

ECUADOR

| Working environment |

o The context

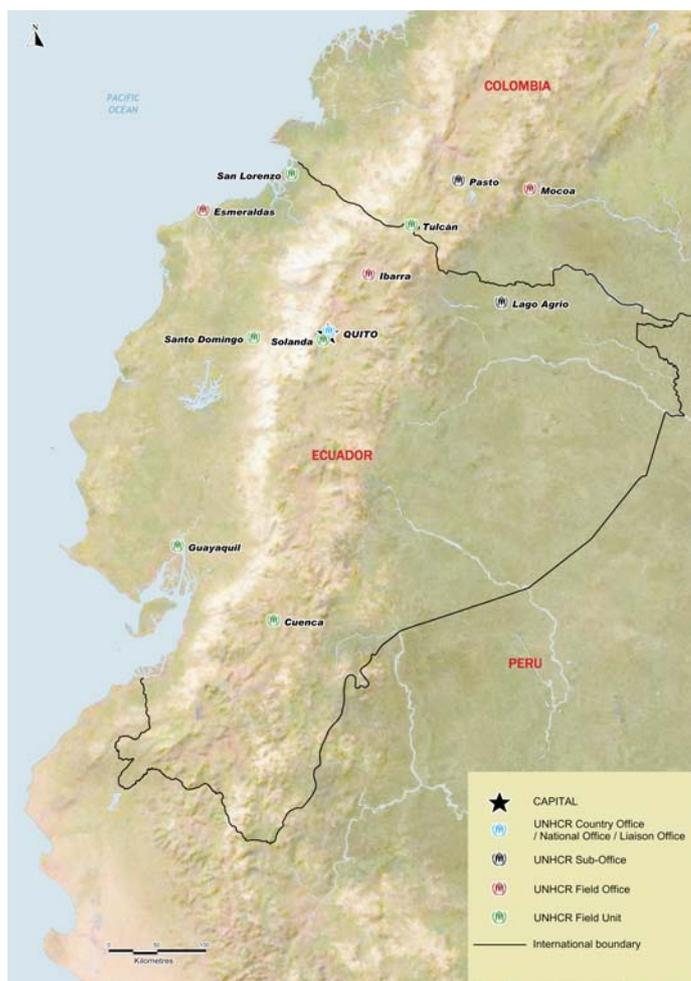
Ecuador hosts the largest number of refugees in Latin America, and their numbers are still increasing. The vast majority of them (98 per cent) are Colombians, who have fled their country over the past decade. As of mid-2010, there were 52,000 refugees in Ecuador, of whom 28,000 had been recognized through the Enhanced Registration process run by the Government and UNHCR which was completed in March 2010. This registration process represented a major development in the protection of refugees in the region, and helped to identify specific protection concerns among refugees in Ecuador.

In 2008, Ecuador adopted a comprehensive refugee policy. The Presidential Decree on this issue incorporates the provisions of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol and the enlarged refugee definition under the Cartagena Declaration. This framework fosters a positive protection environment and the development of public policies to address refugee needs in Ecuador. For the future, the main challenges will be to enhance the asylum system, identify and address the specific protection needs of refugees and promote durable solutions.

The Governments of Colombia and Ecuador have agreed to restore relations and are normalizing diplomatic ties. Both Governments have reiterated their interest in establishing a coordination mechanism to address—together with UNHCR—the situation of Colombian refugees in Ecuador.

o The needs

Thousands of people in need of international protection did not have access to fair protection processes and documentation. This problem is aggravated because many people are located in remote areas and are afraid to register themselves for security reasons. The absence of documentation limits the access of refugees and asylum-seekers to State services and self-reliance opportunities. Indigenous people and Afro-Colombians, as well as single women and girls, are among the most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.



Many refugees, as well as Ecuadorians in refugee-hosting communities, cannot access essential services because of their high cost or limited availability in remote areas. Inadequate shelter and access to water, along with poor nutrition, are of special concern because existing programmes can only meet short-term needs. UNHCR is working to expand local integration in host communities for many people of concern, notably groups that are particularly vulnerable, and have specific needs.

Planning figures for Ecuador

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Colombia	57,000	57,000	73,700	73,700
	Cuba	330	330	430	430
	Peru	120	120	150	150
	Various	600	600	800	800
People in a refugee-like situation	Colombia	35,000	0	25,000	0
Asylum-seekers	Colombia	52,000	52,000	67,100	67,100
	Cuba	1,800	1,800	2,300	2,300
	Peru	6,300	6,300	8,100	8,100
	Various	1,900	1,900	2,400	2,400
Total		155,050	120,050	179,980	154,980

Main objectives and targets

Favourable protection environment

- Ensure that national legal and institutional frameworks respond to the growing protection needs of asylum-seekers and refugees.
 - People of concern are included in national development policies.
 - Broader migration policies contain protection safeguards.
 - 80 per cent of cases of threatened refoulement are prevented.

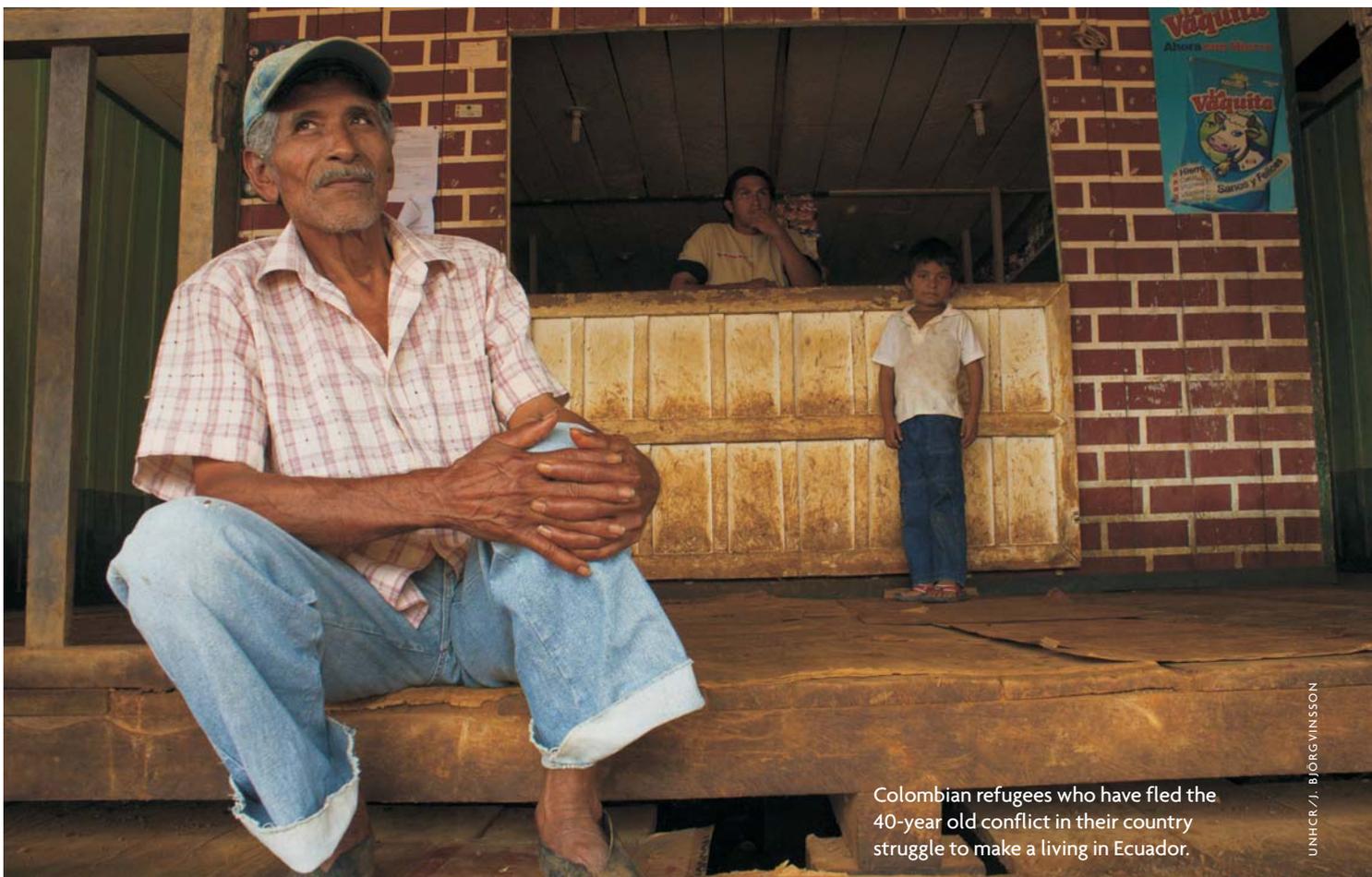
Fair protection processes

- Strengthen the national capacity to process asylum claims, registration and documentation.
 - All refugees are provided with proper identity documents, certifying their legal status and entitling them to fundamental rights.
 - The Government's Refugee Directorate assumes responsibilities in registration, the processing of asylum claims and documentation.
- Integrate refugee issues into development agendas and public policy.
 - All people in need of international protection have access to health care provided by the State and civil society organizations.

- Some 60 per cent of registered school-aged children in need of international protection are enrolled.

Durable solutions

- Support local integration, economic self-sufficiency and access to basic services for refugees and their host communities.
 - Some 30 per cent of hosting communities at the northern border have improved access to water and sanitation.
 - Approximately 2,000 people in refugee-hosting provinces benefit from microcredit.
- Promote a culture of tolerance and coexistence by engaging national institutions, refugees and host communities in activities that foster local integration and self-reliance.
 - Media campaigns are conducted to reduce discrimination against people of concern.
- More efficient use is made of resettlement, ensuring that it is 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.



Colombian refugees who have fled the 40-year old conflict in their country struggle to make a living in Ecuador.

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	7
□ Total staff	102
International	12
National	37
JPOs	4
UNVs	49

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

NGOs:

Comité Pro Refugiados
 Consejo Gubernativo de Bienes Diocesanos de la Diócesis de Tulcán
 Ecuadorian Red Cross
 Federación de Artesanos Recolectores de Productos Bioacuáticos del Manglar
 Federación de Mujeres de Sucumbios
 Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio
 Fundación Ambiente y Sociedad
 Fundación Solidaridad Humana adscrita a la Pastoral de Esmeraldas
 Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
 Iglesia San Miguel de Sucumbios
 Jesuit Refugee Service
 Unidad de Cooperación para el desarrollo de los pueblos

Others:

Universidad de los Andes
 Universidad Javeriana
 Universidad Nacional

Operational Partners

Government agencies:

General Directorate for Refugees - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Others

IOM
 PAHO/WHO
 UNAIDS
 UNDP
 UNESCO
 UNFPA
 UNICEF
 UNIFEM
 WFP

Strategy and activities in 2011

In view of the Government's willingness to address refugee issues, UNHCR's main strategy is to strengthen national protection mechanisms and promote durable solutions in Ecuador in line with the 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. Key issues to be addressed are access to territory, improvements to asylum procedures and negative public attitudes towards refugees.

For UNHCR, the success of this strategy depends on strengthening the General Directorate for Refugees, and improving collaboration with human rights organizations. Considering the increase in the number of refugees, the promotion of durable solutions also constitutes a major test. UNHCR will pursue local integration opportunities by supporting water, sanitation, education, income-generation, self-sufficiency and microcredit programmes, as well as by assisting those refugees wishing to request naturalization. Resettlement will also continue to represent a strategic protection tool in Ecuador.

○ Constraints

UNHCR and its partners face several challenges that limit the effectiveness of interventions for refugees. Although many refugees live in urban areas, many others remain in remote locations. In addition, the refugees are highly mobile and widely dispersed within the country, making long-term interventions in specific communities difficult. Although the

Government has reinforced its presence along the northern border, security conditions there remain volatile, limiting UNHCR's ability to intervene.

Organization and implementation

○ Coordination

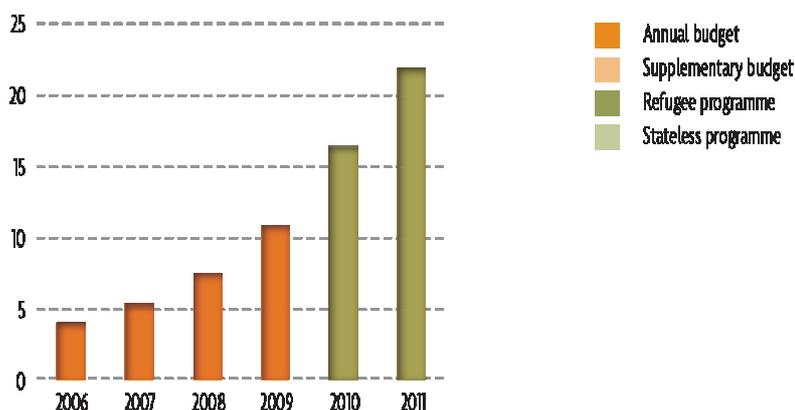
UNHCR will continue to support the Government and coordinate with a wide range of institutions in order to protect and assist refugees. Integration activities in the northern border area will be included in local development programmes, and UNHCR will continue to lead the 16-agency UN Northern Border Inter-Agency Working Group. Within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, UNHCR and its partners will develop new initiatives to support host communities, and address specific protection concerns, such as gender-based violence.

Financial information

UNHCR has expanded its operations in Ecuador to cope with the increasing number of people of concern, and address the needs identified in the comprehensive needs assessment. Over the last few years, the Government has gradually assumed more responsibility for asylum matters through its Refugee Directorate, and made an important financial contribution to UNHCR within the global needs assessment pilot project. UNHCR and the Government are also working jointly to mobilize additional resources for refugees in the country.

UNHCR's budget in Ecuador 2006 – 2011

Millions (USD)



2011 UNHCR Budget for Ecuador (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment		
National legal framework	139,519	139,519
Policies towards forced displacement	174,903	174,903
National and regional migration policy	322,062	322,062
Cooperation with partners	511,633	511,633
National development policies	414,031	414,031
Non-refoulement	369,060	369,060
Emergency management	308,656	308,656
Subtotal	2,239,865	2,239,865
Fair protection processes and documentation		
Reception conditions	217,659	217,659
Registration and profiling	662,238	662,238
Access to asylum procedures	489,791	489,791
Fair and efficient status determination	753,669	753,669
Family reunification	123,713	123,713
Civil status documentation	138,129	138,129
Subtotal	2,385,201	2,385,201
Security from violence and exploitation		
Impact on host communities	274,019	274,019
Effects of armed conflict	413,638	413,638
Gender-based violence	754,990	754,990
Protection of children	422,285	422,285
Freedom of movement	83,726	83,726
Non-arbitrary detention	65,791	65,791
Access to legal remedies	594,705	594,705
Subtotal	2,609,155	2,609,155
Basic needs and essential services		
Food security	99,102	99,102
Water	622,754	622,754
Shelter and other infrastructure	625,730	625,730
Basic domestic and hygiene items	695,521	695,521
Primary health care	626,719	626,719
Education	838,304	838,304
Sanitation services	404,256	404,256
Services for groups with specific needs	659,071	659,071
Subtotal	4,571,457	4,571,457
Community participation and self-management		
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	211,070	211,070
Community self-management and equal representation	354,370	354,370
Self-reliance and livelihoods	4,183,859	4,183,859
Subtotal	4,749,299	4,749,299
Durable solutions		
Durable solutions strategy	139,287	139,287
Resettlement	559,128	559,128
Local integration support	312,692	312,692
Reduction of statelessness	185,441	185,441
Subtotal	1,196,548	1,196,548
External relations		
Donor relations	199,324	199,324
Resource mobilisation	202,699	202,699
Public information	383,228	383,228
Subtotal	785,251	785,251

Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

- Activities to counter human trafficking will not be implemented.
- Training sessions for 10,000 police and army officers will not be organized.
- Three legal clinics will not be opened.
- One of the three planned safe houses for women will not be opened.
- Two reception centres for unaccompanied and separated children will not be supported.
- Only 1,000 people will be assisted to gain access to medical services, instead of the planned 1,500.
- Non-food items will only be provided to 50 per cent of new arrivals.
- Several sanitation projects involving the construction of latrines, garbage collection and the installation of potable water systems will not be implemented.
- Microcredit programmes will only reach 950 people instead of the planned 2,000.
- Assistance for people waiting to be resettled will be reduced.
- A media campaign to promote awareness about refugees and their local integration will not be conducted.

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	TOTAL
Logistics and operations support		
Supply chain and logistics	1,234,802	1,234,802
Programme management, coordination and support	2,023,692	2,023,692
Subtotal	3,258,494	3,258,494
Total	21,795,270	21,795,270

	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	TOTAL
2010 Revised budget	16,196,546	225,594	16,422,140