

## CONTEXT

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- Ecuador continues to host large numbers of migrants and refugees displaced by the ongoing crisis in Venezuela. Of the more than 6.1 million individuals who have fled Venezuela, nearly 514,000 people reside in Ecuador, with up to 1,000 migrants continuing to enter daily, the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) reports. The UN World Food Program (WFP) estimates that nearly two out of three Venezuelan migrants in Ecuador experienced moderate or severe food insecurity in 2021, with more than four out of five Venezuelan migrant households suffering from an insufficiently diverse diet.
- In April 2016, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck coastal Ecuador, resulting in at least 660 deaths, as well as approximately 230,000 injuries. 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.
- Limited access to social services and income-generating activities amid coronavirus disease (COVID-19)-related containment measures have exacerbated humanitarian needs among vulnerable households in Ecuador, particularly the ability to meet basic food requirements. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have 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 risk and incidence of gender-based violence and other protection violations.



## ASSISTANCE

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- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided \$29.5 million to WFP to provide emergency food assistance to the most vulnerable populations in 16 out of 24 Ecuadorian provinces, including the 10 provinces with the greatest number of Venezuelans. The assistance provided included six months of unconditional electronic food vouchers for Venezuelans residing in the country, hot meals for individuals at shelters and community kitchens, and a one-time food voucher for migrant populations transiting to neighboring countries.
- USAID/BHA also funds programs to reduce disaster risk in Ecuador and increase national self-sufficiency in emergency preparedness and management. Through WFP and two non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, USAID/BHA provided \$4.5 million for early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities since FY 2020, strengthening local-, regional-, and national-level emergency preparedness and response capacities, as well as early warning systems. In FY 2021, USAID/BHA partners the Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) and

Miyamoto International launched two multi-year programs which engage 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 since early 2020, 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 <sup>1</sup>			
	Emergency <sup>2</sup>	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	\$47,999,089	\$2,000,000	\$49,999,089
FY 2021	\$35,724,990	\$1,511,656	\$37,236,646

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 9, 2022. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.