals departing to resettlement countries also increased to 3,878 individuals departed in 2024.

Throughout 2024, most cases were submitted under the Safe Mobility Initiative (SMI), which was launched on 18 October 2023. Through the SMI, refugees and migrants could self-identify and register on the SMO portal for consideration by the Government of the United States for humanitarian and other regular pathways. The programme was opened for Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, Venezuelan, and Colombian nationals who were in Ecuador on or before 18 October 2023 and who had applied for asylum or initiated their regularization process in the country. By December 2024, 55,915 individuals had completed applications, of which 33,219 individuals were assigned to UNHCR, 11,271 individuals were assigned to IOM and 11,425 did not meet the eligibility criteria and/or were not assigned to either organization. Between January and December 2024, a total of 11,206 were submitted for resettlement to the United States. The primary nationalities submitted for resettlement consideration in 2024 were Venezuelans and Colombians, followed by Cubans.

UNHCR also continued to receive protection referrals from field offices and partners, particularly people with urgent protection needs. Therefore, the resettlement programme continued to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. Legal and/or physical protection needs was the primary submission category in 2024,

reflecting the limited of access to a durable legal status for many displaced people in Ecuador and the increase of physical protection needs resulting from the deteriorating security situation in the country. Many applicants reported facing multiple displacements within Ecuador due to extortion and threats of recruitment by gangs. A notable proportion of cases also continued to be submitted under the Survivors of Violence and/or Torture and Women and Girls at Risk categories.

In February 2024, 200 individuals attended the virtual job fair, organized in coordination with TalentLift in order to identify possible applicants for Canada's Economic Mobility Pathway Pilot, following which 4 candidates were accepted to the programme. Moreover, between November and December 2024, 6 informative sessions (3 in-person, 3 virtual) were carried out together with WUSC to identify candidates for the Welcome Corps on Campus education pathway.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

Forcibly displaced people have access to alternative migration pathways and documentation that supports their local integration

Needs of forcibly displaced people and host communities are addressed within development agendas and included in social protection programs and policies

Public opinion and host communities have a more inclusive approach of forcibly displaced people

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13.36%	33.00%	13.36%
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		4.00%	1.79%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Partially
16.2.1 Number of people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	133

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Lack of documentation and irregular status remained key barriers to protection and integration for many refugees and migrants. To address this, the Government finalized the registration and regularization exercise by April 2024, with support from UNHCR and IOM. This initiative registered 259,084 individuals and issued 199,000 migratory certificates and 95,809 temporary residence visas (VIRTE). Due to the high number of individuals who could not access the regularization, the government launched VIRTE II in August 2024, expected to benefit 100,000 additional individuals.

As part of a UN initiative, UNHCR promoted the inclusion of forcibly displaced people in the National Development Plan 2024-2025. The World Bank, IDB, GIZ, and UNHCR furthered joint advocacy to maximize refugee inclusion in national and local agendas. The WB and UNHCR supported the government in issuing a ministerial agreement to recognize foreign university degrees (4,091 requests post-reform). The World Bank also involved UNHCR in a Social Safety Net project to improve refugee access to social programmes and economic inclusion opportunities. Additionally, the World Bank, UNHCR, and INEC published a study based on the 2022 Population Census to update the characterization of forcibly displaced people in Ecuador. IDB and UNHCR partnered to assist Manta and Quito in expanding socioeconomic opportunities and services for vulnerable people. GIZ and UNHCR linked their livelihoods strategies in Guayaquil and supported the implementation of the “Ordinance on People in Human Mobility” with the Prefecture of Azuay.

UNHCR's external engagement strategy aimed to drive support from media, private sector, sports entities, the Government, donors, and host communities through the Un Mundo Possible initiative. This included events, missions, interviews, and multimedia production. UNHCR developed tools to promote an inclusive approach, including a ToolBox with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and regular donor engagement briefings. UNHCR also formed alliances with sports teams and athletes to shape an inclusive narrative for people forced to flee. UNHCR reached over 3.2 million social media accounts through Instagram with nearly 700 digital products and achieved nearly 500 mentions in local media, saving the operation more than USD 620,000.

Other Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Baseline	Target(2024)	Actual(2024)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness			
None	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned

Other Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Actual (2024)
03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
Host Community	241
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13,495
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR made key improvements in case registration and management under an Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) approach, enhancing the identification and response to protection needs. The initial registration process was refined to minimize revictimization, especially for women, children, and LGBTIQ+ individuals, by integrating structured questions to assess risks and circumstances accurately. A detailed framework for addressing protection needs was developed with targeted training. Digital illiteracy was recognized as a specific protection need, facilitating tailored support for document management in regularization and asylum applications in Ecuador.

UNHCR conducted consultation exercises with diverse profiles to incorporate their perspectives on context, risks, needs, and solutions into programs. These consultations also explored issues related to confinement and forced displacement caused by violence and criminal groups in Ecuador. A total of 823 refugees, asylum seekers, and host community members were consulted, including children, adolescents, LGBTIQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, Indigenous and elderly people. 61% of those consulted were women, ensuring their voices were included.

ChatBot and Help remained primary feedback mechanisms for displaced people. Due to increasing insecurity, consultations from Ecuadorians were also recorded. In 2024, 498,816 interactions were registered on both platforms. A survey with 1,274 individuals through Help revealed 64% of users were women; 68% were Venezuelans, 18% Ecuadorians, and 12% Colombians. Mobile suggestion boxes were promoted in community activities to facilitate access for people with limited mobility. All feedback channels, including suggestion boxes, email, and telephone lines, served 4,932 individuals.

To protect survivors of violence, UNHCR implemented a Relocation Standard Operating Procedure for survivors and their dependents at the end of 2024. This SOP serves as an exceptional protection and case management mechanism.

Section 3: Resources

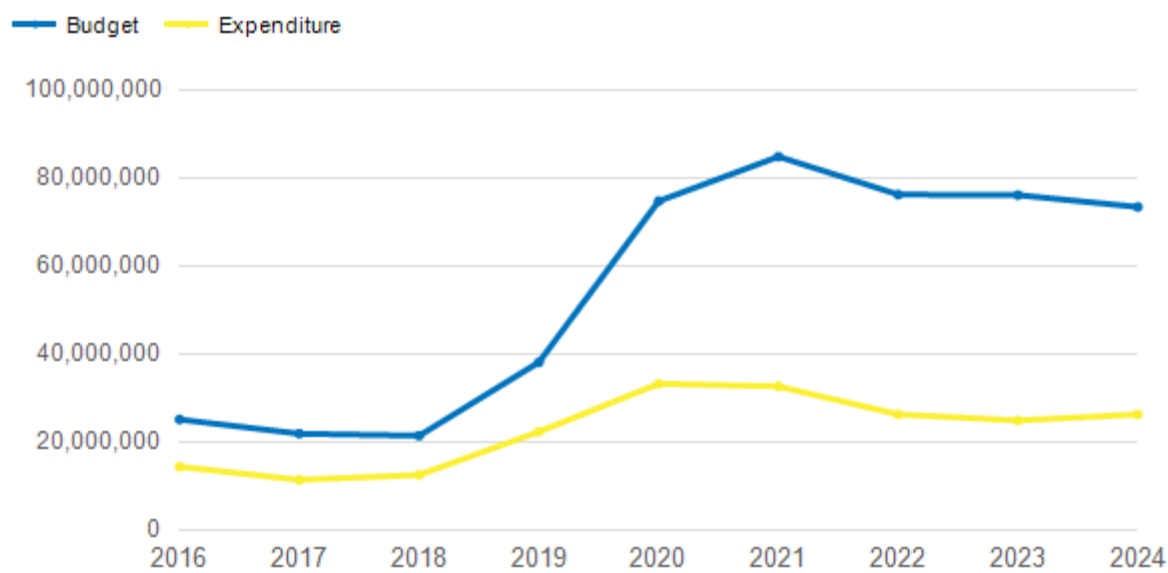
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

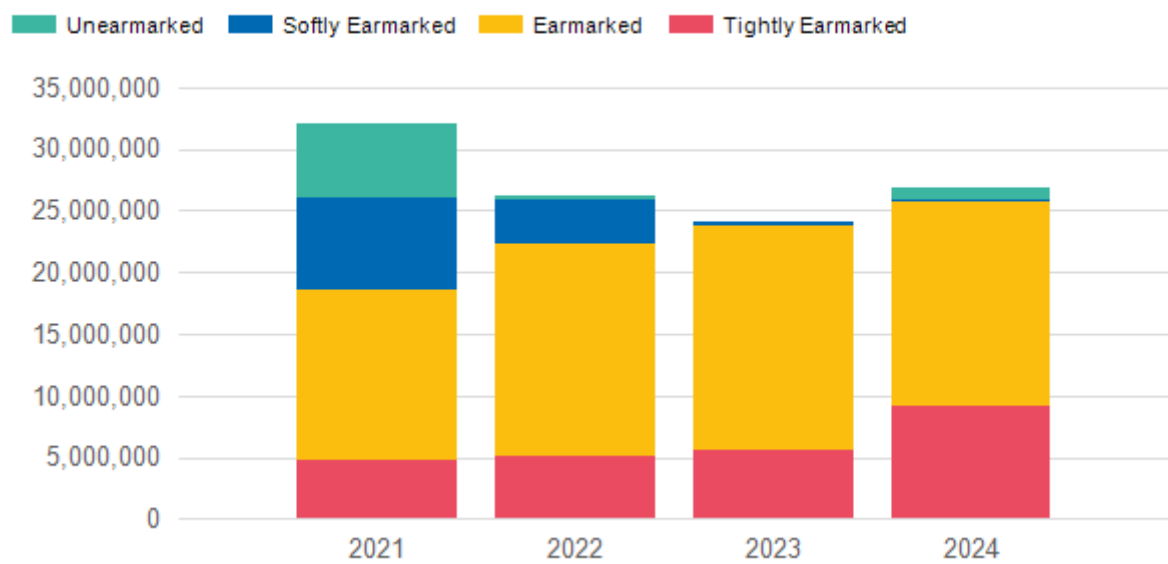
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	23,350,603	10,062,659	43.09%	10,062,659	100.00%
IA2: Assist	16,226,667	3,071,033	18.93%	3,071,033	100.00%
IA4: Solve	33,722,729	13,047,625	38.69%	13,047,625	100.00%
All Impact Areas		60,379			
Total	73,300,000	26,241,697	35.80%	26,181,317	99.77%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	7,418,055	3,409,269	45.96%	3,409,269	100.00%
OA2: Status	3,317,777	1,661,495	50.08%	1,661,495	100.00%
OA4: GBV	3,119,881	1,644,667	52.72%	1,644,667	100.00%
OA5: Children	2,721,636	1,254,492	46.09%	1,254,492	100.00%
OA6: Justice	2,273,253	725,578	31.92%	725,578	100.00%
OA7: Community	6,986,661	2,235,288	31.99%	2,235,288	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	11,648,825	2,640,261	22.67%	2,640,261	100.00%
OA10: Health	781,394	185,274	23.71%	185,274	100.00%
OA11: Education	3,796,448	245,499	6.47%	245,499	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	17,890,814	3,419,211	19.11%	3,419,211	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	4,820,073	5,754,682	119.39%	5,754,682	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	8,525,184	3,005,602	35.26%	3,005,602	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		60,379			
Total	73,300,000	26,241,697	35.80%	26,181,317	99.77%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

In 2024, UNHCR continued to prioritize operational needs by strengthening the government's registration capacity and providing life-saving support through subsistence support for vulnerable displaced populations. Upholding its mandate, UNHCR funded initiatives to improve access to the asylum system and enhance reception support, including emergency shelter, essential kits, and assistance to various humanitarian actors.

Despite these efforts, significant gaps remain, especially in the ability to meet the growing needs—particularly in regions affected by escalating violence, where large numbers of refugees and migrants

continue to seek safety and support.

Activities implemented through direct implementation represented 59% of the budget, while partner agreements and grants accounted for 41%. Of the budget for partners, international organizations implemented 68% of the budget, and the remaining 32% went to local and grassroots organizations. The response to the most vulnerable forcibly displaced populations, including separated and unaccompanied children and survivors of violence, was maintained through partnerships.

The operation managed to raise 36% of the overall operational requirements thanks to the support of donors. Despite all efforts, it continues to be challenging to raise funds from the private sector and to expand the donor base for the operation.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Considering the prevailing context in Ecuador compounded with the constant reduction of funding, UNHCR needs to redouble its efforts in advocating for the maintenance of a favourable protection environment, enhance institutional capacity to respond to protection needs, and further the socio-economic inclusion of forcibly displaced people to promptly stabilize their situation and avoid risky coping mechanisms and dangerous onward movements.

Strategic alliances will be key to maintain and improve the protection and solutions environment including the private sector as well as development actors which are playing a key role in delivering funding to Ecuador with a refugee-protection and inclusion lens.

Violence and internal displacement, including of Ecuadorians is an issue UNHCR takes seriously, prompting the organization to commission a study to gather data on the magnitude of the phenomena; findings and recommendations of the study are still work in progress and should be factored in UNHCR's future strategy. However, funding would be required to implement such recommendations, other than advocacy to position the matter on the institutional agenda, to be able to set up a pertinent response.

In terms of solutions, the operation's focus was on improving access to regular documentation which remains key to access livelihoods opportunities. However, access to regular documentation remains a significant challenge. UNHCR will continue to advocate for longer and more sustainable options for regularization of forcibly displaced people beyond temporary and extraordinary procedures that have continued to be restrictive in the long run for many. Considering the 2025 presidential measure derogating the August 2024 decree (370) and stopping the regularization process, UNHCR will remain vigilant to opportunities to keep working with the new administration in finding sustainable regularization avenues for Venezuelans.



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