

Context Analysis

January 2024

Geographic

Ecuador is located in the northwest of South America. It is a geographically diverse country, which includes Andean Mountain ranges, coastal and island territories, and regions of the Amazon rainforest. In the north the country borders Colombia, in the south and east, Peru, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Ecuador is known for its biological diversity, multiculturalism, and ethnic richness. The country is divided into 24 provinces, with its capital Quito located on the equator and Guayaquil, the country's largest city, situated on the Pacific coast. Demographically, Ecuador has a population of around 17 million, with a diverse mix of indigenous, mestizo, Afro-descendant, and Montubio communities.

Ecuador serves as both a destination and transit country for Latin American migratory flows. The country's economy has diversified in recent years, with a focus on non-traditional sectors such as tourism and agriculture, in addition to its reliance on oil.

Humanitarian profile

However, challenges persist, including foreign debt and fluctuating international oil prices. Ecuador is situated in the Pacific Ring of Fire, a tectonically active zone that exposes the country to seismic hazards and the adverse effects of numerous active volcanoes.

This increases the risk conditions for nearby populations and impacts to agriculture and the environment. Additionally, its mountainous topography makes some parts of the country susceptible to flooding and landslides, particularly during the heavy rainy season. Finally, climate variability associated with climate change, deforestation, and biodiversity loss, as well as environmental pollution, and to a lesser extent, risks associated with oil activity, contribute to the main risks in the country.

Context of the study

The Community Trust Index (CTI) data was collected between September and October 2023 in all 24 provinces. In the interpretation of results, it is important to consider that some communities in the sample experienced extreme weather events, such as floods and torrential rains, during the data collection period. Additionally, some communities may have witnessed an increase in other situations of violence during the last quarter of the year.