

ECUADOR

| Working environment |

• The context

Ecuador has the largest refugee population in Latin America, mainly comprising Colombians. As of June 2011, the Ecuadorian Government had recognized some 54,500 refugees, some 60 per cent of them living in urban areas. The remainder live close to the border in underdeveloped, isolated parts of the country with limited infrastructure and services. In these insecure areas armed groups clash over the drug trade, and human trafficking and arms smuggling are rampant.

By June 2011, nearly 20,500 new asylum applications had been submitted to the Ecuadorian authorities. Ecuador's Constitution, which is strongly oriented towards human rights, recognizes the right to seek asylum, and asylum procedures are regulated by national legislation. In January 2011 the authorities introduced new rules for admissibility in order to reduce the number of manifestly unfounded asylum claims. Those applicants not admitted to the asylum procedures have limited possibilities to appeal under the administrative regulation.

• The needs

Most refugees in Ecuador live in poverty, which seriously restricts their access not only to basic health and educational services but also to employment. There is, therefore, a great need for initiatives to improve their level of integration and self-reliance

| Strategy and activities |

The main objective for UNHCR in Ecuador is to maintain and reinforce the protection space for the refugee population in the country. Taking into consideration the increased number of asylum-seekers and refugees living in Ecuador, UNHCR will continue to focus its activities on supporting the Refugee Directorate, strengthening

field monitoring and enhancing access to asylum procedures. It will also generate local-integration opportunities for rural and urban refugees through a community approach.



Planning figures for Ecuador

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2012		DEC 2012 - JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Colombia	59,100	59,100	67,970	67,970	76,830	76,830
	Various	900	900	1,040	1,040	1,170	1,170
People in refugee-like situations	Colombia	60,000	-	60,000	-	60,000	-
Asylum-seekers	Colombia	43,120	43,120	41,360	41,360	39,600	39,600
	Various	5,880	5,880	5,640	5,640	5,400	5,400
Others of Concern	Various	5,500	5,500	6,000	6,000	6,500	6,500
Total		174,500	114,500	182,000	122,000	189,500	129,500

In addition, UNHCR will help people of concern through education, income generation, self-sufficiency and microcredit projects. It will boost resettlement as an integral part of the durable-solutions strategy, in particular within the framework of the 2004 Mexico Plan of Action. The challenge will be to get the Government, local authorities and civil society more actively involved in the protection of refugees, and the promotion of durable solutions.

In coordination with civil society, the United Nations system and government counterparts, UNHCR will continue working towards a favourable environment for refugees, through campaigns against xenophobia and discrimination.

● Constraints

The confrontations between irregular armed Colombian groups in the border provinces are likely to intensify, making the implementation of UNHCR's activities more difficult as well as

requiring firm measures to maintain staff security. The possibility exists that demobilized groups excluded from demobilization and reintegration programmes in Colombia turn to violence or join criminal gangs that operate in the border areas of Colombia and Ecuador, driving further displacement.

Access to RSD procedures will be more limited due to new admissibility procedure for asylum applications.

Identifying the specific needs of refugees when conducting normal RSD and strengthening the physical protection of refugees at risk will remain challenging.

| Organization and implementation |

● Coordination

UNHCR will continue to support the Government and coordinate with a wide range of institutions in order to protect and assist refugees. UNHCR's network of 13 partners includes

Main objectives and targets for 2012

Favourable protection environment

- Law and policy are developed and strengthened.
 - ☞ The Government and authorities responsible for refugee status determination (RSD) receive UNHCR support.
 - ☞ Asylum-seekers and refugees obtain documentation.

Security from violence and exploitation

- The protection of children is enhanced.
 - ☞ Operational guidelines related to Best Interests Determination (BID) processes are established.
 - ☞ Special arrangements are made for the accommodation and care of unaccompanied adolescents, separated minors and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.
- The risk of sexual and gender-based violence is reduced and the quality of the response to it is improved.
 - ☞ The national network of shelters is expanded and adapted to enhance the assistance available for women who are survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.
 - ☞ A legal assistance scheme is established to support and give representation to women who are survivors of violence.

Basic needs and services

- The population has improved access to education.
 - ☞ Educational support is provided to children and adolescents.
 - ☞ Educational facilities are constructed.
 - ☞ Some 60 per cent of registered school-aged refugees and asylum-seeker children are enrolled in educational institutions.
- Shelter infrastructure is established, improved and maintained.
 - ☞ Emergency shelters are established.
 - ☞ Shelter accommodation is maintained.
- The health status of the population is improved.

☞ Infrastructure is constructed.

☞ Primary health supplies are provided.

- The level of potable water supplied is maintained or increased.

☞ Water systems are constructed and maintained.

Fair protection processes and documentation

- The quality of registration and profiling is improved or maintained.
 - ☞ All refugees are provided with proper identity documents, certifying their legal status and entitling them to fundamental rights.
 - ☞ The Refugee Directorate assumes responsibilities in registration, the processing of asylum claims and documentation.
- Birth registration and civil status documentation is strengthened.
 - ☞ Newborns are provided with birth certificates.
 - ☞ The Government is supported in birth registration and documentation.

Durable solutions

- Refugees and their host communities receive support for local integration, economic self-sufficiency and access to basic services.
 - ☞ Self-reliance projects are implemented.
 - ☞ Approximately 1,500 people in refugee-hosting provinces benefit from microcredits.
- Resettlement is used efficiently, and adapted to the specific protection needs of refugees.
 - ☞ Approximately 1,000 people are referred for resettlement, and 500 are assisted to depart for third countries.
 - ☞ Group resettlement is conducted under UNHCR criteria.

UNHCR's presence in 2012

□ Number of offices	7
(+ 3 presence in Municipalities)	
□ Total staff	84
International	12
National	44
JPOs	4
UNVs	24



Colombian refugees in Ecuador.

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national and international NGOs. Though national NGOs have valuable expertise and human resources, they lack financial resources. In light of this situation, UNHCR has been focusing on building the capacity of local institutions.

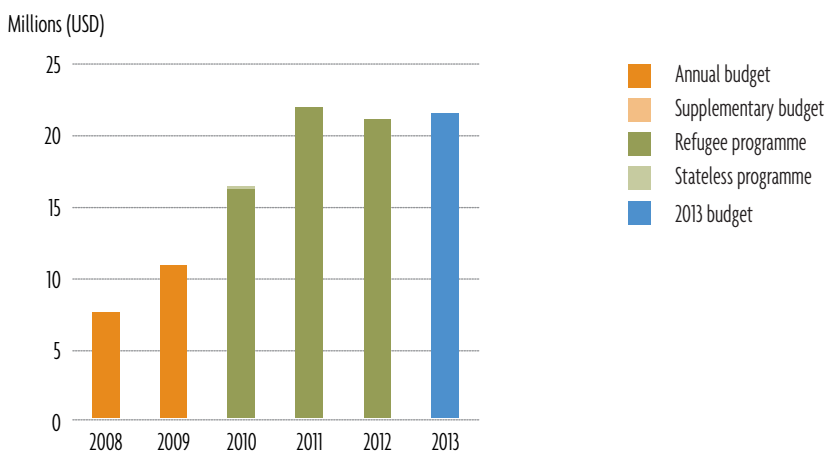
As lead agency of the northern border inter-agency working group, comprising 16 agencies, UNHCR also implements activities jointly with IOM, UNDP, UNFPA (HIV and AIDS related projects), WFP (food distribution) and other sister agencies.

Financial information

Resource constraints have prevented UNHCR from expanding its response to

meet the needs of growing refugee and asylum-seeker populations. Budget requirements have remained roughly the same over the last three years at some USD 21 million per year. Not all needs could be met, however, because the available resources only covered 50 per cent of the requirements. The most important unmet needs are for livelihoods projects, capacity-building and enhanced assistance to people of concern as well as infrastructure activities in sectors such as shelter, education, water and health. In 2012, UNHCR's budgetary requirements in Ecuador amount to USD 21 million and in 2013 to USD 21.5 million.

UNHCR's budget in Ecuador 2008 – 2013



2012 UNHCR Budget in Ecuador (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment		
International and regional instruments	132,734	132,734
Law and policy	473,201	473,201
Access to legal assistance	850,467	850,467
Access to the territory and <i>non-refoulement</i>	545,467	545,467
Public attitude towards persons of concern	316,067	316,067
Subtotal	2,317,937	2,317,937
Fair protection processes and documentation		
Registration and profiling	1,223,435	1,223,435
Refugee status determination	1,403,668	1,403,668
Civil status documentation	580,467	580,467
Subtotal	3,207,570	3,207,570
Security from violence and exploitation		
Effects of armed conflict	883,201	883,201
Prevention of and response to SGBV	945,935	945,935
Non-arbitrary detention	172,734	172,734
Protection of children	703,201	703,201
Subtotal	2,705,070	2,705,070
Basic needs and services		
Health	420,467	420,467
Reproductive health and HIV services	137,734	137,734
Water	665,801	665,801
Sanitation	222,734	222,734
Shelter and infrastructure	1,146,179	1,146,179
Basic domestic and hygiene items	597,734	597,734
Services for persons with specific needs	938,201	938,201
Education	1,200,668	1,200,668
Subtotal	5,329,517	5,329,517
Community empowerment and self-reliance		
Community mobilization	931,201	931,201
Co-existence with local communities	547,734	547,734
Self-reliance and livelihoods	2,146,515	2,146,515
Subtotal	3,625,450	3,625,450
Durable solutions		
Integration	1,148,201	1,148,201
Resettlement	413,201	413,201
Subtotal	1,561,402	1,561,402
Leadership, coordination and partnerships		
Coordination and partnerships	367,734	367,734
Donor relations	433,201	433,201
Subtotal	800,935	800,935
Logistics and operations support		
Operations management, coordination and support	1,462,031	1,462,031
Subtotal	1,462,031	1,462,031
Total	21,009,913	21,009,913
2011 Revised budget	21,936,301	21,936,301

PARTNERS

Government agencies

Directorate for Refugees
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

NGOs

Cooperativa Ahorro y Crédito
Afro-ecuatoriana de la pequeña empresa
CACAEPE
Federación de Artesanos Recolectores de Productos Bioacústicos del Manglar
Federación de Mujeres de Sucumbíos
Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio
Fundación Ambiente y Sociedad
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Jesuit Refugee Service
Labaka Foundation
Oxfam Italy
Scalabriniani Mission
Tarabita Foundation
Women and Women Corporation

Others

IOM
UNWomen
PAHO/WHO
UNAIDS
UNDP
UNESCO
UNFPA
UNICEF
UNV
WFP