

Ecuador Fact Sheet

February 1, 2024



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

Introduction

Ecuador is hosting approximately 550,000 refugees and migrants, of whom 474,945 are from Venezuela. The country is also host to refugees and migrants from Colombia, Haiti, and Peru. Currently, there are 75,638 recognized refugees and 9,368 asylum seekers in Ecuador.

HIAS Programs and Focus

We work to build development processes and protective environments that promote the well-being, recognition of rights, and comprehensive inclusion of refugees, migrants, and the host community in Ecuador. We work with government institutions, partner agencies, and the private sector to promote inclusion and the development of sustainable livelihoods through community-based programs and humanitarian assistance. HIAS' strategy in Ecuador focuses on a case management approach that provides families with personalized and comprehensive assistance.

Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (CB-MHPSS)

HIAS Ecuador's mental health and psychosocial support programs focus on promoting and improving the mental health and psychosocial well-being of vulnerable refugees, migrants, and people from host communities. We provide psychosocial support services, including individual mental health counseling, support groups, psychiatric referrals, and psychological first aid. HIAS' MHPSS programs train key community members to recognize acute emotional distress in children and adults and to respond with empathy and respect, using evidence-based methodologies. HIAS Ecuador's staff trains community leaders, public health officials, and partner organizations to mainstream a psychosocial approach in all essential service areas.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response

HIAS focuses on supporting women, girls, and LGBTQ+ individuals through survivor-driven GBV prevention services. Our programming aims to empower survivors to pursue their potential free from violence and gender-based discrimination. In Ecuador, our initiatives include case management, psychosocial support, livelihood



HIAS staff meets with participants of the Curriculum Model on Positive Masculinities in Ibarra, Ecuador, September 15, 2022. (Cristina Torres/HIAS)

assistance, and referrals to health and legal protection services. We prioritize survivor leadership, sexual and reproductive rights, establishing safe spaces, and implementing transformative change programs for men and boys. HIAS Ecuador actively engages in risk reduction and advocacy activities, contributing to the strengthening of protection systems at local, national, and corporate levels.

Legal Protection

HIAS Ecuador works in close collaboration with the government, UNHCR, legal assistance providers, and other stakeholders to empower, educate, and support refugees as they seek to access rights.



CB-MHPSS Support

We promote psychological well-being through group and individual sessions and psychological first aid.



GBV Response

Our GBV programming helps forcibly displaced women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people access their rights.



Legal Protection

We work with the government, UNHCR, and others to empower, educate, and support refugees seeking access to rights.



Economic Inclusion

Using the Graduation Model Approach and the Socioeconomic Support Program, we help combat extreme poverty.



Child Protection

We provide protection programs for refugee and migrant children and teens through Comprehensive Support Spaces.



Food Security & Nutrition

We provide access to food through CVAs, nutrition education, and community-based interventions.

Economic Inclusion

HIAS promotes access to sustainable livelihoods for displaced people and vulnerable host populations. Our methodology enables participants to find opportunities to improve self-sufficiency, increase resilience, regain dignity, and build an independent future. Utilizing the Graduation Model Approach and the Socioeconomic Support Program, HIAS Ecuador helps people to combat extreme poverty. Participants work to achieve food security, sustainable income generation, and community integration within 18 and 12 month-long programs.

Our Entrepreneurship School with a Gender Lens uplifts refugee and migrant women, those at risk of gender-based violence, and survivors, enhancing their livelihoods, self-esteem, autonomy, and empowerment. HIAS also supports the scalability of businesses through the Entrepreneurship School 2.0 which helps to consolidate business ventures through skills strengthening programs. HIAS facilitates labor market inclusion with the private sector, leveraging AI platforms and Human Talent Consultant services. HIAS champions financial inclusion, collaborating with institutions for nationwide financial education, promoting savings, budget planning, and accessibility to credit.

Child Protection

With the support of UNHCR and UNICEF, HIAS implements protection programs for refugee and migrant children and teenagers. HIAS Ecuador's offices provide case management for families with children at risk and unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents. They also provide CVA support and promote access to the Ecuadorian protection system as well as education and health programs. HIAS leads the implementation of Child-Friendly Spaces, where all activities are intended to foster children's sensory, psychomotor, and cognitive development. HIAS implements the Comprehensive Support Spaces program together with local governments and UNICEF to provide protection services to displaced people and host communities.

Food Security and Nutrition

HIAS Ecuador works to guarantee access, availability, stability, and consumption of nutritious food for displaced people and local host populations. The Food Assistance Program implemented together with the WFP aims to guarantee access to food for displaced people that have settled in or are in transit through Ecuador. The CVAs provided to families in need target almost 5,000 people every month. Other components of this approach include implementing a nutrition education strategy through inclusive, intercultural, and community-based interventions.

HIAS in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

HIAS advocates for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, other displaced populations, and local host communities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. As part of a comprehensive regional response to meet the urgent needs of these populations, HIAS co-leads and participates in several coordination platforms and partnerships with a focus on protection, socioeconomic integration, MHPSS, food security, GBV, and cash and voucher assistance.

HIAS currently has programs in 11 countries in LAC (Aruba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela) and partners with a wide range of government agencies, UN entities (UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, UNV/VFT), the private sector (Airbnb, TATA Consultancy Services, and Manpower), and other NGOs and consortia, including Save the Children, Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council and World Vision.

Contact

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