

CONTEXT

- Ecuador hosts large numbers of migrants and refugees displaced by the ongoing crisis in Venezuela. Of the more than 6.1 million Venezuelans who have fled Venezuela, nearly 514,000 people reside in Ecuador, with up to 800 migrants continuing to enter daily, the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) reports. Most new arrivals cross informally due to ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19)-related border restrictions, resulting in increased vulnerability for irregular migrants and creating challenges to identify those in need of assistance.
- An estimated 65 percent of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Ecuador experienced moderate or severe acute food insecurity in 2021, with more than four out of five Venezuelan households consuming an insufficiently diverse diet, the UN World Food Program Reports.
- Coastal Ecuador is especially vulnerable to the effects of earthquakes given its proximity to major fault lines, soil conditions that accelerate ground movement, and structural vulnerabilities due to informal construction practices. In April 2016, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck coastal Ecuador, resulting in at least 660 deaths and injuring approximately 230,000 people.
- Limited access to social services and income-generating activities amid COVID-19-related containment measures have exacerbated humanitarian needs among vulnerable households in Ecuador, particularly the ability to meet basic food needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has also placed greater strain on the national health care system and increased the need for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services among many communities across Ecuador, as well as increased the incidence of gender-based violence and other protection violations.



ASSISTANCE

- USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided \$58.6 million to WFP to provide emergency food assistance for the most vulnerable populations in 16 out of 24 Ecuadorian provinces, including the 10 provinces with the greatest number of Venezuelans, in Fiscal Years (FYs) 2021 and 2022. The assistance includes hot meals, food kits, and food vouchers for Venezuelan migrant populations transiting to neighboring countries to help people meet their basic needs.
 - USAID/BHA funds early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) programs in Ecuador to increase national self-sufficiency in emergency preparedness and management. Through Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA), Miyamoto International, and WFP, USAID/BHA provided \$2.5 million for ER4 activities in FYs 2021 and 2022 to strengthen local-, regional-, and national-level emergency preparedness and response capacities, as well as early warning systems. In FY 2021, ADRA and Miyamoto International launched multi-year programs that engage
- Additional information on USAID/BHA's activities can be found at: [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)

at-risk communities to bolster awareness of and enhance resilience to sudden-onset shocks, such as earthquakes. These programs provide training and technical assistance to communities and government actors to strengthen essential knowledge and skills in seismic-resistant construction techniques and infrastructure analysis.

- USAID/BHA has supported programs responding to the COVID-19 outbreak in Ecuador, providing approximately \$17.2 million since FY 2020. In FY 2021, USAID/BHA supported partners ADRA, the International Federation of the Red Cross, the Pan American Health Organization, and WFP to provide emergency health, protection, and food assistance for Ecuadorian communities affected by the direct and secondary effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

USAID/BHA Funding in Ecuador ¹			
	Emergency ²	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2021	\$35,724,990	\$1,511,656	\$37,236,646
FY 2022	\$28,427,630	\$988,344	\$29,415,974

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 14, 2022. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

² Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.