

## Key Figures

UNHCR has installed expanded the capacity of **45 health centres**, 16 hospitals and three temporary accommodation centres.

**Nine shelter partners** provide emergency shelter to women and children at risk, members of the LGBTI community, and the vulnerable families.

**10,996** deaths due to COVID-19, the ninth country with most confirmed cases and deaths per capita in the region.

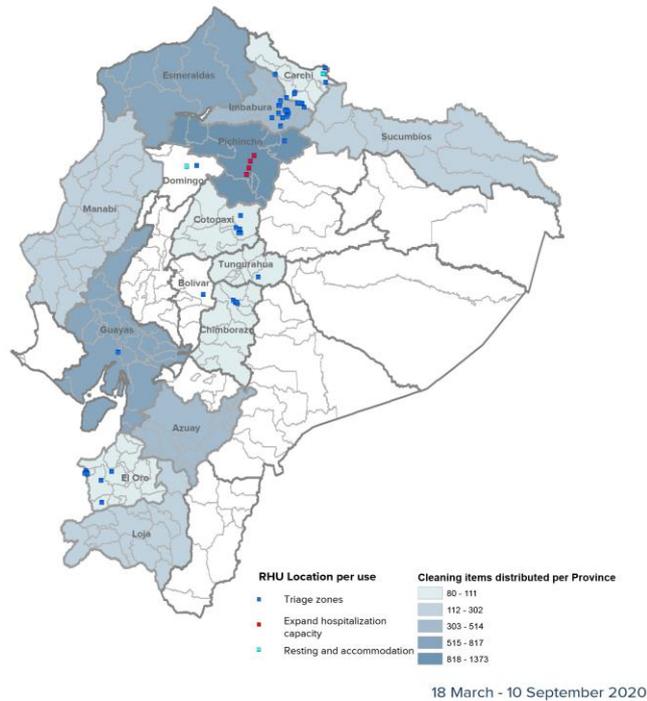
**41%** of funding needs received by 14 September 2020.

## Situational Highlights

- On 8 September, a report on a Joint Needs Assessment organized by UNHCR and IOM on Venezuelan refugees and migrants was published on the [R4V website](#). Some 3,613 households were interviewed of which 77 per cent were women and 22 per cent men. Around 47 per cent of the respondents claimed to reside in Ecuador for more than a year, while 27 per cent have been in the country less than six months. The three main needs for Venezuelan households are food security (30 per cent), shelter (27 per cent), and livelihoods (21 per cent). Thirty per cent stated they had to change their home during the health emergency due to evictions and the need to save money.
- Forty-three emergency shelters supported by UNHCR continue to be active under the pandemic and provide help to women and children at risk, members of the LGBTI community and vulnerable families.

## UNHCR's Response

- UNHCR is actively engaging with the National Emergency Operations Committee (COE) to ensure that the delivery of humanitarian assistance is in line with national and local emergency response strategies. Together with IOM, UNHCR co-leads the inter-agency response to the Venezuela situation.
- In the context of the health emergency, the provision of shelter continues to be a priority for recently arrived Venezuelans, especially for those who have been evicted. UNHCR has adapted its shelter strategy to ensure:
  - technical support to local Emergency Operations Committees in the opening and maintenance of shelters for people in need;
  - collaboration with the Ministry of Health to install refugee housing units (RHU) to serve as isolation units, triage ward, in key health centres, particularly in border areas with high concentrations of people of concern;
  - provision of equipment and improvement of conditions for shelters to comply with COVID-19 measures and be operational during the COVID-19 emergency;
  - awareness and sensitization material about safe construction and shelters management during COVID-19;
  - improvement of community services in the shelters; and
  - support municipalities to comply with shelter regulations and prevention measures related to COVID-19.
- UNHCR supports the Ministry of Health to expand or establish additional health structures for triage and to expand hospitalization capacity for mild and moderate COVID-19 cases through RHUs in 16 Hospitals in eight Provinces.



At the request of authorities, UNHCR has installed more RHUs in key health centres. Guided by the Sphere Minimum Standards, the Shelter Unit provides technical support in the following areas:

- capacity building to improve shelter management, such as protocols, rules and procedures.
- Delivery of equipment to improve shelter capacity and conditions, including safe and protective spaces; and
- provision of information to people of concern.

## The Refugee Housing Unit: a self-standing, sustainable and durable shelter

- The Refugee Housing Unit is an innovative shelter solution resulting from a collaborative research and development project undertaken by Better Shelter and UNHCR with the support of the IKEA Foundation. This partnership was formed with the aim of developing improving shelter solutions that provide support to the protection of refugees and other people of concern in dignity.
- Since the onset of the COVID-19 emergency, UNHCR has installed 121 RHUs in 45 health centres, 16 hospitals and three temporary accommodation centres to be used as resting, triage and isolation areas according to protocols for COVID-19.
- On 12 June, UNHCR installed an enlarged RHU at the local hospital in Baños, Tungurahua Province, providing space for eight COVID-19 patients at the time. The size of the enlarged RHU (pictured above) allows for improved ventilation and adherence to COVID-19 distancing measures. It is the first of its kind built by UNHCR worldwide. In Quito, similar structures were built at the Police Hospital, the Calderón and Enrique Garcés Hospitals, and the Health Centre in Guamaní.



## Funding

- UNHCR is appealing for USD 74 million to provide international protection and assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, their host communities and others of concern in Ecuador. We would also appreciate it if contributions were to be softly earmarked. Such flexible funding will be key in allowing a timely response to the evolving needs as required.

## UNHCR is thankful to the donors who provide funds to Ecuador:

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