

Annual Results Report

2022

Ecuador

Acknowledgements

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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

In 2022, the security situation in Ecuador further deteriorated with a nationwide increase of 164% in violent deaths, representing an increase of up to 500% compared to 2021, mainly due to drug and arms trafficking. The situation had an impact on the communities where UNHCR worked and host communities' structures became less open to the inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants.

The operation monitored and adjusted its cash assistance and livelihood interventions in view of the complex security situation affecting the local population and forcibly displaced people. Education was one of the sectors highly impacted by the deteriorating security situation, with parents and teachers extorted for "protection" and children forcibly recruited. In general, schools were not considered safe anymore.

In June 2022, Decree 436 was issued to grant a migratory amnesty and regularise the stay of people of Venezuelan nationality and their family group, who entered the territory of Ecuador through official migratory control points and were at the time in an irregular migratory status.

As of the end of 2022, there were 565,000 forcibly displaced people in Ecuador, of which 57,000 are Colombian refugees, 502,200 are Venezuelan refugees and migrants and 1,440 are refugees from other nationalities. There was a further increase in the trend of Colombian asylum-seekers fleeing new forms of violence in their country doubling numbers in the last three years. This was a result of the continued operations of irregular armed groups in Colombia, which often clashed over territory, threatened community leaders, and forcibly recruited into armed conflict. UNHCR worked with the government to strengthen the quality of its asylum system and alternative migration pathways.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

Persons of concern have access to the territory, asylum, quality RSD procedures, migratory alternatives and documentation in accordance to international protection standards

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
1.1 Proportion of individuals seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of PoC who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence. [GCR 2.1.2]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

In 2022, UNHCR focused on enabling appropriate conditions for forcibly displaced people to fully access and enjoy protection in line with their rights and specific needs. UNHCR's response included strengthening institutional capacity to improve the delivery of international protection through promoting improved access to registration, documentation, legal services, and refugee status determination procedures. UNHCR strengthened its work with asylum authorities to implement the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) for the development of adequate reception arrangements, including inter-institutional protocols for the identification and referral of forcibly displaced people at entry and border points; strengthening civil registration initiatives; and identification and remedy of breaches to the rights of refugees and migrants.

UNHCR also worked with the Directorate for International Protection (DPIN) achieving positive results in eligibility rates, training activities for staff, increased registration, and reduction of the backlog. Asylum-seekers and refugees enjoyed the freedom of movement, the right to work, and education and health on par with nationals. However, these positive aspects remained sometimes overshadowed by practical challenges to fully enjoy rights and progressively achieve durable solutions, in particular socioeconomic inclusion.

Documentation remained an important barrier for forcibly displaced people, especially for those who entered irregularly. The government launched a registration and regularization exercise with technical and financial support from UNHCR focusing on registering all foreign nationals and providing a new temporary residence visa (VIRTE) for Venezuelan nationals who entered regularly the territory and those who had a previous residence visa that needed to be renewed. By the end of 2022, 135,500 people were registered and 96,500 obtained a migratory permanence certificate; of these, 30,600 people obtained a temporary residence visa.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

Persons of concern basic and emergency gaps are addressed attending their specific vulnerabilities and protection needs in a timely, safe and dignified manner.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	11.52%
2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	73.14%

During 2022, UNHCR ensured an increased impact by providing cash assistance to cover basic needs and

articulating with authorities to guarantee timely access to health and education. UNHCR provided cash assistance to the most vulnerable cases (4,700 households/16,500 individuals) based on their protection needs and socioeconomic condition. However, needs remained extremely high among the forcibly displaced population. As per UNHCR post-distribution monitoring conducted in 2022, 95% of households used negative coping strategies, including those that had negative implications in the mid and long-term, such as skipping rental payments (58%) or selling productive assets (33%).

Nevertheless, around 86% of the households interviewed, indicated an improvement in their living conditions. The cash assistance impacted positively the households' well-being despite its capacity to cover most of their needs being reduced. This was directly connected to the increasing cost of living on a monthly basis, a refugee family needed \$853 to cover their basic needs. UNHCR enforced its collaboration with the UN Common Cash Statement (UNCCS) to help refugees meet their basic needs. Under this scheme, 90% of the households assisted by UNHCR also benefitted from food vouchers from World Food Programme. Regarding health and education, several structural and financial barriers limited effective access, including discrimination and xenophobia and financial related costs which directly affected refugees based on precarious socioeconomic conditions. According to UNHCR monitoring data, 38% of the displaced population between 5 and 24 years old did not access education, while 20% did not have access to the national health system, an increased percentage compared to previous years. Despite the latter, UNHCR was able to ensure that all displaced population was included in the SARS-Cov2 vaccination plan.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

Persons of concern enhanced their social and economic inclusion through livelihoods opportunities and self-reliance, community resilience and access to health, education and social protection services.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
3.1 Proportion of PoC who have the right to decent work [GCR, 2.1.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11.23%	18.17%
3.2a Proportion of PoC enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	83.06%
3.2b Proportion of PoC enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	55.14%
3.3 Proportion of PoC feeling safe walking alone in their neighborhood (related SDG 16.1.4).	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	29.45%

During 2022, UNHCR prioritized interventions to enhance community cohesion, mitigate discrimination and xenophobia, and promote an enabling environment for income generation opportunities. Mitigation of barriers was addressed with the engagement of a broad range of stakeholders, leveraging the added value and strategic positioning of relevant public, private and civil society actors. The lines of interventions had direct implications for the engagement of refugees with the host communities for prospects of a peaceful future and local integration.

Although Ecuador's Constitution guarantees universal access to basic rights, only 68% of displaced children were enrolled in primary school in 2022, revealing the persistence of barriers to local integration. To mitigate them, UNHCR implemented an education-based anti-discrimination program in over 150 schools, reinforced 140 health facilities, and promoted access to reproductive health.

UNHCR also engaged with and strengthened the capacities of community networks, as well as reinforced UNHCR's communication with communities' capacity. UNHCR staff worked directly in over 83 communities to facilitate protection and inclusion, collaborating with 400 community organizations, involving 12,700 people. UNHCR enhanced cooperation with over 20 local governments which increased the availability of public socioeconomic services.

Decent employment was limited to those with regular migratory status, including refugees, representing only 16% of forcibly displaced people. UNHCR facilitated access to employment and business development assisting 13,200 women and men; 6,200 of them were supported with business and entrepreneurship

training and 2,000 were counselled on access to formal employment. In addition, UNHCR established partnerships with the private sector with over 60 allies proposing inclusive business models under the “Initiative.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

Persons of concern have access to durable solutions, including local integration and resettlement to ensure their effective exercise of rights and inclusion in national social policies through evidence-based approaches.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
4.2a Number of PoC who departed on resettlement. [GCR 3.1.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	172	723
4.2b Number of PoC who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	204,354	203,721

In 2022, UNHCR developed a holistic and integrated approach to promoting access to durable solutions for forcibly displaced people. Social and economic inclusion processes focused on promoting opportunities for self-reliance and local integration, and where needed, resettlement and other complementary pathways such as labour mobility, tertiary education opportunities, or family reunification.

UNHCR promoted access to documentation for people who had not accessed the asylum system through close collaboration with national authorities in the development and implementation of an ambitious migration registration and regularization process between 2022 and 2023, with the potential to enable access to a 2-year exceptional legal visa for thousands of people currently in an irregular situation. UNHCR advocated and liaised with development actors and international financial institutions to find appropriate mechanisms to expand government social protection schemes to refugees as well as make the nexus between humanitarian and development support. During 2022, UNHCR increased collaboration with the World Bank and the InterAmerican Development Bank which financed projects on social protection, education, and labour market inclusion, contributing to the socioeconomic inclusion of Venezuelans and Colombians. For instance, on migration and forced displacement issues, the World Bank had included policy reforms, especially regarding the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF), which bolster the government’s ability to implement the regularization program.

UNHCR used resettlement as a protection tool for the most vulnerable cases. In 2022, 1,600 cases of Colombian and Venezuelan people were submitted to Australia, Canada, and the United States of America. Also, 720 people departed in 2022. In 2022, UNHCR implemented a labour mobility pilot identifying 30 Venezuelans ready for job-matching opportunities on the Canadian Labour Mobility Programme.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

In 2022, the political, economic and security situation challenged the delivery of protection and solutions to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Ecuador. The State was highly dependent on international cooperation to respond to the protection and solutions needs of forcibly displaced people and UNHCR adapted to the changing environment to ensure that they received protection and support for solutions.

As of June 2022, there was an increase in north and south-bound mixed and onward movements as well as internal movements caused by the security situation in the country. Similarly, UNHCR identified an increase in the arrival of Colombians in need of international protection. Ecuadorians departed the country as well, mostly due to the economic situation and localized security situation, in a regular and irregular manner, having the United States of America as the most desired destination. Documentation remained an important challenge since the lack of a migratory status in the country hampered access to services and socioeconomic rights, inclusion, and local integration. It was

expected the ongoing registration and regularization exercise would improve the situation of thousands of refugees and migrants who were without legal status in the country. However, UNHCR advocated for a second Decree that would pave the way to the regularization of most Venezuelans who entered the country irregularly and remained in that situation.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR worked in collaboration with national and local governments, strengthening their capacity at registration and documentation of refugees and asylum seekers, coordination to ensure access to basic rights and services, and local integration and self-sufficiency of refugees.

In 2022, UNHCR co-led the R4V Platform together with IOM, coordinating the interagency planning process. UNHCR organized interagency Joint Needs Assessments, implemented a Border Monitoring and Population Profiling Tool, and coordinated the use of ActivityInfo (the interagency reporting tool). UNHCR provided support to sectorial coordination groups and worked closely with Government institutions besides engaging proactively in the UNCT, including in all phases of the UNSDCF, and with sister agencies in various initiatives, such as the UN Common Cash Statement -with WFP and UNICEF.

UNHCR also strengthened engagement with traditional donors and expanded its donor base. Strategic alliances were sought with development actors and international financial institutions to promote synergies between humanitarian and development. In addition, the operation worked with 23 partners who contributed to implementing a wide range of protection and solutions projects and effectively responded to the needs of the people UNHCR serves.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

People UNHCR serves are able to access the territory and risk of refoulement is reduced.

UNHCR registration procedures are strengthened and expanded to ensure timely identification, case management and provision of assistance for people UNHCR serves, in accordance to their specific protection needs.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.50	98.00%	97.51%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority. [SDG 16.9.1 - Tier 1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	100.00%	97.52%
1.3 Proportion of PoC with legally recognized identity documents or credentials [GCR 4.2.2].	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	100.00%	92.11%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, Ecuador maintained an open border policy for asylum-seekers and refugees and generally complied with protection standards at entry points.

UNHCR worked in close collaboration with government institutions to improve the delivery of international protection and aimed to make it less dependent on cooperation in the medium term. Building on technical and financial support, the operation ensured forcibly displaced people have improved access to registration, documentation, legal services, and refugee status determination procedures. UNHCR strengthened its work with asylum authorities to implement the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) for the development of adequate reception arrangements, including inter-institutional protocols for the identification and referral of forcibly displaced people at entry and border points; strengthening civil registration initiatives; and identification and remedy of breaches to the rights of refugees and migrants. Similarly, UNHCR continued supporting the work of institutions mandated to provide protection and specialized services (case management, protection, and alternative care) for persons with specific protection needs, gender-based violence and child protection. This support enabled individuals to exercise their rights and access service.

In terms of registration, UNHCR supported a registration exercise run by the Directorate for International Protection (DPIN) as well as a direct implementation project. These efforts allowed for a better understanding of the needs and to tailor adequate protection responses, as well as quantifying assistance given. As a result, Ecuador had registered 565,300 people by the end of 2022 with Venezuelan nationals accounting for 84% of the total. DPIN registered over 98,000 individual entries, with a majority of Colombian (73%) asylum-seekers and refugees. By the end of 2022, the number of active asylum-seekers and refugees was around 59,700 people. In addition, UNHCR supported an initiative to clean up government records to clarify the current number of asylum-seekers in backlog and close other records with no activity within the refugee status determination process. At the end of the year, the total number of asylum-seekers was 10,400 and over 5,000 entries were identified to be closed or moved to the “non-active” process category.

Access to registration and documentation (for asylum-seekers and refugees) was, therefore, guaranteed, duly established in law and, in general terms, accessible in practice. Some practical challenges remained, however, for people who lived in remote or border locations, lacked adequate internet connectivity or simply did not have access to appropriate information on their rights to asylum or way of accessing alternative protection pathways.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

As reflected in the findings of the 2022 protection monitoring report and participatory assessments, access to information remained one of the main challenges faced by the people UNHCR serves. This was mostly due to location, lack of means of transportation to reach where registration and protection services were available and lack of connectivity. To mitigate this, UNHCR supported several mobile campaigns to reach those people in need and made a varied number of services available to them.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

All people UNHCR serves seeking asylum have access to effective refugee status determination procedures.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision (disaggregated by individual and group procedures).	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	243.00	243.00	218.00
2.2 Proportion of individuals undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal advice or representation.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of individuals undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, asylum claims reached a total of 10,300, a similar number as in past years, maintaining an upwards post-pandemic trend. For a fourth consecutive year, most asylum-seekers were Venezuelans, with 5,600 applications, while 4,300 applications were submitted by Colombians and 470 by nationals from other countries. It is worth noting that asylum claims from Colombia increased by about 17 per cent (700 additional cases) in respect to 2021 because of the deteriorating protection situation in that country and the concurrently increased displacement. Colombians arrived mostly in Esmeraldas, Carchi, and Imbabura provinces in the north; however, they also arrived at other places in Ecuador as they would like to be far as possible from border areas and transit through Ecuador.

On a similar note, asylum applications from Venezuela decreased by approximately 20% in respect of 2021, possibly in part due to the launch of the first phase of the new migration registration and regularization programme by the Ecuadorian Government in the second half of the year. UNHCR provided legal orientation and advice free of charge to asylum-seekers, refugees, and others of concern.

Regarding asylum, some positive trends were reached in 2022. The number of admissions to the asylum procedure increased dramatically (over 120%) while the number of recognitions increased by over 35%. The backlog of pending cases was reduced by over 5,000 cases, most of which were closed after a close review of their procedural situation. Additionally, the waiting period for initial eligibility interviews (post-registration) was reduced from several weeks to between 8 to 12 working days. UNHCR supported an initiative to digitalize and index the permanent physical archive of the Directorate for International Protection (DPIN) in Quito, contributing to further reduced processing times for most cases.

These encouraging developments were mostly due to the positive impact over 2022 that the UNHCR Quality Assurance Initiative capacity development activities had in strengthening DPIN's internal processes, including streamlining registration and notifications, reviewing eligibility standard operating procedures and policies, partially cleaning-up records, and continued training activities at all levels of the asylum system.

As part of an agreed plan of action, UNHCR developed joint visits and training activities with DPIN staff at the local/decentralized level. A higher number of mobile registration and eligibility brigades were carried out, directly benefitting 2,300 people through registration, eligibility, and documentation. UNHCR was invited to formally attend, with voice but no vote, the periodic meetings of the Asylum Eligibility Commission.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Despite the positive trends identified above, some challenges remain; particularly in relation to ensuring the sustainability of the positive developments achieved so far. DPIN remains very dependent on financial and technical support from UNHCR, a situation that is not expected to change in the short or medium term. UNHCR provides 29 staff members to DPIN under UNOPS contracts, to compensate for staff reductions and freeze on recruitments in the public administration caused by the ongoing economic crisis affecting the country. There are therefore limited expectations to be able to cut back on the short to medium term, on a substantive level, the current financial commitments with DPIN. In a similar manner, while the asylum system has been strengthened overall, it is still very sensitive to changes in political agendas and needs to develop overtime a more consistent and independent approach to implementing international protection principles.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

Legal bodies and administrative practice are in line with international protection and human rights standards.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Favorable	Favorable	Favorable

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Ecuador has a solid legal framework in terms of the protection of the people UNHCR serves and a long-standing asylum tradition. The country recognized asylum and other protection principles such as non-refoulement, non-discrimination, access to documentation and rights, among others, at the constitutional level and has established specific legislation (LOMH 2021 and its Regulation) on Asylum and Statelessness. The country is also party to all main human rights instruments at the universal and regional level, providing for complementarity in international protection to those in need. Both the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Cartagena refugee definitions are set in law and applied in practice. National legislation provides for both refugee status and stateless determination procedures, consistent with international standards.

In 2022, the quality of asylum and protection procedures improved continuously since the implementation of the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) and a most robust collaboration with the Directorate for International Protection (DPIN).

UNHCR developed strong working relations with relevant actors, including the National Assembly (Asamblea Nacional) and the Judiciary (Consejo de la Judicatura), as well as with human rights institutions that have overall constitutional control of the administrative decision, such as the Public Defender's Office and the Ombudsman Office. These relations have helped to preclude potential challenges in the field of legislation and protection frameworks, normally anticipating issues of concern and addressing them through informal means.

During 2022, UNHCR was involved in the drafting and counselling of several pieces of legislation, including the reform of the Human Mobility Law (Ley Orgánica de Movilidad Humana) and the protocols for access to international protection at airports and other entry points. UNHCR will continue to monitor legislative

developments to ensure their continued compliance with international standards. UNHCR will also continue to advocate for and work with partners to strengthen access to rights and services for all persons under our mandate.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

While the national protection framework remained robust, its practical implementation did not have adequate human and financial resources and sometimes presented complex secondary regulations that hinder the full potential of its positive impact. For example, the Directorate for International Protection (DPIN) relied on financial support from UNHCR to maintain its core staffing structure. The institution required additional funding to provide services outside of areas where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had a presence and to conduct field missions to access persons in need that otherwise did not have proper access to asylum.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Survivors and people at risk of gender-based violence access protection services, including safe spaces, and communities are actively engaged in gender-based violence prevention, risk mitigation and response activities.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
4.1 Proportion of PoC who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	71.00%	74.96%
4.2 Proportion of POCs who do not accept violence against women.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	60.00%	99.30%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with SGBV case management services.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	71.00%	80.52%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR made significant contributions to consolidate a comprehensive response framework to gender-based violence and the protection of survivors in a forced displacement context. Through the provision of specialized and tailored protection services, and in coordination with implementing partners and the government, UNHCR reached 4,400 people identified as gender-based violence survivors, out of which 81 per cent were female.

The transition from the Secretary of Human Rights to the Ministry of Women and Human Rights (MWHHR) was implemented by the authorities to improve the public's response capacity to gender-based violence and accelerate the implementation of the National Law to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women. In this context, UNHCR was involved locally and nationally through joint activities with the Ministry - such as providing donations to "Violet Centres" (transit houses for gender-based violence survivors) - to promote the inclusion of refugees and migrants in services and in the gender-based violence institutional response. In this framework, UNHCR fostered its collaboration with other UN agencies, MWHHR, local governments, local and inter-agency roundtables like the Gender Working Group, Inter-Agency Gender Roundtable (MEGECI), the gender-based violence Subgroup of the Ecuador R4V Platform (GTRM); as well as specialized key partners, including the Federation of Women of Sucumbíos, Movement of Women of El Oro, Fundación Equidad and Dialogo Diverso.

UNHCR led the implementation of practical tools such as the interagency standard operating procedure for case management of gender-based violence survivors in forced displacement context; UNHCR also trained

5,300 people from national institutions on gender-based violence, including the Integrated protection services of the MWHR, members of 10 local GTRMs and local public service personnel providing specialized care to survivors. In addition, UNHCR managed the case of 1,900 gender-based violence survivors. Through mechanisms established to get the feedback of survivors, it was reported that 81 per cent of survivors were satisfied with the response.

According to the 2022 Result Monitoring Survey, 75% of the consulted people reported knowing about gender-based violence response services, indicating a positive trend towards the inclusion of displaced populations in services provided by the State and organizations supported by UNHCR. This also revealed appropriate management of gender-based violence-related information through communication with communities' mechanisms and community interventions. As an example, 9,100 people from the displaced and host community participated in bespoke training on prevention and response to gender-based violence. This included 900 community legal defenders who developed a national network destined to replicate essential information on prevention, access to justice, and protection measures in their communities to address this serious issue.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

According to UNHCR reports and consultation exercises conducted with the people UNHCR serves, barriers in the provision of services for survivors of gender-based violence persisted, such as access to justice for women and LGBTIQ+ people. They expressed stigmatization related to their nationality and gender or a hyper-sexualization of their bodies, preventing a tailored, sensitive, and specialized gender-based violence response.

Despite UNHCR's efforts to strengthen the gender-based violence national protection system, expected results were not always achieved due to the difficulties faced by the Ministry in enforcing it, such as a reduction of resources and limited articulation at the territorial level.

UNHCR assisted with the dissemination of materials to strengthen services and promote the harmonization of the response with comprehensive services that the authorities will expand. UNHCR supported the consolidation of community networks engaged in gender-based violence.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Children vulnerable to protection risks, including unaccompanied and separated children, access the national child protection system and are safe where they live, learn, and play.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	70.00%	58.39%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	35.00%	4.08%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an appropriate alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	45.00%	25.09%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Together with UNICEF and IOM, UNHCR advocated and supported the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES), the Ministry of Migration, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in updating the Protocol of attention of children and adolescents in human mobility. The protocol guaranteed regular access to the territory, the possibility of a migration solution, and a comprehensive protection response. The structure of

the attention procedures of this protocol was based on UNHCR Best Interests Procedures, with an inclusion of the Best Interests Assessment forms as an evaluation assessment tool.

In addition to this protocol, within the framework of the extraordinary regularization process for Venezuelans, UNHCR and IOM jointly advised and supported the MIES in the development of a specific regularization procedure to prioritize unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). According to this regulation, all unaccompanied and separated children identified were able to access the visa, by confirming their situation through a specialized interview (BIA) undertaken by the MIES and partners. It is estimated that around 670 unaccompanied and separated children benefitted from this regularization measure, in addition to new identifications that may occur in the future while the regularization process lasts.

UNHCR strengthened child protection case management. During the year, a total of 1,400 cases were opened and managed, which included diverse profiles such as unaccompanied and separated children exposed to different risks such as child labour, exploitation, gender-based violence, abuse, and other forms of violence as well as child heads of household, under the care of other adults, in a relationship, pregnant teenagers, among other profiles. The wide range of profiles requiring Best Interests Procedures may have limited the proportion of children accessing them to 58% due to the elevated denominator.

To have a more effective process prioritizing those with heightened protection risks, UNHCR designed case management prioritization guidelines accordingly. This operational instrument guided the prioritization and implementation of case management for child protection, gender-based violence, and other cases in the field offices. A total of 350 UNHCR staff were trained in the use of child protection and gender-based violence modules to formalize case management processes and safeguard the confidentiality of concerned cases.

Considering the limited available quotas under the national child protection system, UNHCR provided complementary alternative care arrangements such as small-group care and supervised independent living arrangements for children as well as transitional residential care as a last resort.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

During the reporting period, there had been significant political commitments that enabled the Protocol of attention of children and adolescents in human mobility to be enforced. However, this encompassed a permanent and intensive engagement as well as financial resources to make progress. Once the regularization regulation was issued, it was necessary to strengthen the operational capacity of the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion to enable the implementation of the regularization procedure. For UNHCR and IOM, this meant recruiting personnel embedded into the Ministry, as well as supporting them with equipment. The implementation of this procedure was delayed until the new staff and internal protocols of the Ministry were developed and consolidated, losing the possibility of starting the process by the end of 2022.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

People UNHCR serves have access to free and quality legal services (including orientation and representation) provided by the national human rights institution.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Ensuring access to justice for forcibly displaced people was one of the main objectives of UNHCR's national protection strategy. UNHCR strengthened its partnership with national protection stakeholders in 2022 through the signing or renewal of cooperation agreements with the Public Defender's Office, the Ombudsman Office, the Judiciary Council, the Constitutional Court, and the Secretary for Human Rights. UNHCR provided technical, capacity development and financial support to these institutions to offer free and quality legal services. UNHCR also prompted and jointly developed several protocols and specific regulations to strengthen the protection response for people under UNHCR's mandate. During the reporting period, no immigration detention was reported, and no other restrictions to freedom of movement were otherwise imposed on people UNHCR serves, although immigration fines were reported.

In terms of support for access to justice, in all its forms (counselling, representation, legal advice, etc.), UNHCR's partners registered 12,700 interventions, out of which 6,600 were in asylum procedures and 5,800 in support of migration registration and regularization pathways. UNHCR's legal partners provided

training to 1,300 public servants on human rights and access to protection procedures and strengthened other stakeholders' capacity through training for 1,900 staff from UNHCR's partners and other NGOs. UNHCR also engaged in facilitating training on human rights and refugee protection to several stakeholders, including the Secretary for Human Rights and the Judiciary Council, reaching over 800 civil servants and judiciary staff at the country level.

Lastly, through joint interventions with the Public Defender's Office, UNHCR engaged in the development of a new interinstitutional protocol on admission and reception mechanisms for persons in need of international protection at airports, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of migration authorities in referring cases to the appropriate channels.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

UNHCR maintained a very positive relationship with the Public Defender's Office, the Ombudsman's Office, the Judiciary Council, the Constitutional Court and the Secretary for Human Rights and substantive progress was made in enhancing legal protection responses for the people UNHCR serves. However, limited financial resources available prevented achieving a larger impact and to reach individuals and communities at the border or remote locations to provide registration services and access to asylum and other essential rights. In the same way, while access to legal advice and representation was strengthened in 2022, measures of redress for individuals affected by administrative sanctions (in the context of migratory or labour controls for example) needed to be more expedited and efficient.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

People UNHCR serves have an active participation in community structures, including feedback and response mechanisms, and forcibly displaced women and host communities can exercise active leadership role in these structures.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
7.1 Proportion of PoC who participate meaningfully across all phases of the OMC.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
7.2 Proportion of PoC who have access to effective feedback and response mechanisms.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
7.3 Proportion (and number) of active female participants on leadership/management structures.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	35.00%	73.50%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Throughout 2022, UNHCR maintained a regular presence in 83 communities which enabled adequate interaction with host communities and displaced people, promoting social cohesion, peaceful coexistence and preventing discrimination. Also 12,700 people UNHCR serve participated in community initiatives destined to build peaceful coexistence through sports, culture, and other social initiatives. To reinforce the links with these communities, UNHCR mapped 401 community structures, including 315 community networks with at least 85 of them being led or integrated by refugees.

The meaningful participation of forcibly displaced people was at the centre of UNHCR's operational and strategic considerations, and it enabled a better understanding of the challenges affecting them, along with host communities, and strengthened its interventions accordingly. There were 474 people involved in consultation processes, out of which 340 (130 women, 94 men, 54 adolescents and 48 LGBTIQ+ people) had been part of a specific methodology of participatory assessments destined to capture the role of

community networks and adjust our strategic planning and directions in protection. According to the Results Monitoring Survey 72% of the surveyed people considered having meaningful participation in the UNHCR programmatic phases.

The effective feedback and response mechanisms provided by UNHCR facilitated the construction of trust channels with the people UNHCR serves, such as a complaint hotline, an email mailbox, complaint and suggestion boxes, mobile boxes, confidential prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse complaint forms as well as safe physical spaces for direct attention, were constantly adapted to ensure the protection of the information provided by people UNHCR serves and to activate immediate responses to protection needs that may arise.

The Help platform and Chatbot, with 427,780 visits throughout 2022, demonstrated that it was a very effective way to articulate the information with feedback and response mechanisms, where 90% of those surveyed considered having access to effective feedback and response mechanisms.

In 2022, 610 women were identified as significantly participating in decision-making processes in community structures, peer groups, community promoters and defenders supported by UNHCR. The leadership role that women had assumed in these spaces was considerable, which should be interpreted as the result of sustained empowerment processes that contribute to enhancing their leadership and effective participation in their communities. In this context, UNHCR promoted coordinated work with women-led organizations (WLOs) and other community structures. During the mapping exercise, UNHCR identified that 74% of the surveyed women had consequently reported being active participants in leadership structures.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Active participation and leadership strengthening processes were positively received by the people UNHCR serves. They considered them essential to strengthening their networks and participatory processes, especially on issues impacting their lives. However, according to participatory dialogues, people were afraid of getting involved in spaces of active participation, mainly in areas impacted by the operations of criminal groups.

People feared that being visible could result in being identified by criminal groups and potentially exposed to threats or attacks on their and their family’s physical integrity. It is essential to consider this situation of insecurity in community interventions. Community spaces can also foster collective security and safeguard peaceful and non-violent environments, ensuring the effective participation of people UNHCR serve and host communities.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

People UNHCR serves can access to basic services and assistance in food as well as domestic items without resorting to negative coping strategies.

People UNHCR serves and host communities enjoy increased digital inclusion and connectivity.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
8.1 Proportion of PoC in need that receive cash transfers or in-kind assistance.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	55.00%	34.18%
8.2 Proportion of PoC with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology [SDG 7.1.2 Tier 1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	60.00%	98.74%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Throughout 2022, UNHCR focused part of its response on the provision of cash assistance to cover basic needs for the most vulnerable cases. In Ecuador, meeting basic needs represented a challenge for both

nationals and the people UNHCR serves. According to national authorities, the national minimum expenditure basket (MEB) for Ecuadorians in 2022 was calculated at \$763 per month while the MEB for refugees, calculated by UNHCR as part of the Cash Working Group within the Ecuador R4V Platform (GTRM), was \$ 853 per month. At the same time, the minimum wage in 2022 was \$425, setting an alarming gap between the needs and the average working income. On top of that, people had limited access to the labour market due, on the one hand, to legal documentation and, on the other hand, to limited opportunities because of the low economic recovery post-pandemic.

All things considered, the provision of cash assistance played a key role in covering people's most urgent needs. A total of 4,700 households, comprising 16,500 individuals, received cash assistance. With a gender-based approach, a female member of the household received assistance in 92% of the cases. The provision utilized over-the-counter cardless ATM codes. According to the UNHCR post-distribution monitoring (PDM) conducted in 2022, 56% of the households were able to meet at least half of their needs. In most cases, the assistance was spent on rent (76.5%) and food (65%); however, households also used the assistance for health in 30% of cases and hygiene in 22% of cases.

Paying the rent and covering food costs were basic needs that households considered not entirely met (rent in 77% of cases and food in 44% of cases). This situation was linked to the economic situation in the country where purchasing power was ever-decreasing, with households experiencing price rises, especially in food (92% of the cases reported experiencing this).

Nevertheless, the provision of cash assistance was a key component of the protection response considering that 86% of the interviewed households indicated that their living conditions improved significantly or moderately and 84% indicated significantly or moderately reduced feelings of stress, while 82% indicated a significant or moderate reduction of the financial burden. In terms of empowerment using cash, it was observed that the households spent the assistance in markets and local shops -supporting the local economy, as well as in supermarkets and services. This data reflected how the cash assistance successfully allowed the most vulnerable cases to meet their basic needs and this response modality was reflected in the preference for cash (83%) over mixed modality cash-in-kind (36%) and in-kind (1%).

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

The provision of cash assistance clearly contributed to meeting the basic needs of the people UNHCR assisted. Nevertheless, the extent of this contribution to cover the needs decreased, especially compared to the previous year. Over 40% of the households assisted were not able to cover half of their needs due to the increasing living costs. More than 50 per cent of the households experienced inflation especially related to food. This data highlighted how the gap between the needs and the assistance provided increased. UNHCR cash assistance and WFP food voucher combined cover 50% of the rental and food components of the minimum expenditure basket. In addition, 21% of the households faced risks or problems receiving or spending cash assistance. The main reasons were robbery in public spaces and carrying money in 66% and 31% of the cases respectively. UNHCR is working to implement a delivery mechanism (prepaid cards) that would mitigate these risks.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

People UNHCR serves have access to adequate emergency shelter and safe housing in a protective community environment.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
9.1 Proportion of PoCs living in habitable and affordable housing.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	35.00%	15.33%
9.2 Proportion of PoC that have energy to ensure lighting (close to Sphere).	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	60.00%	97.70%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Assistance through temporary accommodation continued to be a priority in Ecuador, considering the constant dynamics of transit migratory flows, which increased during the month of July since Venezuelans were trying to reach the United States of America through the Darien. UNHCR provided temporary lodging services in 11 centres nationwide, also incorporating assistance in 3 community kitchens in the provinces of Carchi, Sucumbios, and Manabi. Through these actions, UNHCR assisted 18,9006 people with temporary accommodation, and 3,600 people received psychosocial care throughout 2022. In addition, UNHCR provided training to 60 shelter managers to strengthen the protection and management capacities of the centres.

During 2022, temporary accommodation was one of the most urgent needs nationwide, not only in border areas. In Pichincha, for example, assistance was doubled compared to the year 2021. In this context, UNHCR maintained its support in shelter centres, including those specialized in attending gender-based violence survivors, LGBTIQ+ population and unaccompanied children and adolescents. In 2022, temporary shelters were established in 4 more provinces, compared to the year 2021. The assistance granted included infrastructure improvement, equipment, technical assistance, training, human resources support, provision of Refugee Housing Units (RHUs), supplies and hygiene kits.

Through infrastructure improvement, equipment, and training, UNHCR maintained its efforts to assist community kitchens, as these facilities were vital to assist people in meeting the food needs of the people we serve and people living on the streets. Through these improvements, it was possible to link the community kitchens to the World Food Program and strengthen them through the direct action of local agencies, promoting synergies with public institutions, and continuous donation of supplies from partnerships with the private sector.

During 2022, UNHCR made infrastructure improvements in housing units and community spaces with a focus on dignifying living conditions, to ensure decent and adequate housing access. During this period, there were interventions in 70 housing units and 155 community spaces. Also, 231 habitability kits or basic housing items were delivered to newly arrived families who did not have the basic things to use in a rented space. Through these actions, UNHCR assisted 330 families and 1,300 people.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Despite the efforts implemented to provide safe and adequate accommodation based on territorial needs and good coordination with our partners, the gaps in temporary accommodation and adequate housing were still wide and could not be covered only with assistance through collective shelters or housing improvement programs. Therefore, it was imperative to strengthen the shelter response with livelihood strategies to increase opportunities for assisted families. UNHCR advocated to strengthen access to adequate housing and safe temporary accommodation services for all people under our mandate.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

People UNHCR serves have effective access to health services and primary healthcare programs.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	95.00%	81.34%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel. [SDG 3.1.2 Tier 1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	100.00%	98.04%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In health, beyond the universal and free access guaranteed for the entire population, including people UNHCR serves, there were structural limitations of services, and shortages of medicines, among other barriers that impeded the exercise of the right to health. In 2022, support to improve access to health services was based on two lines: support to the Ministry of Public Health in infrastructure and equipment; and support to community participation processes for health.

At the field level, the primary healthcare services of the Ministry of Public Health needed capacities strengthened. It was, therefore, necessary to adapt the infrastructure of 2 health centres and support other health centres with 4 refugee housing units (RHU) donated to improve the provision of health services. In terms of equipment, UNHCR and the Ministry of Public Health carried out a mapping of equipment needs to enhance maternal care and childcare. UNHCR supported 81 health units, including health centres and basic hospital units. The focalization of the health centres was planned according to the territories where the Office mapped a higher presence of displaced population. However, this type of support also covered host communities.

To ensure effective access to health services, community participation and mobilization were crucial. Based on a sexual and reproductive health perspective and HIV prevention, UNHCR developed training sessions and participation processes with key population profiles such as teenagers and young people, LGBTIQ+ people, and sex workers. With those interventions, UNHCR reached 4,400 people. In addition, the Office assisted 2,300 people in vulnerable situations through the delivery of hygiene kits.

Regarding the prevention and response to HIV, UNHCR provided support through the donation of condoms and facilitating mechanisms to improve access to diagnostic testing. The outcome was 5,800 condoms distributed and 250 people accessing IV diagnostic tests.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Despite the free and universal access to health services enshrined in the Constitution of Ecuador, structural challenges regarding limited equipment and availability of supplies and medicines were the main barriers to access faced by the people UNHCR serves. While similar to the challenges faced by the host population, in some situations, xenophobia could exacerbate the barriers to accessing health services. Efforts were, therefore, focused on a community-based approach to health and the mobilization of the population itself in health processes. This enabled expanding accountability towards the community while strengthening participation processes.

11. Outcome Area: Education

People UNHCR serves effectively access primary and secondary education, have adequate means to remain in education and see their studies certified.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
11.2 Proportion of PoC enrolled in the national education system. [GCR 2.2.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	41.42%	60.00%	39.06%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In Ecuador, UNHCR had a strategic approach to education from a community-based protection perspective. Significant efforts were made in the framework of the Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP) funded by Education Cannot Wait, aiming to get refugee and migrant children included in education. In terms of

access to education, in the 2021-2022 school year, 60,100 school-age Venezuelan children were enrolled in the education system, while in the 2022-2023 school year, 55,800 school-age Venezuelan children were enrolled. Based on other sources, UNHCR estimated that the proportion of displaced children enrolled in the national education system for the academic year 2022-23 was approximately 39% (49.2% boys and 50.8% girls).

To address socioeconomic barriers, the Office supported people UNHCR serves through the distribution of 4,000 educational kits destined for school-aged children, 1,600 connectivity kits, and cash assistance destined for 400 families. The cash assistance was accompanied by a monitoring process of the families to observe the educational inclusion of the concerned children.

The identification of the families and individuals receiving this support was done through actions in the community. Children at risk of being or were outside the education system were identified and then they were targeted for material support. In addition, they were also accompanied by a comprehensive intervention that included information on access to education, the importance of education, identification of protection needs and other vulnerabilities of the children, as well as referral to the protection system for the most appropriate actions. Furthermore, psychological, and psycho-pedagogical support was provided according to the identified profiles as well as a periodic follow-up of these families and children. In this process, UNHCR reached a total of 4,800 people.

Discrimination and xenophobia were two of the central problems that kept children out of the educational system. In this context, the strategy “Respiramos Inclusión” (Breathing Inclusion) was launched, which developed intervention plans to address discrimination within the school through joint reflections among different educational community actors. UNHCR developed participatory methodologies to work with children, such as inclusive playgrounds, among others. In 2022, “Respiramos Inclusión” was implemented in 153 school facilities hosting 196,000 students, including 10,200 displaced children.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

This academic year saw the physical return of children to schools that required adjustments to the intervention by reducing the distribution of connectivity kits, which were designed for times of COVID-19 and virtual classes. Return to schools also implied new demands from children regarding mental health and well-being, underlining the importance to incorporate a mental health and psychosocial approach with a community-based protection perspective. This was a prioritized element, guiding towards a more comprehensive and integrated process in the next year. Structural weaknesses persisted in the educational system, especially in terms of the educational offer capacity and in the adaptation of programmes and curriculums to the needs of refugee and migrant children. There were programmes for educational acceleration and levelling, but the offer had yet to meet the demand. Moreover, the security situation impacted the return to schools in certain areas; some schools had been closed.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

People UNHCR serves have access to economic and financial services and improved entrepreneurship and formal labour market opportunities and capacities in order to generate income and cover their basic needs.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
13.1. Proportion of PoC with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider [SDG 8.10.2 Tier 1].	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	60.00%	14.08%
13.2. Proportion of PoC who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	33.00%	11.21%

13.3 Proportion of PoC (working age) who are unemployed.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	10.00%	12.72%
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Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR intensified the promotion of access to economic inclusion opportunities with a total of 13,200 displaced people assisted directly with livelihood interventions in 35 localities.

UNHCR assisted 6,200 displaced people with business training and entrepreneurship services and allocated 287 seed capital. In addition, the Office provided 295 people access to assets and facilitated getting 31 sanitation licenses. UNHCR launched the interagency initiative “Compra con Propósito” (Buy with Purpose) to promote safe commercial spaces in local markets and access to retail models. UNHCR provided employment counselling to 2,000 displaced people to improve access to formal employment and organized four job fairs reaching 2,100 people with more than 100 companies involved.

UNHCR also developed 5 partnerships with Banks and Cooperatives, establishing flexible requirements and implementing 14 brigades in 10 localities to access financial services, where 240 refugees were assisted directly with a new modality that included a cash assistance component which allowed them to open saving accounts. In addition, UNHCR assisted 145 of the most vulnerable households under the Graduation Approach (GA), a well-proven poverty alleviation model, where the families received cash assistance, protection, and livelihood support.

UNHCR trained 3,200 staff of private and public institutions to better assist refugees in their existing programmes. Close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Higher Education allowed for revising procedures to recognize diplomas and labour competencies. Together, with the Ministry of Production, UNHCR launched the National Guide for Entrepreneurship. UNHCR intensified the cooperation with 18 local governments and increased the availability of economic public services in 10 provinces. As for the private sector, UNHCR and the UN Global Compact consolidated the initiative Companies with Refugees and launched the first edition of the Inclusive Company Seal with 60 companies recognized nationwide.

UNHCR promoted sustainable practices, including responsible production agro-business practices that were aligned with eco-friendly techniques in Carchi, Imbabura, Sucumbios, and Manabi provinces – and recycling initiatives in Tulcan and Lago Agrio. In 2022, UNHCR expanded partnerships with specialized entities such as Fundación Circular and 52 people were trained (UNHCR staff and partners) on Circular Economy.

Special efforts were made to improve the connection between livelihoods and digital inclusion. For instance, Telefonica Movistar Foundation improved the digital competencies of 800 young people, and with Girls in Tech, 33 small businesses of women related to digital marketing tools. UNHCR was also granted the Innovation Digital Inclusion Fund, with the project Blockchain connected communities for local integration.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Despite refugees are granted access to work in Ecuador, challenges persist for an effective economic inclusion. While a core barrier remains the lack of access to documentation, the situation context also affects the planned results. The RMS shows that 10% of persons we serve are unemployed, but also reflects 92% of informal wage-earning and self-employment, which contrast with national level of 52% of the economically active population in Ecuador in the informal sector. A differentiated strategy has been applied to boost livelihoods in both, the informal and formal sector. The first has been focused on self-employment opportunities identify mostly within community-based interventions. The second is more complex and has included formal employment opportunities and business formalization. In addition, for refugee population

living in poverty, successful livelihoods interventions relied on protecting a minimum level of access to social and essential service, still very inadequate.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

The resettlement programme is strengthened to respond to the specific needs of people UNHCR serves and cover the demand of additional quotas.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,090	1,574	1,585
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,000.00	480.00	549.00
15.3 Number of PoC admitted through complementary pathways from the host country.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0	0

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Resettlement remained a key component of UNHCR's protection and solutions strategy in Ecuador. The operation strengthened the strategic use of resettlement to ensure a more protection-driven approach. As for the total quota in 2022, UNHCR submitted to the resettlement countries: 1,585 persons in need of international protection. In 2022, countries lifted the COVID-19 restrictions, and a higher number of departures of accepted cases took place.

The Resettlement programme addressed the needs of the most vulnerable people that UNHCR serves, including Survivors of Sexual Violence as there was an increase in cases of surviving cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment in their countries of origin and/or country of asylum. The LGBTIQ+ community faced homophobia, and high levels of discrimination. Venezuelan and Colombian women and girls were at risk as they reported being forced to engage in dangerous and exploitative labour conditions and being exposed to abuse and gender-based violence. Children and/or Adolescents were at risk after being survivors of abuse, violence, and negligence in the country of origin and asylum. People with Legal and Physical Protection Needs who suffered the consequences of the deterioration of the security context in Ecuador were prioritized for submission to resettlement countries.

In 2022, UNHCR played a pivotal role in the identification of people meeting the Resettlement criteria and referred 3,064 individuals. Additionally, UNHCR relied on the use of proGres for the identification of 293 eligible individuals through profiling. Finally, UNHCR under complementary pathways as part of Durable Solutions referred and coached 26 individuals for the Canadian Labour Mobility Program.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Complex cases often require multiple interviews, drafts, and reviews before submission. In addition, technological challenges during remote interviewing increased case processing time. Due to the complex dynamic of the armed conflict in Colombia, many refugees are unable to identify their persecutors. Regarding Venezuelan caseload, some families are unable to travel with all their members. Before processing the cases, UNHCR has therefore to leave them on hold until all the members arrive. Another hindering factor is the non-availability of original IDs from Venezuelans.

During RST process, there is a high mobility of refugees and they often do not inform UNHCR when they change their contact details. As for the RST Unit structure, challenges are staff shortage and high turnover of staff, time spent in recruitment and training of new staff. The staff have reported compassion fatigue, high stress levels and burnout.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

People UNHCR serves have access to migration alternatives to ensure their local integration in the host community.

UNHCR improved the access for the people UNHCR serves to national social safety nets and social policies.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
16.1. Proportion of PoC with secure tenure rights and/or property rights to housing and/or land [revised SDG indicator 1.4.2].	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	66.00%	32.08%
16.2. Proportion of PoC covered by social protection floors/systems [SDG 1.3.1].	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	34.00%	0.06%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During 2022 UNHCR continued to advocate for and support the opening of alternative migration and stay pathways for persons under our mandate that do not access asylum or do not meet the requirements to be considered refugees.

On June 1, 2022, the President signed the Executive Decree 436, establishing a new migration amnesty, the opening of a country-wide registration for foreigners in the country and another for the regularization of persons of Venezuelan nationality, who met the requirements as established in the Decree. Through the migratory registry, people will receive a certificate of registration of permanence, recognizing their legal stay in Ecuador and enabling them to access the regularization process if they meet the requirements established in legislation. Unfortunately, this registration certificate does not guarantee the right to work formally while the process continues. Upon completion of the registration phase, those who meet the conditions would be able to apply for regularization in the form of a 2-years residence visa (visa of exception called VIRTE) renewable for a single occasion.

According to the provisions of Decree 436, however, only Venezuelans who have entered the country regularly and are now irregularly in the country prior to the publication of the Decree is eligible for obtaining a visa. No further regulation was passed during 2022 to benefit those Venezuelans with an irregular entry or other nationalities who may require regularization as well, but progress is expected in 2023.

UNHCR in coordination with OIM and support by several donors, provided technical and financial support to the initiative, in developing the registration process and implementing the initial regularization exercise.

There was also support to draft secondary rules for the application of Decree 436. UNHCR provided support to the Civil Registry to expand its capacity to help at a decentralized level for all persons in human mobility, including those beneficiaries of this regularization process.

As well as to MIES in order to develop and implement a progressive protocol for the identification and regularization of unaccompanied or separated children.

UNHCR is co-leading the Protection Sector of GTRM at national level and has coordinated protection interventions with partners (HIAS; NRC and DP in particular) to support the process at its different levels and provided much needed practical advice and follow-up to persons who wish to access this process. At the end of 2022, according to official figures, 136,061 individuals had registered in the migration registration process out of which 96,935 obtained a certificate of registration of permanence. In terms of access to regularization, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informs that 43,099 persons registered for a visa and by the end of the year 32,445 VIRTE visas were granted. In terms of documentation, 13,496 persons who were granted a VIRTE also received their Ecuadorian ID Card (Cédula de Identidad).

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

In terms of challenges regarding the implementation of the registration and regularization process, UNHCR and partners gathered information in relation to difficulties in registering online, lack of resources to attend biometric registration, inconsistencies in the personal data recorded between the different online systems, documentation requirements not fully met, lack of registration for getting criminal records and lack of resources to pay for the fees of the process. In a similar way, people striving to benefit from the process complained about challenges in accessing information in relation to the practical procedures at each stage of the process.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR developed a reporting system to support partners in meeting Age, Gender, and Diversity Inclusive Programming, by guiding them to report data disaggregated by sex, age, and diversity, including disabilities and diverse sex, sexual orientations, and gender identities (SSOGI). In 2022, UNHCR piloted a direct registration initiative in Ibarra, enabling the registration process to be more sensitive and inclusive and ensuring better disaggregation of data for planning, monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Throughout 2022, UNHCR ensured that the views of the people UNHCR serves were captured, as stated in UNHCR's Accountability to Affected People (AAP) engagement. Participatory assessments were done with 470 people, including women, men, adolescents, people with disabilities as well as LGBTIQ+ people. Based on the increasing importance that community networks were having according to the people UNHCR serves, a specific methodology to identify the role and impact of these networks was included in the participatory assessments. Consultation exercises also revealed that the impact of violence was a major concern for the people UNHCR serves and was integrated into UNHCR's operational considerations. Additionally, UNHCR developed communication with communities' strategy articulated through 4 pillars, mainstreaming AAP processes throughout various technical areas. Furthermore, UNHCR's digital communication channels, such as the chatbot and Help webpage, had 427,800 visits. A survey was undertaken to profile the users of these channels and adapt feedback and response, accordingly, including through a participatory validation process.

Women's participation in the community structures was promoted. A total of 610 women had a significant role in the decision-making processes of the community structures they integrated. Additionally, UNHCR strengthened differentiated cash assistance mechanisms, ensuring that women were the primary beneficiaries and adjusting internal procedures to ensure the timely referral of gender-based violence survivors to protection services.

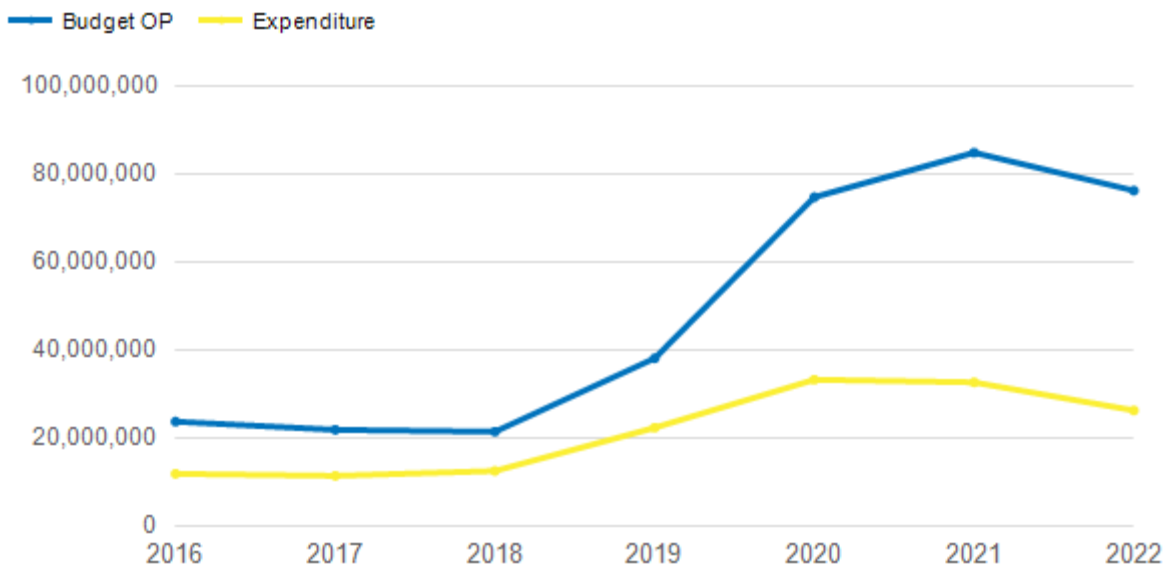
Section 3: Resources

3.1 Financial Data

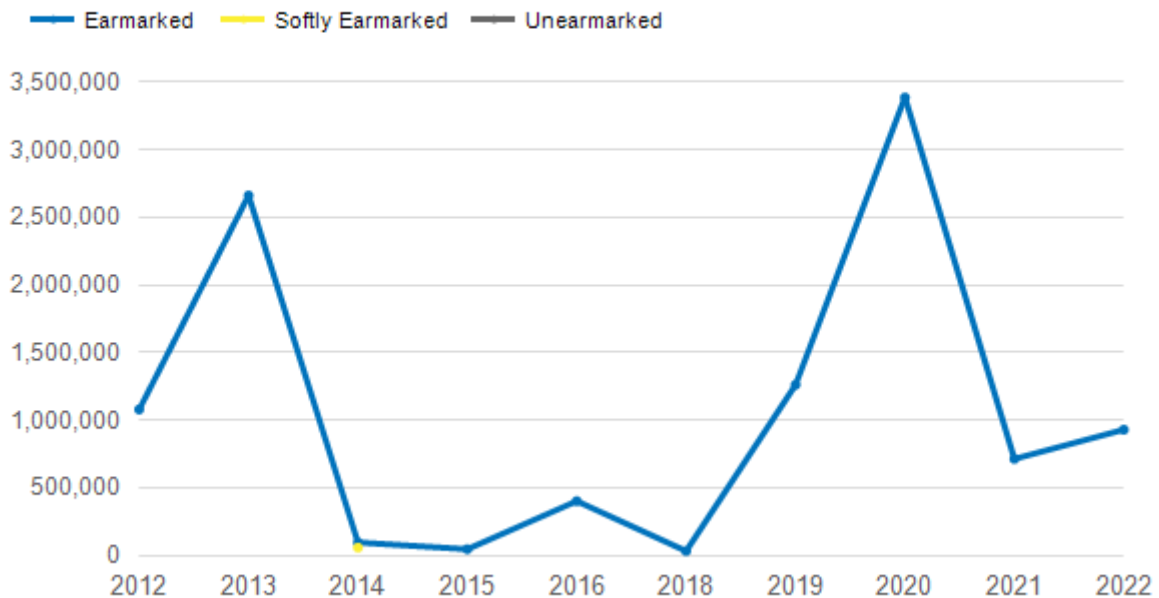
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	10,071,561	5,590,213	55.50%	5,590,213	100.00%
IA2: Respond	33,930,451	9,600,381	28.29%	9,506,711	99.02%
IA3: Empower	24,470,842	7,922,424	32.37%	7,922,424	100.00%
IA4: Solve	7,635,451	3,167,984	41.49%	3,166,651	99.96%
All Impact Areas		876,739	0.00%		0.00%
Total	76,108,305	27,157,741	35.68%	26,186,000	96.42%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	4,685,565	3,550,281	75.77%	3,550,281	100.00%
OA2: Status	2,500,160	1,725,532	69.02%	1,725,532	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	835,080	439,344	52.61%	439,344	100.00%
OA4: GBV	3,856,214	1,432,734	37.15%	1,339,065	93.46%
OA5: Children	2,830,809	883,266	31.20%	883,266	100.00%
OA6: Justice	2,231,080	1,830,670	82.05%	1,830,670	100.00%
OA7: Community	4,205,129	2,196,257	52.23%	2,196,257	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	20,969,779	2,728,071	13.01%	2,728,071	100.00%
OA9: Housing	4,980,809	1,779,261	35.72%	1,779,261	100.00%
OA10: Health	3,467,694	1,093,732	31.54%	1,093,732	100.00%
OA11: Education	3,367,694	2,474,618	73.48%	1,597,877	64.57%
OA13 Livelihood	11,457,759	2,810,415	24.53%	2,810,415	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	1,637,656	745,615	45.53%	745,615	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	5,691,564	1,854,279	32.58%	1,854,279	100.00%
EA20: External	3,391,312	1,613,666	47.58%	1,612,335	99.92%
Total	76,108,305	27,157,741	35.68%	26,186,000	96.42%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

The main operational priority covered with the resources available to UNHCR was the delivery of protection to forcibly displaced people ensuring access to asylum, quality Refugee Status Determination, and documentation in accordance with international standards; addressing humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable through emergency shelter, and cash-based interventions to cover immediate needs of the population and safeguard their wellbeing; partially supporting their social and economic inclusion through community intervention, livelihoods and education opportunities; and finally, it was a high priority to support the new regularization process, led by the Government of Ecuador, offering support through technical assistance, equipment and staffing to involved authorities. Critical unmet needs that remained partially covered included specialized assistance for persons with specific needs in a timely, safe, and dignified manner, such as child protection and Gender-Based

Violence prevention and response services, due to the dramatic increase of violence, serious socioeconomic situation, and also related to the irregular movements which come with a heightened risk of violence (especially gender-based violence), sexual exploitation, trafficking and smuggling, child recruitment and family separation. Additionally, the economic and social crisis, in which Ecuador was immersed, complicated the reactivation of livelihoods for vulnerable people, and the operation faced a major funding gap on this vital response to support self-reliance and facilitate solutions for people UNHCR serves. Livelihood initiatives with private sector and local government, as well as climate change actions could have been implemented if additional funds had been available.



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