



Ecuador Crisis Response Plan 2020

2020

Funding Required

\$300,000

Target Beneficiaries

1,000

IOM Vision

In 2020, IOM, in coordination with national and local partners, will enhance the preparedness and response capacity of communities to disasters caused by natural hazards by implementing a disaster risk management plan focusing on capacity building of affected and at-risk communities, where migrants and local populations live side by side.

Context Analysis

Ecuador is exposed to extreme weather conditions and frequent natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, volcano eruptions that affect both local populations and migrants living in the country.

Eruption activity of Cotopaxi volcano started in 2015 and continues to pose a threat: a new eruption is expected in the coming years. The danger of Cotopaxi is that its eruptions can lead to the formation of huge lahars (mudflows and debris) that would pass through neighbouring drains to densely populated areas. According to an assessment made by the Escuela Politécnica Nacional, in 2019, it has been estimated that currently, more than 300,000 people live in areas threatened by lahars in case of repeated eruptions similar to those that occurred in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The report mentions that the lahars would reach heights between 10 and 12 meters. Additionally, the fall of ash produced during a Cotopaxi

eruption could affect a very significant part of the Sierra and the Coast of Ecuador.

Ecuador is also located in an area of intense seismic activity and, in 2016, Ecuador was hit by an earthquake that affected the coastal areas of the provinces of Manabí and Esmeraldas, killing 670 people and leaving more than 30,000 people homeless. In addition to the aforementioned, Ecuador is affected regularly by El Niño, the consequences are large floods and landslides in several areas of the country. Currently, Ecuador is facing heavy rains that are affecting cities in different regions of the country. There is a weak culture of risk prevention in the country, so many people do not know how to act in the event of a disaster occurs; therefore, capacity building on aspects related to prevention and response to natural disasters is imperative in Ecuador.

Please also see IOM's [Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela 2020](#).

Coordination

IOM implements all its activities in coordination with the Government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In particular, IOM works very closely with the Risk and Emergency Management National Service (SNGRE) with which guidelines for shelters were developed and are currently used widely in the country.

Additionally, as part of the Humanitarian Country Team in Ecuador, IOM coordinates actions with other UN agencies mainly in activities related to camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) and shelter.

IOM Capacity

IOM Ecuador has its main office in Quito, and three field offices in Tulcán, Lago Agrio and Huaquillas. The Organization is also in the process of opening four new offices in other cities.

IOM national and international staff have significant experience in humanitarian assistance and protection activities. IOM has been closely supporting the Risk and Emergency Management National Service for four years, providing technical assistance on camp coordination and camp management (CCCM), as well as in other areas, such as the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) initiative and massive evacuations in natural disasters (MEND). IOM was also the leading organization managing shelter activities during the earthquake of 2016, in coordination with the Government of Ecuador.

Objective

Strengthen preparedness and reduce disaster risk

\$300,000

Funding Required

1,000

Target Beneficiaries

IOM has defined a target of 1,000 people belonging to national and local organizations as well as to communities, to provide them with the capacities to work as a team to face potential emergencies caused by natural disasters.

Beneficiaries will be local and migrant populations who live in risk areas which could potentially be affected by an eruption of the Cotopaxi volcano, earthquakes and tsunamis and/or El Niño. Depending on the emergency of the natural event, populations in these areas could dramatically be affected in terms of their survival and well-being, destruction of their properties and also their livelihoods.

Since the above-mentioned hazards could affect different cities of the country, actions will benefit communities in the coast, highland and amazon regions.

Emergency preparedness - rename

Funding Required

\$50,000

In coordination with the SNGRE, IOM will provide 3 one week trainings on CCCM to national and local level technicians, in order to increase the pool of skilled people. Based on the needs, IOM will support the training of trainers on the coordination and management of temporary camps.

Three trainings on early warning and MEND will also be implemented to build capacities in relevant organizations and communities to prepare people in the case of a natural disaster. The participation of the community in these activities is paramount.

Based on the Migrants in Countries in Crises (MICIC) initiative, IOM proposes to implement three workshops, which will include the SNGRE and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to analyze and define mechanisms to include migrant populations in the national and local preparedness and response plans. The aim is to assure that in case of a natural event all the population, including migrants, can follow instructions and participate in response actions and be an active partner of the community. IOM will strengthen and complement the abilities of migrant communities on response and resilience in order to reduce their vulnerability.

Disaster Prevention

Funding Required

\$250,000

After some experiences in different locations in Ecuador that have been affected by different disasters due to natural hazards, the government of Ecuador has come to the conclusion that there is a need to provide shelter alternatives to families that have lost their houses and that do not want to move to other more secure locations.

To support disaster prevention in this regard, IOM intends to engage a consultancy, in coordination with the SNGRE, to design different models of temporary detachable houses and

strategies to be implemented in coastal, highland and amazon regions in case of an emergency. These temporary houses should be designed considering cultural norms, and the use of local materials which will not affect the environment. Construction of model temporary houses will be included in this project so that they can be replicated when a natural disaster occurs. IOM will provide shelter specialists who can work together with the Government of Ecuador defining the best options of temporary detachable houses that can be constructed in the different affected zones. The aim is to benefit the most vulnerable people affected by potential natural hazards in the country.

OPERATIONAL PRESENCE

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| 5 International staff and affiliated work force | 8 National staff and affiliated work force | 3 IOM Field Offices |
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