



ECUADOR



UNHCR's planned presence | 2014

Number of offices	5
Total personnel	94
International staff	13
National staff	46
JPOs	5
UN Volunteers	5
Others	25

Overview

Working environment

- In 2012, a new refugee decree (no. 1182) was enacted in Ecuador, which confirmed a growing tendency towards more restrictive asylum procedures in the country.
- With the decree, the broader refugee definition of the Cartagena Declaration was eliminated and admissibility procedures became more restrictive. The current regulations require asylum requests to be presented at the Refugee Directorate offices within 15 days from the date of arrival in the country. However, due to a lack of information and difficulties for asylum-seekers from remote border areas in accessing Refugee Directorate offices, many asylum-seekers are not able to present their claims within this limited period. Even those who are able to submit their request also face additional procedural challenges, which often result in their claims being denied.
- National security issues have remained high on the political agenda in Ecuador since 2010. Refugee issues are perceived negatively, and are sometimes associated with the growing crime rate and insecurity in the country. Negative stereotypes jeopardize refugees' social integration. Although there are a high number of new asylum applications, the overall recognition rate has dropped dramatically.
- A large gap remains between progressive constitutional norms regarding the integration of people on the move and their actual access to rights. It is hoped that UNHCR's Comprehensive Solutions Initiative (CSI), which aims to support the Government's efforts to find durable solutions for refugees, will help to address this gap.
- In 2014-2015, it is anticipated that the support provided for refugees hosted in Ecuador will include access to: education, the health care system, banking and other financial management resources, a range of specific government programmes and employment.

People of concern

Ecuador hosts the largest refugee population in Latin America, with over 54,800 refugees officially recognized by the Government as of September 2013. An estimated 160,000 individuals have requested asylum in the country since 2000. The vast majority of refugees in Ecuador (98 per cent) are Colombians who have left their country over the last decade due to the internal conflict. New arrivals continue to reach Ecuador at a rate of 1,000 per month. Sixty per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers settle in marginal and poor urban areas, mainly in Quito and Guayaquil and other cities, while around 40 per cent reside in isolated regions with limited basic services and infrastructure, along the northern border.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Dec 2013		Dec 2014		Dec 2015	
		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	55,840	55,840	57,800	57,800	59,760	59,760
	Various	1,140	1,140	1,180	1,180	1,220	1,220
People in refugee-like situations	Colombia	78,840	-	88,840	-	98,840	-
Asylum-seekers	Various	7,000	7,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total		142,820	63,980	149,820	60,980	161,820	62,980

| Response |

Needs and strategies

UNHCR's strategy in Ecuador for 2014-2015 aims at expanding protection space, strengthening the comprehensive framework for durable solutions and mitigating negative perceptions among the public that lead to discrimination and xenophobia. The protection space will be expanded through legislative, normative and procedural reforms of the asylum process in coordination with the Refugee Directorate; the provision of legal assistance, through specialized partners and the Ombudsman's

Offices, throughout the country; border monitoring; and special assistance provided to women and children and to victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UNHCR seeks to strengthen the comprehensive framework for durable solutions through: the promotion of peaceful coexistence, community self-management projects, livelihood and self-reliance opportunities and targeted support to people with specific needs to achieve their local integration. Activities aimed at promoting durable solutions include vocational training, the provision of grants, strengthening of community networks, and the facilitation of access to employment.

Main objectives and targets for 2014

The following matrix contains examples of some of the main activities planned in 2014. Using a selection of objectives from UNHCR's programme plans for the 2014-2015 biennium, it is designed to illustrate:

- what – under the global needs assessment planning and prioritization process – has been planned (**Planned activities**) for particular groups of people of concern (**People of concern**);
- the identified needs that can be covered if full and flexible funding is made available (**2014 comprehensive target**); and
- the needs that may not be met if funding falls short of the ExCom-approved budget (**Potential gap**). The estimation of a potential gap is based on the country operation's own assessment of the likely impact of a global funding shortfall. Calculations are based on various criteria, including the particular context, strategic priorities and

experience of resource availability for the respective area of activity in previous years.

Activities under objectives on child protection (including best interest determination), education and prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) are core areas which are given priority in the allocation of funding (**priority area**). In order to ensure the necessary flexibility in the allocation of funds, UNHCR relies on unrestricted contributions from its donors.

It should be understood that in some cases, targets for activities or delivery of services may not be reached for reasons other than a funding shortfall, e.g. lack of access to people of concern, cases not reported, changing circumstances, security problems, insufficient capacity to implement all programmes planned, etc. In the Global Report 2014, an explanation of why any target may not have been reached will be provided.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	PEOPLE OF CONCERN	2014 COMPREHENSIVE TARGET	POTENTIAL GAP
Basic needs and essential services			
Population has optimal access to education			
UNHCR will provide school uniforms, school supplies and scholarships to refugee children. Schools with a significant presence of refugees will receive equipment and supplies. Constructive activities will be offered to promote peaceful coexistence and prevent discriminatory attitudes and bullying in schools.			
Percentage of primary school-aged children enrolled in primary education	Colombian refugees	100%	priority area
Percentage of secondary school-aged young people enrolled in secondary education	Colombian refugees	100%	18%
Durable solutions			
Potential for integration realized			
UNHCR will promote local integration through peaceful coexistence projects, the provision of training, facilitation of access to services, and self-reliance and livelihoods opportunities.			
Percentage of people of concern opting for local integration who have locally integrated	Colombian refugees	90%	10%
Potential for resettlement realized			
UNHCR will submit cases of people for resettlement to third countries based on criteria that determine high vulnerability. Those accepted by third countries will depart for resettlement.			
Percentage of people of concern identified in need of resettlement submitted for resettlement	Colombian refugees	100%	0 gap
Percentage of people of concern identified in need of resettlement who have departed for resettlement	Colombian refugees	70%	20%
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Access to and quality of status determination procedures improved			
UNHCR will continue to provide support to the Refugee Directorate (RD) to facilitate access of people in need of international protection to the asylum process. This support allows the RD to maintain offices in areas with a high concentration of refugees.			
Extent to which applicants have access to status determination procedure	Colombian refugees	60%	20%
Extent to which status determination procedure meets minimum procedural standards advocated by UNHCR	Colombian refugees	95%	5%
Quality of registration and profiling improved and maintained			
UNHCR will provide support to the RD to individually register and to issue and renew documentation for refugees and asylum-seekers.			
Percentage of people of concern registered on an individual basis	Colombian refugees	95%	15%
Favourable protection environment			
Law and policy developed or strengthened			
UNHCR will advocate for maintaining and expanding the protection space for refugees. UNHCR will sustain its dialogue with the Government and advocate for the inclusion of refugee issues in laws and regulations, government and programmes.			
Extent to which the law is consistent with international standards on the prevention of statelessness	Colombian refugees	100%	10%
Extent to which the law is consistent with international standards relating to refugees	Colombian refugees	100%	25%
Security from violence and exploitation			
Protection of children strengthened			
UNHCR will provide specialized support for children who are unaccompanied, separated, or have other specific needs with a view to protecting them against forced recruitment, violence and exploitation.			
Percentage of unaccompanied and separated children for whom a best interest process has been initiated or completed	Colombian refugees	100%	priority area
Percentage of adolescents who participate in targeted programmes	Colombian refugees	50%	priority area
Percentage of identified children of concern with specific needs who are assisted	Colombian refugees	100%	priority area
Risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is reduced and quality of response improved			
UNHCR will provide legal assistance, psychological support and access to safe houses for SGBV survivors. Through the provision of specialized assistance and the promotion of community participation, re-victimization, increased trauma and further risks will be prevented.			
Extent to which community is active in SGBV prevention and survivor-centered protection	Colombian refugees	80%	priority area
Extent to which known SGBV survivors receive appropriate support	Colombian refugees	50%	priority area

| Implementation |

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Ombudsman's Office, Refugee Directorate – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility

NGOs:

Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, Corporación Mujer a Mujer, Fundación Ambiente y Sociedad, Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio, Federación de Mujeres de Sucumbíos, Foundation for the Refugee Education Trust, Fundación Tarabita, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Hogar de Cristo, Jesuit Refugee Service, Misión Scalabriniana, Oxfam (Intermón and Italy)

Operational partners

Government agencies:

Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, National Assembly

NGOs:

CARE, Save the Children

Others:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), IOM, OHCHR, Pan-American Health Organization/WHO, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, Universidad PUCESE, WFP

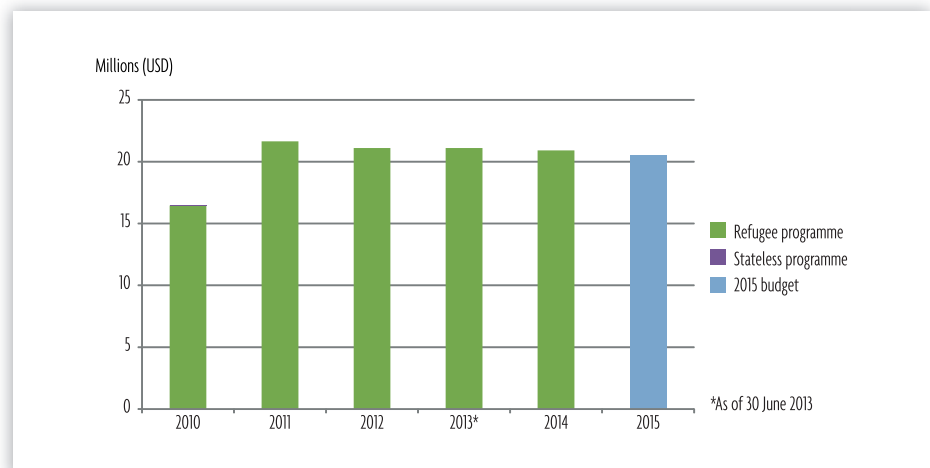
Coordination

UNHCR will continue to work with the Refugee Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, as well as with the Ombudsman's Offices throughout the country. A process of retention and selection of implementing partners has been carried out in order to ensure the quality of delivery and results in the different areas of intervention. UNHCR also coordinates with other UN agencies, government entities at both the central and local levels, as well as with non-governmental organizations.

| Financial information |

In recent years, the financial requirements for UNHCR's operation in Ecuador have been relatively constant. In 2014, Ecuador's financial requirements are set at USD 20.9 million, covering basic assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers. Additional funding will be necessary to achieve durable solutions, particularly through the Comprehensive Solutions Initiative (CSI).

Budgets for Ecuador | 2010–2015



2014 budget for Ecuador | USD

Budget breakdown	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	Total
2013 revised budget (as of 30 June 2013)	21,103,736	21,103,736
Favourable protection environment		
Law and policy	544,825	544,825
Access to legal assistance and remedies	881,825	881,825
Access to territory and <i>refoulement</i> risk reduced	641,651	641,651
Public attitude towards people of concern	697,231	697,231
Subtotal	2,765,532	2,765,532
Fair protection processes and documentation		
Reception conditions	451,406	451,406
Registration and profiling	891,651	891,651
Status determination procedures	1,237,476	1,237,476
Civil registration and status documentation	535,825	535,825
Subtotal	3,116,358	3,116,358
Security from violence and exploitation		
Protection from effects of armed conflict	592,231	592,231
Prevention and response to SGBV	1,553,301	1,553,301
Protection of children	987,231	987,231
Subtotal	3,132,763	3,132,763
Basic needs and essential services		
Health	646,071	646,071
Reproductive health and HIV services	190,245	190,245
Water	220,245	220,245
Basic and domestic items	635,825	635,825
Services for people with specific needs	935,825	935,825
Education	906,651	906,651
Subtotal	3,534,862	3,534,862
Community empowerment and self-reliance		
Community mobilization	585,825	585,825
Self-reliance and livelihood activities	1,927,476	1,927,476
Subtotal	2,513,301	2,513,301
Durable solutions		
Comprehensive solutions strategy	615,825	615,825
Voluntary return	382,231	382,231
Integration	1,761,896	1,761,896
Resettlement	697,231	697,231
Subtotal	3,457,183	3,457,183
Leadership, coordination and partnerships		
Coordination and partnerships	687,231	687,231
Donor relations and resource mobilization	392,231	392,231
Subtotal	1,079,462	1,079,462
Logistics and operations support		
Operations management, coordination and support	1,307,231	1,307,231
Subtotal	1,307,231	1,307,231
2014 total budget	20,906,692	20,906,692