

December 2020

unicef 
for every child

UNICEF
ECUADOR'S
RESPONSE
TO THE HUMAN
MOBILITY CRISIS FROM
VENEZUELA



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A young child with dark hair and a red and black patterned shirt is peering through the legs of two adults. The adult on the left is wearing dark pants and red shoes, while the adult on the right is wearing blue jeans. The child is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what appears to be a crowded outdoor or semi-outdoor space.

Situation overview

HUMAN MOBILITY FROM

VENEZUELA

At least **1.1 million children and adolescents** have left Venezuela in recent years. Many of them travel separately from their families or unaccompanied. UNICEF has the mandate to protect their rights and has developed actions in Ecuador, following six humanitarian principles.



The difficult socio-economic and political situation facing the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has led to a human mobility crisis that has, to different extents, impacted a large number of Latin American and Caribbean countries. The exodus of Venezuelan citizens to other states in the region in such a short time frame has resulted in an unprecedented wave of people leaving the country, with significant numbers of them being children and adolescents; raising serious concerns regarding their protection, especially considering the precarious situations these minors travel in and find themselves in recipient and transit countries.

According to official data, it is estimated that “more than 4 million Venezuelans are living abroad, the vast majority in South American countries, resulting in the largest exodus in the recent history of the region” (UNHCR, 2019). The crisis has resulted in **at least 1.1 million children and adolescents leaving the country**, putting their fundamental rights at risk, with the right to family life being of significant importance, considering that a prominent percentage of children and adolescents have been reported to be **travelling unaccompanied or separately from their families**. While many are in the process of reuniting with their families, due to tightening immigration policies, they face difficulties completing their journeys, and those traveling as part of a familial group often find themselves in an uncertain position regarding their presence within their host country.

As part of its **humanitarian mandate**, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Ecuador has actively engaged with the human mobility crisis, supporting the efforts of national, provincial and cantonal authorities, in accordance to the **six principles** governing action on human mobility issues affecting children and adolescents at the global level:

- 1. Press for action on the causes of children leaving their homes:** Prolonged conflicts, persisting violence, extreme poverty and inequality drive millions of children out of their homes. UNICEF is calling for greater efforts to protect children from conflict and address the root causes of violence and poverty. Such efforts should include greater access to education, strengthening child health, protection systems and social safety nets, expanding family income opportunities and employment for young people, as well as promoting tolerance and peaceful conflict resolution.
- 2. Help migrating children stay in school and stay healthy:** Many refugee and migrant children do not receive an education and many lack access to health care and other essential services. UNICEF calls for greater collective efforts from governments, communities and the private sector to provide children with access to education and health services, as well as housing, nutrition, water and sanitation. A child’s immigration status should never be a barrier to access basic services.
- 3. Keep families together and give children legal immigration status:** Children traveling alone or who have been separated from their families are more vulnerable to violence and abuse. UNICEF advocates for stricter policies to prevent the separation of children from their parents and other family members in transit; as well as quicker procedures for reuniting children and adolescents with their families, including in countries of destination. In addition, all children have the right to have their identity recognised and must be registered at birth.

4. End the detention of refugee and migrant children by creating practical alternatives for care:

Detention is detrimental to children's health and well-being and can undermine their development. UNICEF is calling for practical alternatives to detention for all children and adolescents. Those traveling unaccompanied or who are separated should especially benefit from alternative care services, such as supervised independent living, or other family and community-based housing arrangements. Refugee and migrant children should not be detained under any circumstances.

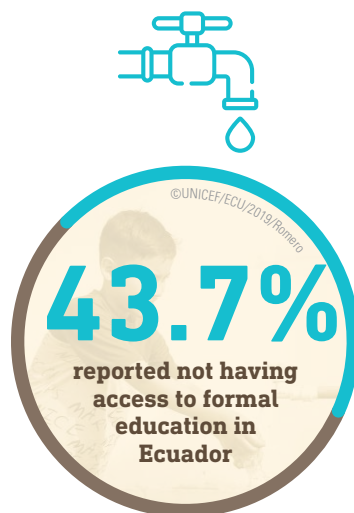
5. Combat xenophobia and discrimination:

Children and adolescents undergoing human mobility are often stigmatised and victims of discrimination and xenophobia; both during their travels and at their final destinations. UNICEF urges local leaders, religious groups, non-governmental organisations, the media and the private sector to combat xenophobia and foster a better understanding between children and families in migration and their host communities. Governments should also establish stricter measures to combat discrimination and marginalisation in countries of transit and destination.

6. Protect migrating children from exploitation and violence:

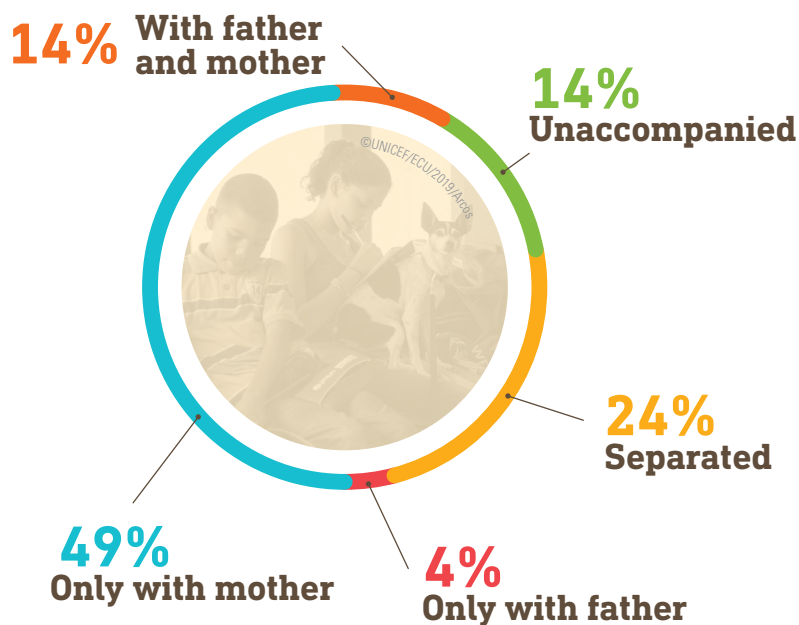
Refugee and migrant children are extremely vulnerable to violence, abuse, being enslaved, and to fall victim to traffickers. UNICEF is calling for safer and more assured legal channels for children and adolescents to migrate and seek refuge. Taking decisive action against trafficking, strengthening child protection systems and expanding access to information and assistance can help keep children safe. Children and families should never be returned to face persecution or life-threatening danger in their home countries.

In Ecuador, considering the Venezuelan population in mobility that entered the country before August 2019 and the Venezuelan population in mobility currently entering the country, both are in a situation of extreme vulnerability, usually having travelled on foot from Venezuela, without access to adequate food, shelter, water and sanitation services. According to data collected by UNICEF Ecuador and its partners, from 15 August 2018 to 31 April 2019, the situation for the population in mobility, regarding access to services, and the major concerns that affected them, during the peak of the emergency consisted of the following¹:



1. Information collected from surveys of families with children and adolescents in human mobility in Rumichaca (Carchi Province) and San Miguel (Sucumbíos Province). While the data reflect the results of approximately 4,400 surveys, the results cannot be extrapolated to the entire population in mobility.

How do children and adolescents travel?



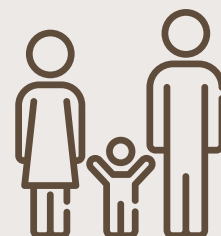
16.4%

of children with chronic malnutrition



33.7%

of children have been found with anemia



Since the beginning of the crisis, Ecuador's changing regulatory scenario vis-à-vis human mobility has had repercussions on the arriving Venezuelan population, for example:

June 2018

The decision was made to not recognise birth certificates of Venezuelan children and adolescents, due to the risks of falsification, and henceforth these documents ceased to be accepted as valid travel documents.

January 2019

The presentation of a criminal record certificate became a prerequisite for Venezuelans seeking entry to Ecuador.

August 2019

Presidential Decree 826 instituted the Humanitarian Visa requirement for all Venezuelan citizens and that the visa must be obtained before entering Ecuador. The decree did not provide exceptions for children and their families seeking entry to Ecuador.

The first two measures were revoked by Ecuador's Constitutional Court for being contrary to Ecuador's Constitution and its Human Mobility Act.

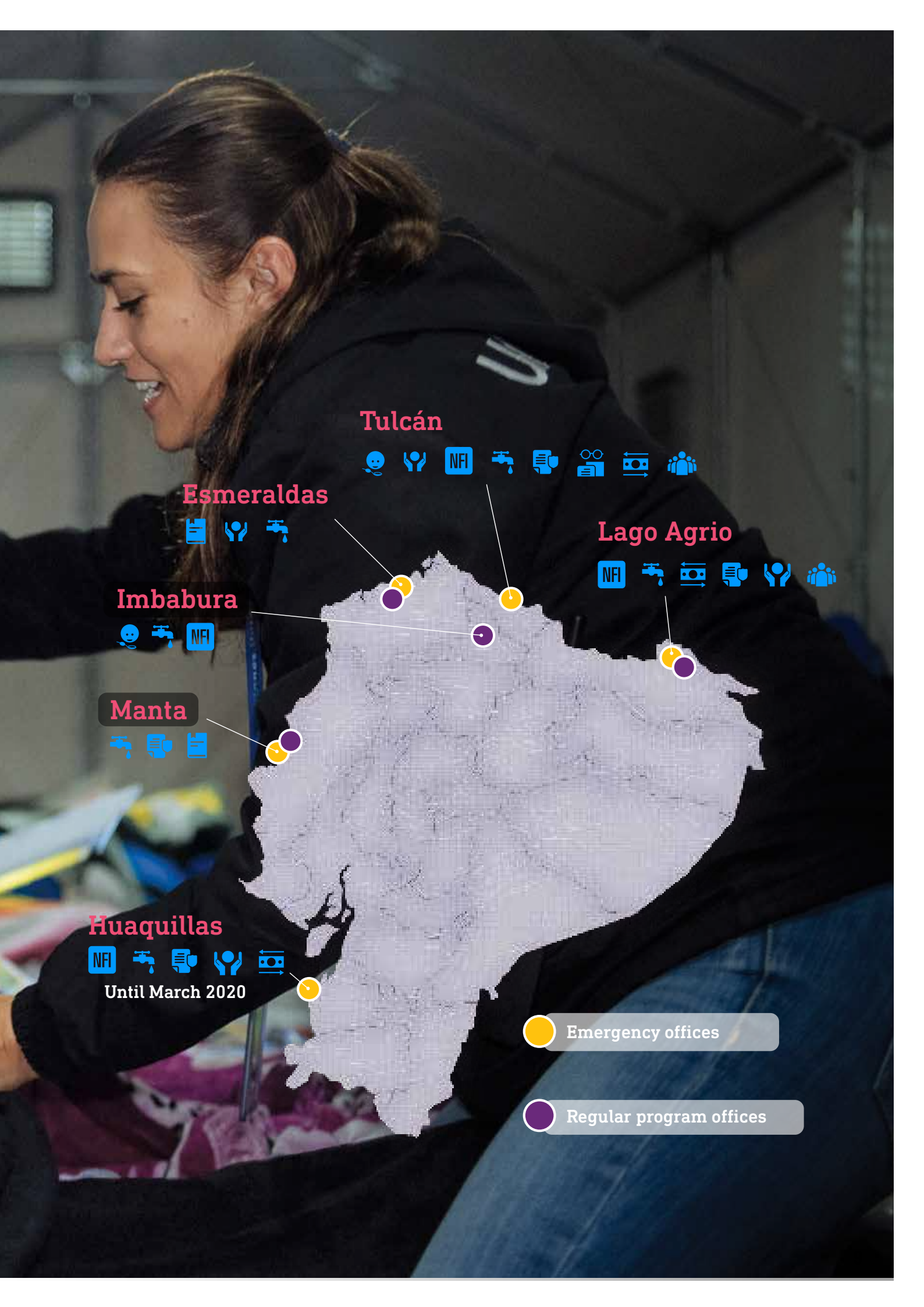


Since May 2018, UNICEF Ecuador has responded to the human mobility crisis on the country's northern and southern borders. Its actions, aligned with UNICEF's regional strategy, have focused on three main pillars:

- 1) Humanitarian assistance to those in transit;
- 2) Human rights for comprehensive protection, placing children and adolescents at the centre of intervention, and
- 3) Social inclusion and integration of people arriving in the host country.

UNICEF

AT THE BORDERS



Tulcán



Esmeraldas



Lago Agrio



Imbabura




Manta



Huaquillas



Until March 2020

 Emergency offices

 Regular program offices



Pillars of UNICEF'S RESPONSE

In August 2019, a peak of **85,952 people** entering Ecuador was recorded, due to the requirement of a humanitarian visa to enter the country. Since then, more people enter Ecuador irregularly.



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1. Humanitarian assistance to those in transit

The two border crossing points with Colombia in the north, Rumichaca (Carchi Province) and San Miguel (Sucumbíos Province), along with the southern border crossing to Peru in Huaquillas (El Oro Province), have been where UNICEF Ecuador's humanitarian assistance at the borders has been focused, serving the population in human mobility. The border crossing point with the greatest flow of people has been and continues to be Rumichaca.

During August 2019, 85,952 people were registered as entering Ecuador by land². At the end of the same month, the Humanitarian Visa requirement for all Venezuelans came into force, leaving this figure as a peak in registered border activity. Since then, there has been an increase in people entering or leaving the country irregularly, increasing their vulnerability to human trafficking and smuggling networks.

To meet the needs of this population, UNICEF Ecuador, in collaboration with the United Nations system and national and local institutions, has been carrying out border humanitarian assistance activities since April 2018, as follows:

Provision of safe overnight spaces, child-friendly spaces, and breastfeeding space

Given the high flow of people waiting to see immigration officials, UNICEF Ecuador identified that families had to stay overnight for several days in Rumichaca, with young children, and in extreme weather conditions. UNICEF Ecuador responded by setting up **Temporary Rest Spaces** and developed a protocol for safety and identification of vulnerable cases through its implementing partner ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency). Women travelling alone with children, women travelling unaccompanied, family groups, as well as children and adolescents who were not accompanied or separated from their families, were given preferential access to these spaces. People were given mattresses at night for use in the spaces, as well as blankets, and hygiene and food kits, in coordination with other humanitarian organisations. These spaces were also key to identifying cases of people in need of medical assistance, specialised services, or vaccines. More than 35,000 people stayed overnight in these temporary rest spaces at border points.



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2. Web page of the Ministry of Tourism, Ecuador: <https://servicios.turismo.gob.ec/index.php/turismo-cifras/2018-09-19-17-01-51/movimientos-internacionales>

To support caregivers and families, UNICEF Ecuador set up **Child-Friendly Spaces**. Through UNICEF Ecuador's partner HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), more than 15,000 children received psycho-emotional support, access to safe food and water, and enjoyed playful and educational activities, while their caregivers carried out migration

procedures. Similarly, to support mothers traveling with children, UNICEF Ecuador set up a **Safe Breastfeeding Space**, where mothers, in addition to being able to be in a safe place, were able to access hygiene supplies for children, nutritional supplements and receive information about child care and the importance of breastfeeding.



Provision of safe water, improvement of sanitation infrastructure and delivery of hygiene kits and water containers with purification tablets

In Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), UNICEF Ecuador has worked with local governments to strengthen the water and sanitation systems at border crossing points. At the Rumichaca check point, **washroom facilities and showers were rehabilitated**, ensuring the provision of hot water and safe bathing for women and men and guaranteeing accessibility for children and people with disabilities. UNICEF Ecuador provided 30 water filters and a 5,000-liter tank in Rumi-

chaca, San Miguel and Huaquillas to improve water quality at migration points.

Due to water scarcity in the area of the Huaquillas border crossing point, **UNICEF built a water well** at the Binational Border Assistance Centre to ensure continuous access to safe water in showers, sinks and washroom facilities. In rest spaces, hygiene kits were distributed and talks were given on the importance of hygiene and hand washing during transit.

In Rumichaca, to improve the wastewater discharge system and prevent pollution of the binational Carchi River, UNICEF Ecuador, together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), built a **wastewater treatment plant**. This intervention was recognized by UNICEF and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) at the international level as one the 10 best practices in the migration response for its vision of development and environmental sustainability.

Continuous monitoring of the nutritional situation of boys and girls from 6 to 59 months was carried out to identify and refer cases of anemia and malnutrition.

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Monitoring the nutritional status of children on the migration route

Through the implementing partner ADRA and in close collaboration with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Public Health, **continuous monitoring of the nutritional status of children from 6 to 59 months** was carried out to identify and refer cases of anaemia and malnutrition. UNICEF Ecuador provided these families with **nutritional supplements** for their journeys, and developed an assistance route with the Ministry of Public Health for the referral of acute malnutrition cases to health centres in order to receive adequate attention. In addition, through an agreement between the Ministries of Health of Colombia and Ecuador, mediated by UNICEF and WHO, a **Comprehensive Health Card** was developed, which was given to pregnant women, mothers and children, to keep track of their health status and any vaccines received on route.

Legal advice, provision of financial support for transit, and management of assistance methodology for unaccompanied adolescents

UNICEF Ecuador, with its partners NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council) and HIAS has been supporting families, in transit or intending to settle in Ecuador, with analysis of their immigration status, document requirements for immigration procedures and information on access to services. In addition, during 2018 and until August 2019, UNICEF provided **financial support for family reunification** to vulnerable families with children so that they could obtain their required

documents and continue their journey to their final destination under safe conditions and in a protective environment. These families also received **life-saving messages** about how to stay safe during their journeys.

Activities at border points allowed identification of adolescents travelling alone (separated from their families or unaccompanied) in order to serve their needs, establish contacts with specialised institutional child protection services, or help them with family reunification. With another partner, Danielle Children's Fund (DCF), UNICEF Ecuador established a shelter house for unaccompanied adolescents in Tulcán. In this safe space there were educators and social workers offering psycho-emotional support for adolescents, recreational activities, accompaniment for documentation procedures and assistance in making contacts for family reunification.



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2

Human rights: Comprehensive protection of children and adolescents



To ensure the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents, especially those separated or unaccompanied, UNICEF Ecuador promoted together with UNHCR and IOM, the development and implementation of the ***Procedure for Assisting Unaccompanied or Separated Children and Adolescents and their Families in Human Mobility***. It was signed by the Ministry of the Interior (now the Ministry of Government), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, and the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, on 5 November 2018; in the presence of UNICEF's Regional Director and the Representative in Ecuador, who also signed as a witness of honour.

The Procedure (or Protocol) seeks the regularisation of children and adolescents undergoing human mobility through a process that ensures that they travel in a protective environment. The process is activated by identifying cases which are then referred to the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion for a specialised interview to verify filiation. If the children or adolescents are identified as traveling in a protective environment, an official notice is sent to the Cantonal Board for Rights Protection, which can issue a protective measure allowing the child regular entry with his or her family group.

This protocol also serves to:



Identify situations of risk and refer them to specialised services



Achieve comprehensive care for unaccompanied or separated children and adolescents



Strengthen the network of assistance for identification of family members and their reunification



Strengthen the comprehensive protection system for children and adolescents

How did UNICEF Ecuador help?

From the outset, UNICEF Ecuador designed and implemented a plan for strengthening interviewing teams and other government and private entities carrying out the special procedure. Specifically, UNICEF Ecuador ensured that the process is appropriate and child and adolescent friendly; ensuring interviewees are not re-victimised through the asking of inappropriate questions. In addition, an intervention model for interviews was established in order to optimise time and speed up the process, with constant support from UNICEF Ecuador. This supports extends to the Cantonal Boards for Rights Protection (JCPD) so that they can assume their role in situations of human mobility, as established by the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador and related regulations. The streamlining of these procedures where measures do not require intervention from the Cantonal Boards for Rights Protection, have had the effect of simplifying administrative procedures, allowing for more timely protection of rights. For example, an agreement was signed with the Ministry of the Interior (now the Ministry of Government) for official paperwork from the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion to be accepted by Migration officials, in order to register the entry of children and adolescents and their families, without the need for measures from the Cantonal Boards for Rights Protection. In addition, with support from UNICEF and UNHCR, MIES issued a Ministerial Agreement regulating the implementation of the Special Procedure by officials of the institution.



Ecuadorian adolescents and adolescents in human mobility participate in artistic and cultural workshops in the Integral Support Space of Tulcán.

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3. Inclusion in the host country

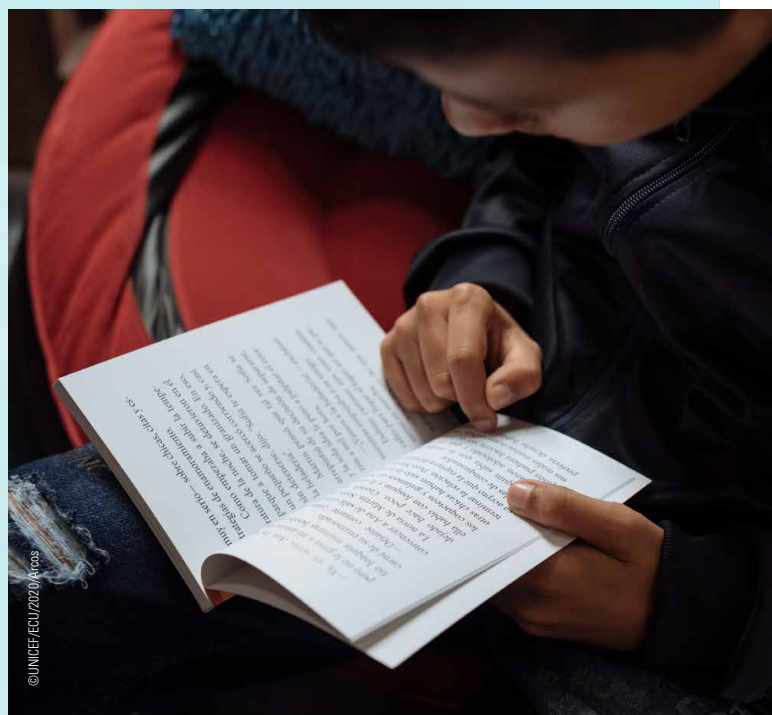
UNICEF Ecuador has been supporting government institutions to support the inclusion of Venezuelan nationals in host communities by: promoting access to services, especially for children

and adolescents, promoting social cohesion, and strengthening service-providing institutions and supporting government ministries with technical advice.



Activities for educational inclusion, prevention of xenophobia and violence in schools. Improvement of WASH infrastructure in schools

UNICEF Ecuador has been advocating and supporting the Ministry of Education so that children and adolescents in human mobility can access the education system, thereby complying with Agreement 25A-2020, which are the regulations for controlling and ensuring the entry, continuity and completion of the educational process for populations in vulnerable situations or lagging in school. UNICEF Ecuador conducted a study to determine the supply and demand of educational and early childhood services, as well as the barriers, gaps and challenges to inclusion of the Venezuelan population in the services mentioned above. At the local level, UNICEF Ecuador expanded a program of cooperation with the Nación de Paz Foundation to reach students and teachers with messages for prevention of xenophobia and violence, through a playful methodology known as “Pazita se va de Ruta” (“Pazita takes a trip”), seeking social cohesion and the prevention of violence through play and other activities.



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With the organization Arteducarte, the methodology "Anidar" ("Nesting") was implemented, developed within the framework of the project "Seamos Amigos" ("Let's Be Friends"), in three schools in the Pichincha Province. This initiative sought to promote rights, empathy, solidarity and conflict resolution through art. In addition to carrying out activities with students, teachers received training through the "Con-sentidos" methodology.

These trainings involved 700 students and 170 teachers. The project ended with an exhibition at the Contemporary Art Centre of Quito where the works prepared by teachers and students as part of the project were gathered together. In addition to the exhibition, in which numerous high schools in Quito participated, 12 workshops were also held for families, teachers and students on topics related to empathy and inclusion.



Through art,
empathy, rights
and conflict
resolution were
promoted.

700
students
participated
in "Anidar"
workshops.

Thanks to the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) global fund, UNICEF Ecuador, together with partner agencies and organisations, has continued serving the population in human mobility through various actions such as providing educational materials and cash assistance to eliminate economic barriers in accessing education, advising for inclusion in the education system and supporting schooling

for children and adolescents falling behind in education. In addition, support has been provided to teachers with tools for developing inclusive methodologies and promoting peace in the school environment. Following the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers were given tablets, data and calling plans to ensure periodic communication with students and their homes. A WASH component in water, sanitation and hygiene in schools was implemented to improve sanitary infrastructure, supply hygiene and menstrual hygiene items, as well as communicate personal care and menstrual hygiene messages to children and adolescents.

Provision of cash assistance to families wishing to remain in Ecuador

Due to the difficulties families encounter when settling into a new country and considering the barriers to obtaining employment, housing, and access to services, UNICEF Ecuador has been providing financial support in cash, unconditionally, to vulnerable Venezuelan families with children to meet basic needs for settling-in. This support is complemented, on the one hand, by counselling on access and referral to essential and/or specialised services so that children, adolescents and their families know their rights in the host community; and, on the other hand, with a six-month food voucher provided by the World Food Program (WFP).

Ecuador is a pilot country of the global initiative, *Joint Declaration of Monetary Transfers*, which aims to strengthen the coordinated work between UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP for serving the population of migrants and refugees by strengthening the delivery mechanism, collaborative programming, and improving the interoperability of systems. In the framework of this agreement and to strengthen UNICEF's intervention, the monetary transfer program has been redesigned utilising an approach of comprehensive protection focused on the most vulnerable migrant and refugee families with children and adolescents. This new intervention emphasises the right to education and the right to protection for these families.

Knowledge generation

UNICEF Ecuador in association with the World Bank, UNHCR, WFP, IOM, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) conducted the Venezuelan migrant and host population survey to examine the living conditions of these populations; with the goal of making recommendations to the Ecuadorian State for improving the situations of both populations and creating cohesive and prosperous communities. As a result of this research, the World Bank produced the report : *Challenges and Opportunities of the Venezuelan Migration (Retos y Oportunidades de la Migración Venezolana)*, with UNICEF Ecuador collaborating in the study helping to raise awareness on the plight of migrant, refugee and host community children and adolescents.



Under a comprehensive protection approach, cash transfers allow supporting families with children and adolescents, who are more vulnerable.



Adolescents who have arrived in Ecuador without the company of their parents or families, receive care and support in the shelter.

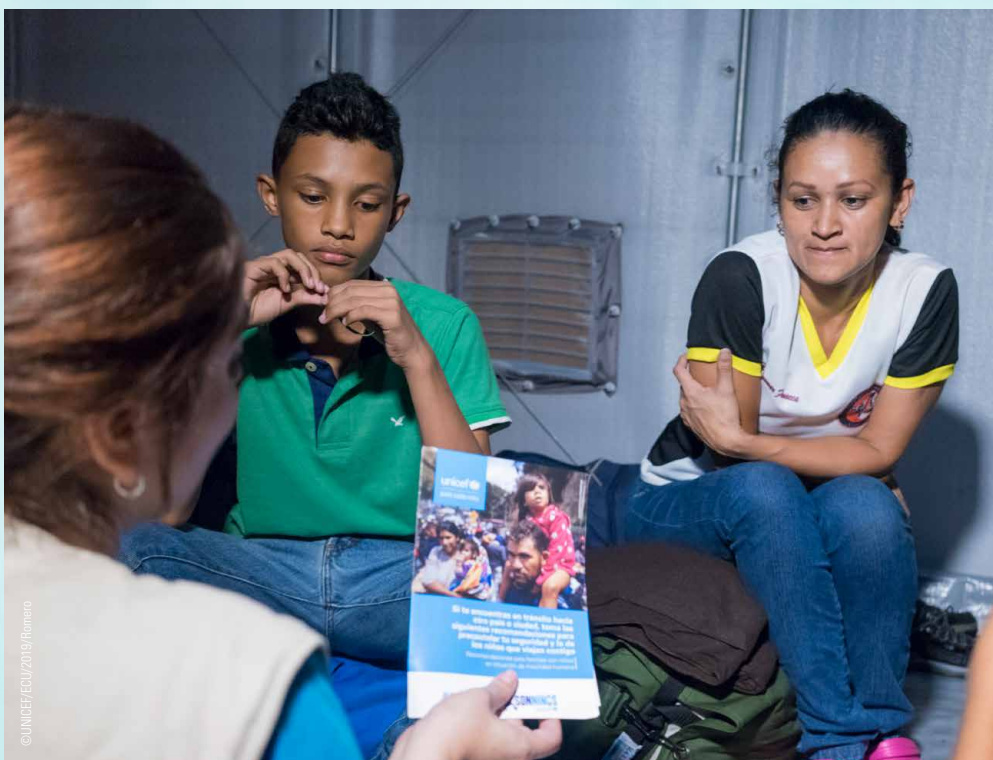
Strengthening the comprehensive protection system

UNICEF Ecuador is continuously supporting the institutions working to protect children and adolescents, including those in human mobility. This work includes technical support to government institutions such as the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion and the Cantonal Councils and Boards for the Protection of the Rights of children and adolescents. At the local level, UNICEF Ecuador and its partners have trained Migration, Chancellery, National Police and Army officials, as well as Cantonal Councils and Boards and various units of the Decentralized Autonomous Governments in Minimum Standards for Child Protection and Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in the context of Emergencies. In addition, through partner COOPI (Cooperazione Internazionale), which provides legal advice in the Provinces of Carchi, Manabí, Guayas, El Oro and Sucumbíos, UNICEF Ecuador works in cooperation with the Cantonal Boards in the referral of cases and services for unaccompanied adolescents who are at risk. Additionally, a training and strengthening component is being developed for attending to cases of gender-based violence and for protecting children at the border, through specialised courses with academic endorsement, as well as through specialised workshops.



Shelter House in Quito and adolescent autonomy

In Quito, UNICEF Ecuador provides assistance to unaccompanied adolescents who are transiting, in order to help them reunite with their families or help them carry out their intentions to remain in Ecuador. The shelter, managed by partner Danielle Children's Fund (DCF), helps teenagers in the process of family reunification, providing a safe space for overnight stays, psycho-emotional care and recreational activities, utilising a methodology developed by UNICEF Ecuador. In addition, for those adolescents seeking greater autonomy, DCF provides accompaniment and support for developing life skills, life plans and becoming employed. In 2019, this service was provided in the city of Tulcán and currently supports the local government, which receives this specialised assistance in order to strengthen its special protection services.





Comprehensive Support Spaces for Social Cohesion and Development

The border city of Tulcán has historically welcomed people in human mobility. With the migration from Venezuela, the city hosts a large number of people who have decided to restart their lives there. UNICEF Ecuador supports the integration and social cohesion of these families with the local population and provides necessary humanitarian services for newcomers and people in transit. In coordination with the Decentralized Autonomous Government of Tulcán, a **Comprehensive Support Space** has been identified and established for serving people and promoting their integration. This kind of space is also being replicated in the city of Manta.

What is the Comprehensive Support Space?

It is a space that seeks to establish a network of services to address the urgent needs identified of the population in human mobility, and also of the local population, especially those in vulnerable situations; generating a response within a framework of protection and ensuring timely access to rights. These services are carried out in a coordinated and joint manner with state, national, non-governmental and international cooperation organisations. Its ultimate goal is to achieve peaceful, harmonious coexistence and adequate integration without distinction of nationality, ethnicity or other differences.

In this space existing local networks and structures are brought together and receive support so that they are strengthened. Additionally, through the assistive services provided at the comprehensive support spaces, cases with specific protection needs are identified and their referrals are administered in a timely manner. With regard to social cohesion, it seeks to promote the participation and empowerment of children and adolescents, as well as the promotion of rights.

What does the Comprehensive Support Space offer?

- A minimum service package of information, guidance, identification and referral of cases to psychosocial support services emerging in health and education, assistance with legal matters, livelihoods, connectivity and comprehensive protection spaces (child and adolescent friendly spaces).
- Artistic activities (dance, photography, painting and theatre) are offered to encourage active participation, empowerment of children and adolescents and the promotion of their rights.

Services of the Comprehensive Support Spaces (Tulcán and Manta)

- **Psychosocial:** psychological first aid.
- **Teen participation:** Teen-Friendly Space.
- **Legal advice and sponsorship.**
- **Health:** promotion of breastfeeding.
- **Early Childhood:** Early stimulation workshops.
- **Art and culture:** Dance, theatre, reading space, muralism.
- **Institutional strengthening:** meeting room.
- **Livelihoods**
- **Connectivity**
- **Education**

"Seamos amigos": A CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT XENOPHOBIA

In 2019, **94,000** children participated in "Seamos amigos" activities in schools in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Sucumbíos, Carchi, Imbabura and Pichincha.



This initiative to promote empathy in schools began in 2019

In Ecuador, 1 in 5 students between the ages of 11 and 18 are bullied³. It is more difficult to learn in schools where there is violence and those suffering humiliation, insults, or exclusion can develop dangerous thoughts and behaviors that can even lead to suicide. In the face of these situations, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education undertook the "Seamos Amigos" ("Let's Be Friends") initiative in 2019 to foster friendship, empathy and inclusion in classrooms through a variety of activities.

Empathy is the ability that allows us to understand the feelings of others. By putting

ourselves in another's shoes, we can connect with that person despite our differences. That's how friendship is born.

We are all human

Bullying, being made fun of, or exclusion can occur for many reasons: because of physical appearance, economic condition, place of origin, sexual orientation, skin color, or simply because someone doesn't fit into the group or thinks differently. "Seamos Amigos" seeks to break down labels and prejudices, to help us see each other as human beings before we see ourselves as migrants, as rich or poor, fat or thin, etc.

3. Source: An in-depth look at bullying in Ecuador (2015). Ministry of Education, World Vision and UNICEF.

“Seamos Amigos”

ACTIVITIES
in 2019



Education for Peace:

Through our work with the organization Nación de Paz (Nation of Peace), we reached 36,332 students and teachers in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Sucumbíos, Imbabura, Carchi and Pichincha.

“I’ll tell you my story”:

Students from public and private schools participated in this contest which consisted of interviewing someone who has emigrated. The winning interviews were published in the newspaper Últimas Noticias.



“Nesting”:

700 students and 170 teachers participated in workshops on rights, empathy and conflict resolution, given by ArteEducarte. The works of art produced were exhibited at the Center for Contemporary Art.



“Flavors that unite”

With the help of Ecuadorian chefs Rodrigo Pacheco and Milena Díaz, students created dishes by merging flavors from different cultures.



Tools for the classroom:

With the support of Editorial Santillana, UNICEF Ecuador created the “Let’s Be Friends in School” guide, with activities promoting empathy and inclusion. UNICEF Ecuador also edited the book “Walker’s Voices”, written by Ecuadorian author María Fernanda Heredia, and which was inspired by testimonies collected by UNICEF in Ecuador. This work includes nine stories of children and adolescents who left their country in search of a brighter future. The stories are moving and put the reader in the shoes of those who have to leave their family behind, navigate the dangers of the journey, and face the challenge of starting a new life away from home.

Migration response

IN THE CONTEXT OF

COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, UNICEF Ecuador has had to modify some service processes in order to prevent the risks of contagion, and continue to support the population in human mobility in the context of the pandemic. Since March 2020 to the present day, the following interventions have benefited migrant families:



Delivery of personal hygiene supplies and gel through a card (coupon) for purchasing these inputs (in collaboration with WFP).



Monetary transfers for settling-in continue to be delivered via a code allowing for the reception of cash at a cashier's window. Interviews and the delivery of life-saving messages are conducted over the phone.



Psycho-emotional support continues to be provided to children and adolescents in human mobility through virtual workshops. With the partner HIAS, the identification and referral of cases to specialised services continues.



The shelter for assistance and autonomy in Quito (Danielle Children's Fund) receives adolescents unaccompanied in human mobility, offering socio-emotional support and alternative methodologies of care and autonomy.



499
tablets y
4,335
connectivity plans
given to teachers and
student counselors.



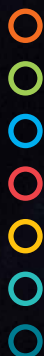
UNICEF Ecuador continues to support the Ministry of Education for the inclusion of Venezuelan children and adolescents in the school system. Teachers and caregivers are supported with distance learning methodologies and socio-emotional assistance. In this context, more than 499 tablets and 4,335 chips with calls and connectivity plans were donated so that teachers and student advisors can provide academic and emotional support to students and their families.

UNICEF'S INVESTMENT IN HUMAN MOBILITY 2018-2020

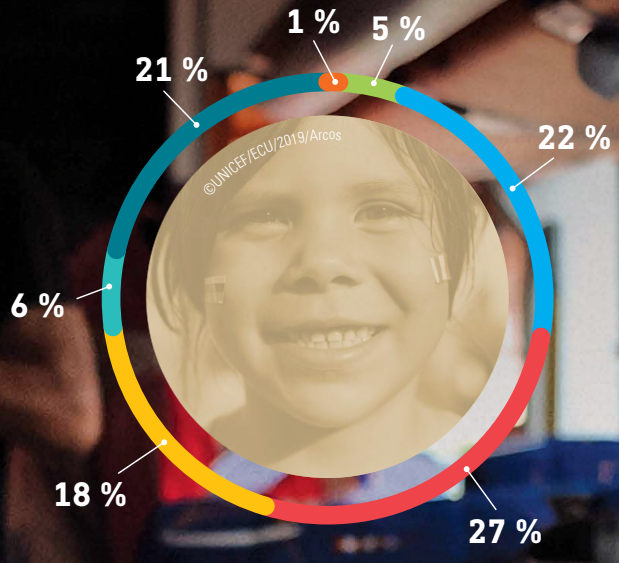
Since 2018, UNICEF Ecuador has invested nearly \$16 million in responding to the human mobility crisis from Venezuela. Despite the pandemic, activities are still scheduled and humanitarian assistance to those in transit and support for social inclusion will continue through 2021.

UNICEF ECUADOR'S INVESTMENT IN HUMAN MOBILITY 2018-2019-2020

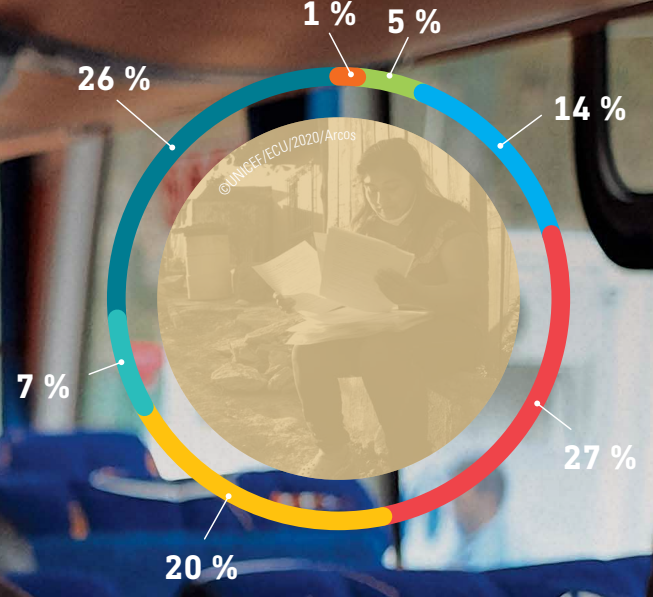
HUMAN MOBILITY	Investment (USD)	Expenditure (USD)
Nutrition	113,746.36	112,647.13
Health	786.317,03	500,189.85
Water, Hygiene and Sanitation	3,489,571.01	1,463,550.28
Child protection	4,248,942.37	2,706,463.23
Education	2,900,657.31	2,047,226.12
Intersectoral support	877,353.65	670,184.72
Social Inclusion	3,390,449.71	2,702,768.72
Total	15,807,037.44	10,203,030.05



INVESTMENT

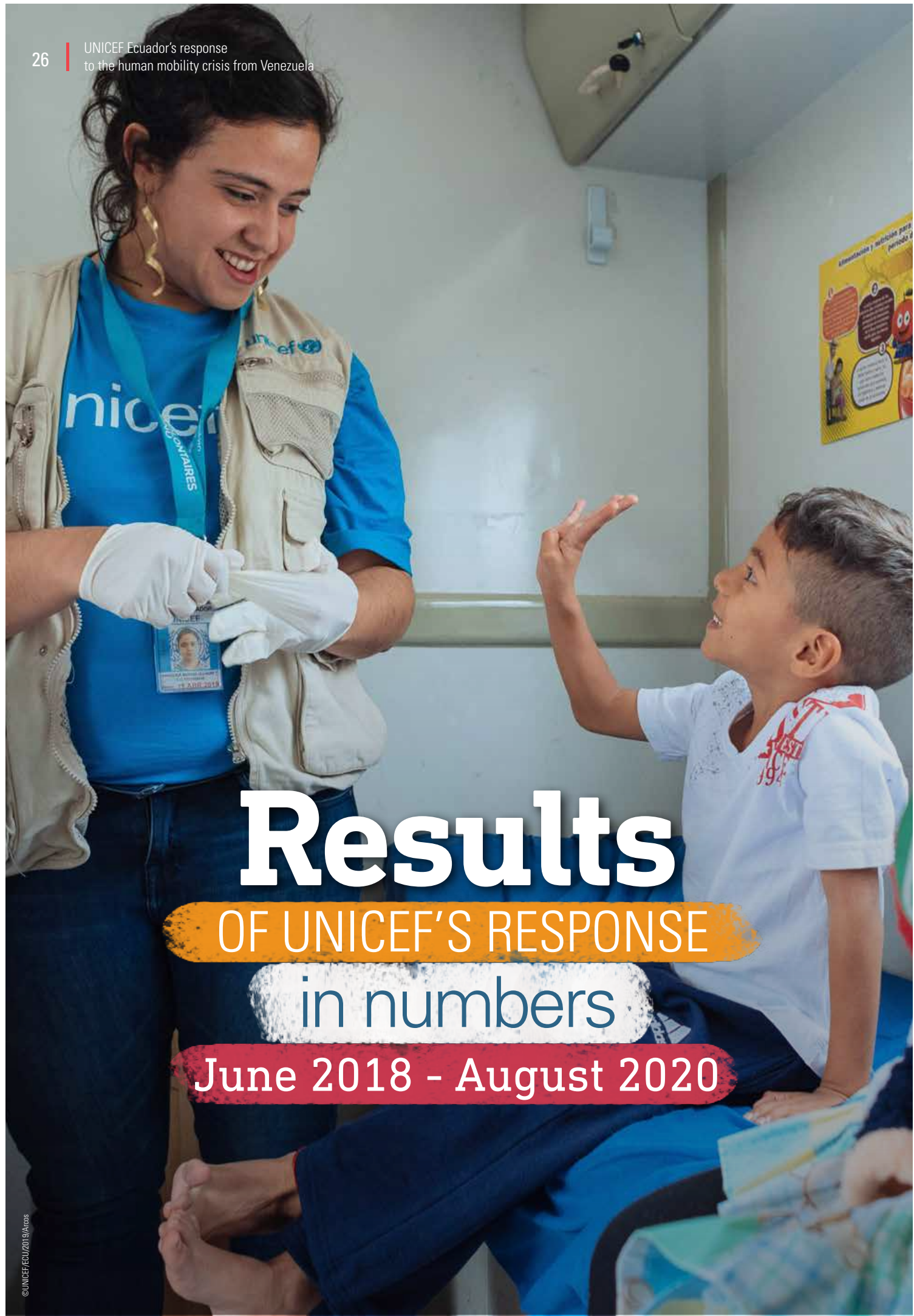


EXPENDITURE



- Nutrition
- Health
- Water, Hygiene and Sanitation
- Child protection
- Education
- Intersectoral support
- Social Inclusion





Results

OF UNICEF'S RESPONSE

in numbers

June 2018 - August 2020



Nutrition

4,657 girls and **4,893** boys



received nutritional supplements - PlumpyDoz for the prevention of acute malnutrition.

47 girls and **39** boys



under the age of 5 were treated with Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods for moderate acute malnutrition.

3,933 girls and **4,075** boys



under the age of 5 received nutritional assessment.



Health

UNICEF delivered the following medical supplies to the Ministry of Public Health:



15,000 rehydration salts



30,000 zinc tablets



5,000 Salbutamol units



2,500 Albendazol tablets



30,000 packets of therapeutic food



30,000 PlumpyDoz nutritional supplements



7,000 children under the age of 10 received treatments of oral rehydration salts and zinc.



23,377 "Health Cards" were delivered to 3,505 pregnant women, 10,031 girls and 9,841 boys



8,918,081 children benefited from baby kits, ensuring their proper care and cleaning.



2 hospitals certified as Mother and Child Friendly Health Establishments in 2019, reaching a total of

7 UNICEF Ecuador-supported facilities, ensuring quality care for mother and child.



WASH

114,477 people had access to toilet services.



6,101 girls and **6,140** boys



had access to WASH services in Friendly Spaces.

11,930 people received personal hygiene kits.



Maintenance of: **30** water filters
15 sinks
10 sanitary batteries at border points was ensured.



A wastewater treatment plant was built in Rumichaca to reduce pollution of the binational (Ecuador and Colombia) Carchi River.



A water well was built in Huaquillas to strengthen the water supply at the Binational Border Assistance Center.



More than **3,000** water containers were delivered with purifying tablets.



Monetary transfers were provided to more than **4,500** families in human mobility for the purchase of hygiene supplies during COVID-19.



Educación



UNICEF provided technical support and advocacy for **34,000** venezuelan children to access the school system in 2019.



2,711 children and adolescents participated in informal education activities.



61,254 girls and **33,280** boys benefited from psychosocial support in schools and participated in life skills activities.



11,068 teachers including 6,285 women and 4,783 men received psychosocial support and training to promote inclusive education.



Protección



More than **15,000** children

received psychosocial support and participated in playful activities in Child-Friendly Spaces.



126 public officials were trained in minimum child protection standards.

Implementation of a "Comprehensive Support Space" in Tulcán to provide psycho-emotional assistance services, legal advice, referral of cases to specialised services and training to the local population and the population in human mobility.

30 teenage women and **45** teenage men

were cared for at the Casa de Paso in Tulcán, where they received psycho-emotional care and legal assistance for family reunifications.



More than **35,000** people stayed overnight in temporary rest spaces at border points and 25,000 blankets protected children and adolescents.



12,000 people received legal assistance on documentation issues and possibilities for regularisation.



More than **450** children and adolescents entered special protection processes carried out by authorities.



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Social inclusion

2,094 families



in-transit benefited from monetary transfers so that they could continue their journey safely and securely.

3,091 families



benefited from monetary transfers for settling-in and meeting urgent needs while starting their lives in Ecuador.



Communication



More than **17 millones** people reached on traditional media and social networks with messages on inclusion, life stories and anti-xenophobia campaigns.



More than **3 campaigns** implemented

to support families in human mobility and inclusion in schools.



Communication for Development (change of habits)



39,133 people reached with messages of good practices of hygiene and hand washing.



36,332 people received messages to prevent xenophobia and promote intercultural dialogue.



936 people participated in focus groups to assess UNICEF's response and provide feedback.



138,051 people received key messages on self-care and protection with information about services and rights.



5,398 women **3,374** men, **4,807** girls, **4,742** boys, from host communities participated in activities on promoting intercultural dialogue.

*Wherever
children go
their rights
go with them*

And with your support,
WE WORK TO PROTECT THEM!