

Ecuador

Operational Update

N.10 | October 2025

Figures at a glance

Population figures

80,589

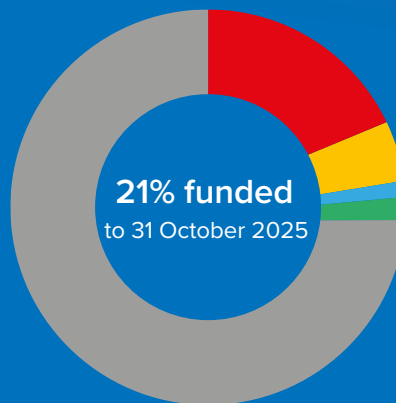
Historical figure of refugees recognized by Ecuador¹

94%

from neighbouring Colombia

67,836

refugees with active cases registered on UNHCR's database



73.3M
required in 2025

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

For more information on funding, please visit reporting.unhcr.org/ecuador

Carmen is a Venezuelan woman who participates in the Circles of the Word in Portoviejo. Here, she has not only found a support network to integrate into her community, but she has also become an advocate for people's rights, especially those of women and girls.
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Our 2025 response in figures

45,448*

refugees and other displaced people supported and registered in proGres as of the end of October 2025



30,100

people received orientation and assistance to access asylum services



10,162

people supported with collective emergency shelter



681

people supported with child protection services



5,373

people supported with community - based protection services



4,053

women and girls survivors of violence supported



8,340

people assisted to cover their basic needs and protection²



12,015

people supported with mental health and psychosocial support



6,110

people received hygiene kits



468

people provided with technical or skills certification



1,579

people linked with a decent employment opportunity

¹ Historical figure registered by the government since 1978 to the end of July 2025. UNHCR registers active refugee cases in ProGres. Figures to the end of July 2025.
² Preliminary data

*Figure includes people supported through other services beyond those described below.

Operational context

In October, Ecuador faced a period of social and security-related complexity within an equally dynamic regional environment. Throughout the month, the country managed tensions stemming from the national strike called by the Indigenous movement. Mobilizations continued across several areas, while various actors—including universities, social organizations and the Church—expressed willingness to help facilitate dialogue.

In parallel, episodes of violence were reported in different parts of the country, with particular impact in cities such as Guayaquil, where explosive attacks, incidents with casualties and a series of alerts—which later proved unfounded—affected urban mobility and community life. These events have contributed to the national discussion on security and intelligence instruments. At the same time, authorities continue implementing security measures as part of an effort to preserve stability, while key political processes advance, including the referendum proposed by the Executive.

Within this context, the Government moved forward with reforms to the Human Mobility Law aimed at strengthening migration controls and expediting administrative procedures, including provisions related to deportations and the management of protection claims. The amendments were enacted and published in the official registry, and

UNHCR has prepared technical comments to support implementation efforts that ensure procedures remain aligned with international standards.

Recent displacement dynamics reflect a regional landscape in transition and the continued need for effective protection mechanisms in Ecuador. In October, asylum applications from Venezuelan nationals rose sharply—a 65% increase compared to the previous month—with a high proportion of family arrivals, underscoring persistent drivers of flight and the growing relevance of the asylum system following the closure of the latest regularization phase. Although Colombian applications saw a temporary decrease during the same period, conditions in border areas of Colombia, marked by internal displacement and mobility restrictions, indicate that demand for international protection may remain significant.

As the country currently presiding over UNHCR's Executive Committee (EXCOM), Ecuador continues to play a central role in global discussions on protection and solutions. In this context, sustained international support and financing remain essential to accompany national efforts to promote stability, strengthen institutions and respond to the needs of both Ecuadorian and refugee communities.

Main populations forced to flee hosted by Ecuador and others of concern

Colombians

According to Government data, 132 Colombians sought asylum in Ecuador in October 2025 (3,053 so far in the year), a 35% decrease as compared to the previous month. This number accounts for 44% of those registered in 2024. 67% of people registered this month arrived in the country in families of two or more. With 2024 registering the highest number of asylum claims filed by Colombians in Ecuador since 2014 and conditions worsening in the country of origin, including with constant internal displacements and confinements in departments at the border with Ecuador, UNHCR projects an important number of asylum claims in 2025.

3,053 Colombians who have sought asylum in Ecuador in 2025²

132 were registered in octubre

Main needs of Colombians in Ecuador

58% access to housing⁴

54% Access to food⁴

46% access to employment⁴

Venezuelans

Venezuelans continue to lead in numbers of arrivals in Ecuador, in October there is a slight recovery in entries and exist compared to September that registered a significant decline in flows due to a national strike (22 September – 21 October). 18,192 people entered Ecuador in October 2025 (38% more than previous month), with a daily entry average of 606 people. Besides, 16,552 people left the country, a 41% increase as compared to previous month; leaving a balance of 1,640 people who entered and remained in the country during the reporting period. According to Government data, 697 Venezuelans sought asylum in Ecuador in October 2025 (5,026 so far in the year), a 65% increase as compared to the previous month. 58% of people registered arrived in the country in families of two or more. The current number of Venezuelan asylum seekers accounts for 86% of the total registered in 2024. Since 2022, Venezuela has accounted for approximately 45–50% of the asylum claims processed in Ecuador. This underscores both the continued need for support and the sustained interest in accessing international protection. Moreover, with the conclusion of the second phase of the regularization process, the asylum system has become increasingly relevant for those with protection needs. *Population entry and exit figures have been compiled by the GTRMs in Ecuador's border areas (Tulcán, Lago Agrio, and Huaquillas) with qualitative and quantitative information on mixed movement trends. These figures are not triangulated with neighboring countries.

440.450 Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Ecuador²

45% estimated to be between 18 and 45 years old³

25% estimated to have a higher education degree³

Main needs

82% access to food³

67% access to housing or shelter³

57% access to livelihoods or employment³

² According to data estimated by the Refugee and Migrant Working Group (GTRM, by its acronym in Spanish). The GTRM is assessing a new methodology with the Government to estimate the new stock figure. Figures of asylum claims from the Government.

³ Fifth R4V Joint Needs Assessment. www.r4v.info

⁴ 2025 Protection Monitoring Report available at <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/ecu>

Ecuadorians



Trends in Ecuadorian displacements have shifted, with this nationality dropping to the fifth to cross the Darien Jungle, according to Panamanian authorities. These numbers have decreased dramatically compared to the same period in previous years. 108,000 Ecuadorian asylum-seekers globally were pending a decision on their claims by mid- 2024. The Ombudspersons Office, with support from UNHCR and ECHO, launched a report on internal displacement which estimates that over 315,000 Ecuadorians had been internally displaced between 2022 and 2024. See the [executive summary here](#).

HUMANITARIANS AT WORK



MY NAME IS WILLIAM MARQUINEZ, AND SINCE 2011 I HAVE HAD THE HONOR OF BEING PART OF UNHCR, AN INSTITUTION THAT OVER TIME HAS BECOME MY SECOND HOME. HERE, I HAVE GROWN SURROUNDED BY WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO SHARE THE SAME MISSION: TO SERVE WITH EMPATHY, COMMITMENT, AND LOVE FOR HUMANITY. EVERY DAY IS A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN, TO CONNECT, AND TO REMEMBER THAT WHEN YOU WORK WITH YOUR HEART, THE RESULTS ALWAYS GO BEYOND WHAT IS VISIBLE.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

DELIVERING PROTECTION

CARCHI

Registration and protection in Bolívar



UNHCR conducted a joint registration and protection mission in Bolívar together with the Public Defender's Office, WFP and ADRA. The team provided individualized guidance to 22 people arriving from Colombia and Venezuela, including information on asylum procedures and access to services. This mission strengthened early identification and response mechanisms for people in need of international protection while supporting local authorities in delivering coordinated assistance. This was done thanks to the support of ECHO.

GUAYAS

Review of the child protection protocol to enhance coordination



In Guayaquil, UNHCR facilitated a technical workshop to review Ecuador's Comprehensive Care Protocol for children and adolescents in human mobility. Thirty cantonal child-protection boards and key institutions—including MIES, the Ministry of Health, DINAPEN, HIAS and COOPI—participated. The session enhanced inter-institutional coordination to ensure stronger, safer and more consistent protection pathways for children at risk, including those forcibly displaced. This was done thanks to the support of ECHO.

CARCHI

Strengthening protection systems through ICT equipment



UNHCR delivered computer equipment to the Municipal Foundation Luz y Vida and the local Child Protection System in San Gabriel. The equipment improves case-management capacities and responsiveness for people facing protection risks, including those forcibly displaced, while supporting local institutions in providing timely services to host communities. This was done thanks to public and private sector donors supporting UNHCR Ecuador.

MANABÍ AND CARCHI

Engagement and training to prevent violence against women



In Tulcán, UNHCR held a Training of Trainers session on the EMAP methodology to reinforce community-based prevention of violence against women. Thirty representatives from community organizations in Espejo, Bolívar, Montúfar, Huaca and Tulcán took part, strengthening local networks that promote safer environments for women and girls, including those who have experienced forced displacement. In Portoviejo, UNHCR and the Manabí Prefecture held the “Tejiendo Protección” workshop at the Casa Madriguera of Fundación Santa Marta. The session addressed prevention of violence against women, psychosocial support and caregiver well-being—key components to reinforce child protection and strengthen community-based support systems for displaced families and their hosts. These activities were done thanks to the support of our public and private sector donors.



PROMOTING ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

PICHINCHA

Casa Sin Fronteras a one-stop-shop for refugees and host communities

Together with the IDB, the Municipality of Quito and with support from the Government of Japan, UNHCR opened the Casa Sin Fronteras in Solanda, Quito. This new space provides integrated protection and inclusion services for people facing forced displacement and their host communities through a “one-stop” model offering psychological support, legal counselling, livelihoods orientation and employability workshops.



CARCHI

Enhancing education and violence prevention for young people

In Tulcán, UNHCR joined the “ReinventateX” fair, an awareness event reaching 500 students from nine schools to promote adolescent pregnancy prevention and comprehensive education. Complementarily, in San Gabriel, UNHCR, together with Fudela and Jesuit Refugee Service, delivered eight educational kits to children from rural families to strengthen access to schooling and reduce the risk of dropout. These initiatives help create safer, more informed, and more inclusive learning environments for both displaced and local children. This was done thanks to the support of donors supporting the work of UNHCR Ecuador.



IMBABURA

Youth programmes to prevent violence and recruitment

At the Casa de la Juventud in Ibarra, UNHCR and Fudela supported the implementation of cultural, sports and livelihoods activities that prevent violence and reduce risks of forced recruitment. Nearly 800 young people from 117 neighbourhoods participate in these initiatives, which foster community cohesion and provide safe, protective spaces for adolescents—including those affected by displacement. This was done thanks to the support of our donors supporting the efforts of UNHCR in communities.



PROMOTING SOCIOECONOMIC INCLUSION

NATIONAL

Inclusive business seal recognizes private-sector commitments in Ecuador



In Quito, UNHCR held the fourth edition of the Inclusive Business Seal, recognizing 86 companies for their efforts to promote labour inclusion of people who have experienced forced displacement and members of their host communities. The initiative strengthens public-private collaboration and opens pathways to decent work and sustainable livelihoods. This was done thanks to the support of donors like Japan, AECID, Embassy of Corea who support the efforts of the private sector in the inclusion of forcibly displaced people.

AZUAY

Business roundtable to promote local entrepreneurship



In Cuenca, UNHCR, the ILO and the Municipal Government organized a business roundtable with 23 entrepreneurs, both displaced and from the host community, who presented their products to 15 potential buyer companies. The event promoted economic self-reliance, market access and local integration through strengthened commercial networks. This was done thanks to the support of our public and private sector donors who support to amplify the efforts of socioeconomic inclusion of people who have been forcibly displaced.

PROMOTING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

NATIONAL

Sports for integration and protection

In October, UNHCR welcomed Pablo Andrés Vallejo —a renowned Ecuadorian para-triathlete and an inspiring figure in the world of sport— into its “Allies for a Possible World” coalition to promote sport as a powerful tool for protection and integration. In partnership with the Valley Running & Cycling Club (VRC), this collaboration reinforces UNHCR’s commitment to creating spaces where sport not only connects communities, but also empowers, unites, and brings visibility to stories of resilience and solidarity.



MANABI

Beach football championship promotes integration in Manta

In Manta, UNHCR worked with youth groups from San Mateo and San Eloy to organize a Beach Football Championship that brought together 125 young people. The activity fostered safe spaces, strengthened community ties and promoted positive coexistence, demonstrating how sports can help connect and protect adolescents from both displaced and host communities. This was done thanks to the support of private and public sector donors supporting community protection activities.



ESMERALDAS

Community integration activities for children and youth in Mataje and San Lorenzo

In Mataje, UNHCR organized a sports-based integration day at the local school, offering children a space filled with learning, laughter and play. In San Lorenzo, UNHCR and its partner FEPP continued to implement regular integration activities for 200 children and adolescents, using sports to build communication skills, leadership and emotional well-being among both forcibly displaced youth and their peers from host communities. Additionally, UNHCR, FEPP, GIZ, SOS Children’s Villages, the Ministry of Education and other members of the local child-protection system facilitated a three-day youth gathering that promoted integration through music, art, traditional games and peer-to-peer dialogue, strengthening cohesion and shared community identity. This was done thanks to the support of our private donor Livgolf.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Where Words Heal: Support Networks Building a World of Possibilities for forcibly displaced people

Carmen is a Venezuelan woman who participates in the Circles of the Word in Portoviejo. Here, she has not only found a support network to integrate into her community, but she has also become an advocate for people's rights, especially those of women and girls.

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PORTOVIEJO

When Carmen Mora arrived in Ecuador, she felt like everything around her was falling apart. "I arrived in a situation where I thought I was going to break because there were external factors I couldn't manage," she recalls. The death of her sister and its impact on her mental health left her feeling "fractured," without a clear space to hold on to. That's when she found the Circles of the Word—safe spaces in Portoviejo and other areas of Ecuador where people can share their stories, worries, and silences, and feel accompanied.

These circles began as a space for women of all ages, but their impact opened the doors to more participants. The initiative was born from the Vidas sin Frontera project to make visible the life stories of the human mobility community—refugees and migrants—an effort strengthened with support from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, to amplify those voices. Here, support networks become essential: "being in a group where you can feel that you're not the only one...or that someone else is going through something even harder than you," says Carmen, turns pain into a shared path.

Over time, the Circles of the Word also welcomed men, inviting them to rethink roles, question gender norms, and take responsibility in the face of violence. For participants like Pablo Torres, these gatherings have been eye-opening: the experiences and reflections from the sessions directly relate to what they live in their communities, offering motivation, clarity, and companionship. For many women, these spaces have helped heal wounds from violent family environments and plant new forms of dialogue that can grow into generational change.

Today, the Circles of the Word are places of support, reconnection, and emotional relief. There, each person shares what they feel—or simply sits in silence—knowing they are not alone. "We're here to support you, not to judge you. If you don't want to talk, don't talk, but I'll be here by your side," Carmen said. In that unconditional companionship, the community has found a way to hold on and heal, weaving networks that change lives and build a World of Possibilities.

You can help us continue building a World of Possibilities for thousands of displaced people and their host communities in Ecuador. [Donate now.](#)

We thank the contributions of our donors

31 October 2025

UNHCR Ecuador is grateful for the critical and generous support provided by donors who have contributed with earmarked and unearmarked funding.



UNHCR Ecuador is grateful for the support from private donors



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