



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# USAID RESPONSE TO VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS IN ECUADOR

Latin America & the Caribbean face the most significant migratory crisis in its history. USAID through its partners, the International Labor Organization (ILO), World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU), and the World Food Programme (WFP) is leading efforts towards the socio-economic integration of Venezuelan migrants in Ecuador.

More than 600,000 individuals, including Venezuelan migrants and host communities, have benefitted from \$94 million of USAID assistance since Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. The assistance from the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and regional funds is being implemented through FY 2022.

USAID helps build socio-economic security for Venezuelan migrants and refugees, by a) improving their nutrition; b) increasing their access to financial services; c) supporting entrepreneurship and small business development; and d) improving labor market insertion and working conditions in the formal employment sector.

Photo by the World Council of Credit Unions

## HOW DO WE CONTRIBUTE?

### USAID PROTECTS THE FOOD SECURITY OF VULNERABLE VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS.

USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) funds the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide food-insecure Venezuelans and Ecuadorian host communities, with hot meals, locally procured in-kind food, and food vouchers that allow households to purchase local, nutritious foods. USAID also supports these vulnerable households with training workshops on nutrition, dietary diversity, and the preparation of nutritious food. Additionally, BHA funding supports a small, short-term food-for-work activity for migrants and host community members to strengthen community infrastructure and mitigate xenophobia, while meeting food security objectives. WFP's food assistance to Venezuelan migrants is expected to continue through December 2022, with additional funding of \$15 million.

### USAID IMPROVES VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS' ECONOMIC SECURITY.

Through the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU), USAID builds socio-economic security for Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Ecuador, as well as their host communities. The project operates the Ecuadorian cities of Quito and Guayaquil, which have the highest concentration of Venezuelan immigrants. Primary lines of activity include: 1) increasing access to seed capital and financial services, 2) supporting the development of entrepreneurship and small businesses, and 3) improving labor market insertion through training, certifications, private sector engagement, and job matching.

### USAID ENSURES VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS' SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS.

USAID's partner, the International Labor Organization (ILO), provides support to the public sector (ministries of labor and affiliated institutions), workers' organizations, and the private sector to improve work conditions for migrants' formal employment. Its primary lines of activity include: 1) support for structural reforms to facilitate migrants' access to formal employment, 2) technical assistance to improve the quality of labor insertion programs administered by the government, and 3) interventions to protect workers' rights and reduce workplace exploitation.

ILO contributes to the implementation of the National Human Mobility Plan in Ecuador, as well as the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goal 8.8., addressing "protecting labor rights and promoting a safe and risk-free work environment for all workers, including migrant workers, particularly migrant women and people in precarious jobs".

## RESULTS ACHIEVED

- Over 600,000 Venezuelans and Ecuadorians' nutrition has improved through food vouchers since FY 2018.
- Over 43,600 Venezuelans and locals have access to formal financial services through the opening of a savings account and/or obtaining a credit product from finance entities assisted by the United States Government.
- Approximately 5,400 Venezuelans and locals participated in the Business Development and Employability programs, strengthening their microenterprise and improving their employment opportunities.

- Knowledge about sectors and value chains was increased in Quito, Guayaquil, Cuenca, Manta and Santo, Domingo to promote the insertion of migrants and refugees in areas of high settlement of the population.
- The capacity of the local Economic Development Agencies in Ecuador was strengthened. This includes the construction of virtual platforms and catalogs for the commercialization of products, the launching of the EDEC-EP Educational Platform and the Virtual Platform of CONQUITO, and assistance for the creation of a Development Agency in Santo Domingo. Also, the participation of officials from the Regional Directorates of Labor and Employment Promotion of nine Provinces of Peru in the Course on Decent Work for refugees has been encouraged.
- Progress is also being made in the process of transferring ILO methodologies to the Ministries of Labor and other key institutions, in raising awareness of Employers 'and Workers' Organizations and in strengthening the Public Employment Services.