



# AN INFORMATION CENTRIC APPROACH TO COHERENCE: AN ANALYSIS OF ECUADOR'S COHERENCE POLICIES

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## Table of Contents

<i>Abbreviations</i> .....	3
<i>1. Executive Summary</i> .....	4
<i>Problem Statement</i> .....	6
<i>2.</i> .....	6
2.1. New Venezuelan Crisis in Ecuador .....	6
The Graduation Program for Colombian Refugees and Ecuadorian Citizens .....	7
2.2. ....	7
<i>3. Background</i> .....	9
3.1. Ecuador's General Coordination Mechanisms in Responding to Refugees and Migrants .....	9
3.2. Sustainable Development Goals: Facilitating Orderly, Safe, Regular, and Responsible Migration .....	11
3.3. Measuring Well-Governed Migration: Migration Governance Index (MGI) .....	12
<i>4. Methods:</i> .....	16
4.1. Operationalizing Coherence .....	16
4.2. The Sampling Frame of Policy Documents .....	17
4.3. Policy Document Analysis .....	19
<i>5. Policy Document Analysis</i> .....	20
5.1. Ecuador's Coordination Mechanisms .....	21
<i>6. Coherence Opportunities: Elements Favoring Coherence Practices</i> .....	22
6.1. Strategic Coherence .....	22
6.1.1. Regional Coordination .....	23
6.1.2. National coordination .....	24
6.2. Operational Coherence: .....	25
6.2.1. Regional Coordination: .....	26
6.2.2. National Coordination: .....	27
<i>7. Gaps in Coherence Practices: Elements Hindering Coherence</i> .....	29
7.1. Further integration of Global Frameworks for Migration and Development in National Policies .....	29
7.2. Lack of National Infrastructure .....	30
7.3. Restricted Refugee In-takes and Visa Requirements .....	31
7.4. Lack of Data Visibility .....	32
7.5. Lack of Transparency .....	33
<i>8. Observations</i> .....	35
8.1. Adoption of Global Frameworks for Refugees and Development .....	35
8.2. Regional and National Coordination Mechanisms .....	35
8.3. Data Visibility and Transparency .....	36
8.4. Refugee Recognition and Migrant Rights .....	36
<i>9. GENDER ANALYSES: No Refuge for Women</i> .....	38
9.1. Ecuador's women – development despite machismo .....	38

9.2.	Women Refugees.....	40
9.3.	Recommendations .....	41
10.	<i>Implications for Metrics</i> .....	42
11.	<i>Conclusions</i> .....	43
	<i>Bibliography</i> .....	44
	<i>APPENDIX I: Sampled Documents</i> .....	47
	<i>Appendix II: SPI indicators</i> .....	63
	<i>Appendix III: MPI scores</i> .....	64

## Abbreviations

DAR	Development Assistance for Refugees
DLI	Development for Local Integration
EA	Espacio de Apoyo
GCM	Global Compact for Migrants
GCR	Global Compact for Refugees
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
GTRM	Grupo de Trabajo sobre Refugiado y Migrantes
MGI	Migration Governance Index
MIES	Ministerio de Inclusion Economica y Social
MiGOF	Migration Governance Framework
I/NGO	International / Non-Governmental Organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic cooperation and Development
PICMD	Policy and Institutional Coherence for Migration and Development
PRM	US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
RMRP	Refugee and Migrants Response Plan
RRP	Refugee Response Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

## 1. Executive Summary

Forced displacement has been increasing, with 70.8 million people forcibly displaced by the end of 2018. Of those, 25.9 million are recognized as refugees (UNHCR, 2020b). The protracted nature of the refugee crises mandates long-term planning on international, regional, and national levels among refugee hosting countries. However, seldom do these countries have the capacities and infrastructure to host new populations within their socio-economic systems. Or perhaps, social backlash from host communities, xenophobia, competing job opportunities, and insufficient resources limit governments in aiding refugees. As a result, the volume, cost, and length of humanitarian assistance from international organizations such as UNHCR has grown dramatically, not only responding to emergencies, but providing long-term assistance to displaced communities as well. These short-term solutions are not sustainable, particularly in protracted crises with limited integration of refugees into host communities. As a result, global organizations are seeking greater coherence between humanitarian and development actors to find sustainable solutions to forced migration and protracted refugee crises. Protracted crises, such as the Venezuelan situation, call for shared responsibility, transparency, and accountability between humanitarian and development actors, also known as humanitarian-development coherence (OECD, 2017). Such efforts aim to deliver effective emergency response and create resilience for all populations in need, including refugees and their host communities.

Since 1989, Ecuador has become one of the major refugee hosting countries in the region with roughly 70,000 recognized refugees, 95% of whom are Colombians (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, 2020; UNHCR, 2020b). However, it is estimated that there are 650 thousand displaced Venezuelans living in Ecuador, most of whom are not recognized as refugees. This number of Venezuelans makes up for 68% of total displaced persons living in Ecuador (Trickle Up, 2019). Yet the Ecuadorian government has failed to recognize them as refugees. The recent influx of Venezuelans and Ecuador's shifting economic capacity has challenged the country's long-term response to the recent refugee crises. The exacerbation of the Venezuelan situation and Ecuador's socio-economic constraints has resulted in stronger support from the international community in response to the Venezuelan situation. Under the leadership of UNHCR, the Regional Response Program for the Venezuelan Situation provides us with more information regarding Ecuador's response to the Venezuelan crisis. Unfortunately, the visibility of Venezuelans has casted a shadow over the Colombian refugees in Ecuador, and similarly has created a disbalance of available information. As a result, in this report we have focused on visible policy and strategic coherence practices in response to the Venezuelan crisis.

In this report, we analyze Ecuador's policies, which shape its response to the Venezuelan situation. The analysis serves as a case study to understand the policy context for developing humanitarian relief and development coherence. The ultimate aim of the analysis is to develop metrics for coherence relevant to the Ecuadorian context but also applicable in refugee hosting nations across the globe.

Although policy coherence for migration and development has gained attention over the years, there remain areas for improvement. At a general level, on the one hand, policy coherence measures address migration and development policies and are not specific to refugee programs (OECD, 2017). On the other, there is insufficient operational data from which clear evidence of coherence practices (e.g. across local

governments and aid workers) could be derived. The availability of such data could inform not only local decision making, but also strategic level decision making, leading to national scale integrated programs. Therefore, our analysis of Ecuadorian coherence policies is designed to inform development of strategic and operational metrics for coherence practices.

In this report we present general analyses of policy documents and secondary sources to identify existing coherence practices across strategic and operational aid workers, aid divisions, rules, programming cycles, and decision-making processes for allocating resources to humanitarian and development programs. As many coherence activities focus on coordination, our analysis pays particular attention to coordination mechanisms. However, we recognize that coordination is only one element of coherence, and one that can be costly and over-emphasized.

Our analysis aims to identify indicators of coherence at both strategic and operational levels. Our initial findings specify Ecuador's overall coordination structure, existing policies and strategic frameworks towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals, Ministerial and operational coordination mechanisms, information and data practices, and existing information management tools. We will also look into operational reports from aid workers, support spaces, and operational platforms to evaluate any operational level coherence practices. In general, the policy analysis is guided by one major question: What are the best practices for collaboration among development and humanitarian actors and how existing data can be used to inform collaboration potential among actors?

Through an analysis of policies, including the regional and international response to the Venezuelan crisis, national development plans, migration governance measures, and ministerial strategic plans, we identify four thematic observations:

1) Adoption of Global Frameworks for Refugees and Development 2) Regional and National Coordination Structure, 3) Data Visibility and Transparency, 4) Refugee Recognition and Migrant Rights, 5

These observations provide the building blocks for subsequent efforts to create metrics for measuring coherence and coherence visibility.

## 2. Problem Statement

In this report we present our analyses of Ecuador's refugee and migration governance. Our aim is to better understand the gaps and opportunities in achieving coherence coordination on a national, regional, and international level and identify their implications for coherence metrics. The case of Ecuador is interesting due to the divergence between the new and protracted refugee crisis response. Our review of Ecuador's existing policies indicates a lack of information regarding the protracted Colombian refugee response compared to the recent response to the surge of Venezuelan forced displacement. As a result, this report mainly draws from policies related to the Venezuelan crisis. Yet, UNHCR's Graduation Program, conducted in 2015, suggests a history of coherence activities, which aimed at improving the livelihoods of both Colombian refugees in Ecuador and the poorest Ecuadorian citizens. We hope to investigate the graduation model and other coherence activities that may have occurred in the past during later stages of this project.

### 2.1. New Venezuelan Crisis in Ecuador

For the past two decades, Ecuador has become a destination for refugees and asylum seekers. The flow of migrants from Colombia started from late 2000 and gradually increased with its peak in 2009. Although, the number of incoming Colombians entering Ecuador decreased, the Venezuelan situation has introduced a new refugee crisis within Ecuador. Ecuador's open door policy until 2019 resulted in 370k Venezuelans to live in Ecuador and as of 2020, this number is increased to 468k Venezuelan refugees and migrants (R4V, 2020). As of 2020, 54.6k registered Colombian refugees are recorded by the Ecuadorian government which makes up for 97% of recognized refugees within Ecuador. Ecuador's suffering economy and social barriers against Venezuelans resulted in legal uncertainties of Venezuelan's within Ecuador and more restricted entry regulations due to Ecuador's new Ministerial Resolution (Executive Decree no. 826). In July 2019 Ecuadorian government established a requirement for Venezuelan nationals to obtain an entry visa to enter Ecuador. Since then, there has been a significant reduction of registered entries with an average of 23 daily so-called 'regular' entries compared to an average of over 2000 daily entries since September 2019 (RMRP, 2019). Even so, the situation in Venezuela is not expected to improve and the flow of Venezuelans in Ecuador is expected to maintain or increase (UNHCR, 2020).

The restrictions in access to the territory for Venezuelans may increase irregular movement, such as entry through locations other than established border entry points, and thereby challenge monitoring of official numbers of arrivals (UNHCR, 2020). Predictions indicate 650,000 Venezuelans are expected to be living in Ecuador by the End of 2020 (RMRP, 2019). Therefore, UNHCR is attempting to increase support to build capacities across state institutions to assist and protect persons of concern (UNHCR, 2020a).

In a departure from the management of the Colombian refugee crisis, the Venezuelan crisis is being managed through a regional rather than exclusively national structure. A regional response also emerged in the Middle East as the Syrian crisis evolved. UNHCR with IOM are responsible to create inter-agency coordination on a regional level and across refugee hosting countries in the Western Hemisphere. The Regional Response to the Venezuelan Crisis such as RRP and RMRP have been published by UNHCR to ensure coordination and collaboration among governments hosting Venezuelans and monitor country-specific response to the Venezuelan crisis. With the international support from UNHCR, IOM, and the World Bank, the Ecuadorian government has set its national goal for sustainable development and specifically the provision of reducing inequality, and supporting safe, orderly, and regular migration. UNHCR and other NGOs such as HIAS are actively engaged in humanitarian response to Venezuelans, and

the Ecuadorian government is responsible to ensure refugees and migrants have the same rights and duties as Ecuadorians (based on the Ecuador's Constitution). For example, the socio-economic inclusion of both Colombian and Venezuelan refugees within national development plans and the country's long-term vision. Achieving this goal necessitates effective coherence coordination between all stakeholders including Ecuador's Ministries and District Level Governments.

## 2.2. The Graduation Program for Colombian Refugees in Ecuador

During our policy document analysis, we were unable to access sufficient information regarding Ecuador's response to the Colombian refugee crisis. However, the Graduation pilot study conducted in Santo Domingo suggests a potential history of coherence practices in response to the Colombian refugee crisis. In 2015, UNHCR and HIAS supported Trickle Up to implement a pilot study and evaluate the effectiveness of their livelihood interventions for both the poorest Ecuadorians and Colombian Refugees residing in Ecuador (UNHCR/Trickle Up, 2016). This project was part of a three-year grant for Trickle Up to support UNHCR and several INGOs to test the design and implementation of Graduation programs with refugees, through the Building Self-Reliance for Refugees project (Trickle Up, 2019). The pilot targeted 200 participants, including 90 host community members and 110 refugees. Following the pilot, and building on the learnings gathered in Santo Domingo, UNHCR scaled up the approach nationally in 2016 and published a report in 2019 which targeted Venezuelan refugees within Ecuador as well.

Most important to our analysis of coherence activity, is the collaboration with Ecuador's Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) in integrating the Graduation Approach into the government's social protection system. Prior to the Graduation Approach, Ecuador's national plan suggested livelihood programs for its citizens, very similar to the components of the Graduation Approach (Figure 1). This similarity created the opportunity for UNHCR and HIAS to extend the livelihood program to refugees in a time-based and sequenced fashion, with the support of the Ecuadorian Government (Trickle Up, 2019). In 2018, MIES signed an agreement with UNHCR Ecuador to leverage the Graduation methodology to enhance its national objectives such as PAF and the LPMD Mission<sup>1</sup>.

The published reports on the Graduation Approach suggests ongoing coherence activities between international organizations and the Ecuadorian government that started in response to the Colombian refugee crisis. Some of the success factors are in retrospect in line with the findings from our policy analysis in Uganda case study; Government partnership, frequent coordination meetings, horizontal and vertical coordination, regular collection and sharing of data for effective monitoring, evaluation, and learning system (Trickle Up, 2019).

Not surprising, the Graduation Approach has faced multiple challenges that limited its application to small samples. The GA model was limited to collaborations with MIES and were not spread across different sectors (WASH, Education, Health, etc). From our understanding, the Ecuadorian government was responsible to fund the Graduation Program for the Ecuadorian citizens; yet the funds for the refugee

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<sup>1</sup> Ecuador's National Development Plan (Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2017-2021) presents the Lifetime Plan (Plan Toda una Vida) which consists of seven programs designed to support people throughout their life cycle. Part of this plan is the LPMD Mission (Less Poverty, More Development) with three strategic objectives: i) Securing households' income to protect their consumption; ii) Facilitating access to government services; and iii) Building capacities and promoting productive inclusion through linkages to economic opportunities. Each of these objectives is linked to three main interventions, respectively: a) A conditional cash transfer (CCT) program (Bono de Desarrollo Humano Variable); b) Accompanying Family Support (Plan de Acompañamiento Familiar (PAF)), and c) Economic Inclusion support.



programs were sources from I/NGOs. Therefore, we suspect lack of coherence in financial activities between development (led by the government) and humanitarian (led by Trickle Up) programs.

Moreover, the reports indicate that the massive influx of Venezuelan refugees within Ecuador has raised social, economic, legal, and protection challenges for Graduation Approach to be implemented. Even so, we will build upon the work of Graduation Approach to investigate previous and existing coherence opportunities within Ecuador in the future as we discuss circumstances with relevant stakeholders during formal interviews.

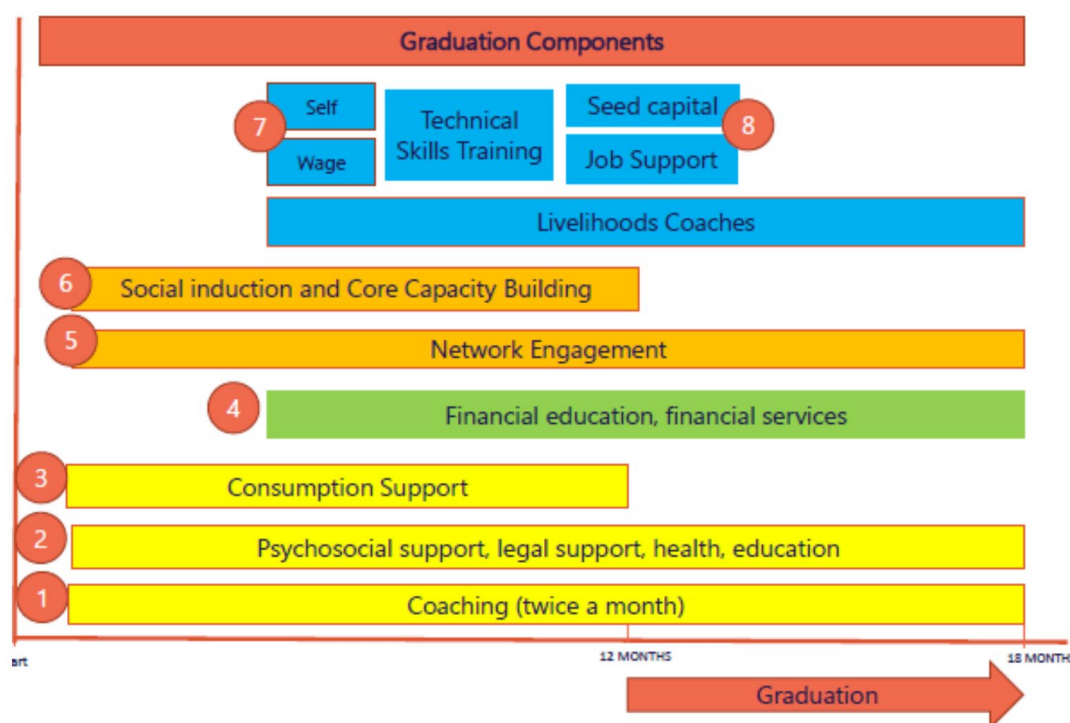


Figure 1 The Graduation Approach for Refugees in Ecuador. Source; HIAS Ecuador/UNHCR Extracted from the Adapting the Graduation Approach for the Refugees in Ecuador. <http://refugees.trickleup.org/resources/adapting-the-graduation-approach-for-refugees-in-ecuador-full-case-study/> Accessed 2020

### 3. Background

For the past two decades, Ecuador has become a major destination for refugees and asylum seekers. The flow of migrants from Colombia started from late 2000 and gradually increased with its peak in 2009 (Figure 1). Even though the number of Colombian entries to Ecuador has reduced, the Venezuelan crisis has left Ecuador with an emergent humanitarian crisis with its peak in 2017. In 2019, the overall number of asylum claims in Ecuador increased by approximately 250% compared to the same period in 2017 (UNHCR, 2020a). It is expected that more than 650k Venezuelans will be living in Ecuador by the end of 2020. These situations have challenged the Ecuadorian government to develop long-term solutions for the social and economic integration of refugees and migrants. With the international support from UNHCR, IOM, and the World Bank, the Ecuadorian government has set its national goals for sustainable development and specifically the provision of reducing inequality, and supporting safe, orderly, and regular migration. These goals necessitate well-coordinated governance on international and national level.

#### 3.1. Ecuador's General Coordination Mechanisms in Responding to Refugees and Migrants

The influx of Venezuelans migrating to Latin American countries and the Caribbean have resulted in international, regional, and national responses to the crisis. UNHCR and IOM have taken the lead on the regional level and have been assisting countries with the short-term and medium-term response to the Venezuelan situation. The Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform is co-led by UNHCR and IOM to steer the operational response to the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants across the host countries (Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, 2019). One of the major outcomes of the Regional Coordination Platform is the Refugee and Migrants Response Plan for Venezuelan Situation (RMRP, 2019). RMRP provides yearly strategies to address the needs of the Venezuelans through regional coordination with four key objectives: 1) direct emergency assistance, 2) protection, 3) socio-economic and cultural integration, and 4) capacity building and support to host governments (R4V, 2019). Grupo de Trabajo sobre Refugiados y Migrantes or GTRM in Ecuador is responsible for operationalizing RMRP and to ensure coordination between NGOs, United Nations agencies, and other international and regional organizations (RMRP, 2019). GTRM's priority is to respond to the emergency needs of Venezuelans but also, to include medium or long-term responses for integrating refugees and migrants within the host community by strengthening the capacity of the government. It appears that a communication structure between GTRM and the state authorities is established to ensure synergy between operational groups and prevent duplication of resources (R4V, 2019). On the other hand, the Ecuadorian government has been making progress towards revising its approach and national structure to include migrants' rights within its national programs and ministerial plans to facilitate well-managed migration. Unfortunately, we yet have not seen any specific indications of refugees and their particular needs within Ecuador's national plans and often they are generalized under the "Migrant" umbrella.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility<sup>2</sup> and the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion (MIES)<sup>3</sup> collaborate with UNHCR to address the issues of all refugees and migrants. The Ministry of foreign affairs more specifically addresses refugee and migrant's legal matters, and MIES addresses the social protection of refugees and migrants in socio-economic integration. Ecuador's National Secretariat for Development<sup>4</sup> is a public law body attached to the office of the presidency of the Republic of Ecuador, with legal, administrative, and financial autonomy entity. The national Secretariat for Development is responsible for including refugees and migrants within the national development programs in country's policies at large. However, Ecuador's latest national plans have not directly addressed refugees or migrants within its programs. The incoming displaced populations are mostly categorized as mobile populations (National Secretariat of Planning and Development, 2013; Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo, 2017) and therefore Ecuador's national plan focuses on facilitating human mobility, as opposed to addressing refugees or forced migration crises.

With Ecuador's long history of hosting refugees and migrants over the past two decades and the rising Venezuelan crisis, Ecuador hosted the Quito Process in 2018 and was chosen to chair the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in 2019. Ecuador's active participation in regional and international efforts is crucial to facilitating coherence coordination among humanitarian and development partners in the region and in response to the Venezuelan crisis. As a result, Ecuador has been revising its national plan to be in coordination with the regional response plan, meanwhile implementing its principles on the Organic Law of Human Mobility by creating coordination within its state institutions and Decentralized Autonomous Governments among its 9 zones (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, 2019).

In 2018, representatives of Latin American Countries met in the city of Quito, Ecuador, to form the Quito Process; a government led initiative for regional coordination in response to the migratory crisis of Venezuelan citizens in the region (Meeting Minutes of Governments in the region, 2018). Within the fifth Quito meeting held in Bogota, strategies for developing coordinated strategies for long-term regularization of Venezuelan migrants and refugees were discussed. Although the Quito Process is meant for governments to move towards a common approach, they have not yet developed a comprehensive plan to offer protection for Venezuelans. Governments are mostly reluctant to grant refugee status to Venezuelans, instead positioning the Venezuelan crisis as temporary in nature (Kristen Martinez-Gugreli, 2019); therefore, humanitarian aid is prioritized over long-term planning and development. Even so, UNHCR in collaboration with IOM have been aiding governments to address the emergency needs of migrants and the socio-economic inclusion of Venezuelans within host communities.

Even though the increased need for humanitarian aid has slowed down long-term planning for refugees and migrants, IOM has been coordinating with the Ecuadorian Government to maintain progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs. In 2019, Ecuador adopted UNHCR's Sustainable Development Goals and has been revising its national development program to include migrant rights and livelihood within their national plans. The SDGs offer a blueprint and measurable indicators to achieve well-governed migration through coherence collaboration among national and international actors. We have therefore studied the SDG objectives that are directly addressing migration governance to inform

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<sup>2</sup> Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/>

<sup>3</sup> Ministerio de Inclusion Economica y Social <https://www.inclusion.gob.ec/>

<sup>4</sup> Secretaría Técnica Planifica Ecuador <https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/>

possibilities for measuring coherence coordination among national and international organizations and donors.

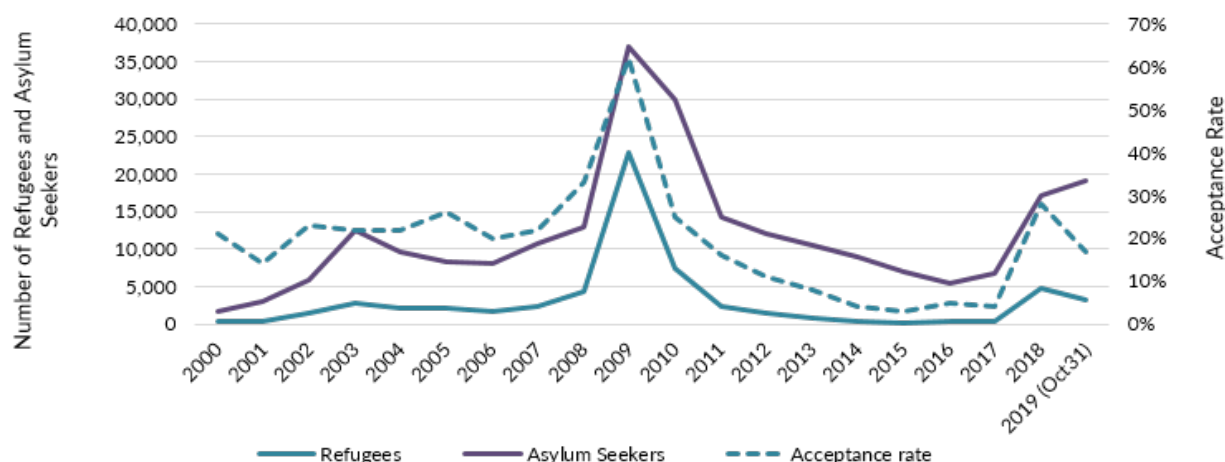


Figure 1 Source: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, “Estadísticas de refugiados (histórico),” available online Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, “Estadísticas peticionarios desagregado por año, sexo y group etario,” updated November 5, 2019,

### 3.2.Sustainable Development Goals: Facilitating Orderly, Safe, Regular, and Responsible Migration

Over the past two decades, if not earlier, the United Nations General Assembly has mandated UNHCR to assist refugee-hosting governments with achieving durable solutions to protracted refugee crises(Forum, 2005). In 2003, UNHCR published the Framework for Durable Solutions with a methodological model for providing Development Assistance for Refugees (DAR) and Development through Local Integration (DLI) (Assistance & Integration, 2004). Since then, the international community has tried to provide strategic guidelines to assist governments with development planning that would benefit refugees, host communities, and the international community at large. One of the major goals for UNHCR has been to encourage states to include both refugees and their host communities in national development plans and allocate development funds for the benefit of all populations of concern. In 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was published by UNHCR as a blueprint for global actors to end inequality, poverty, protect the planet, and to ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity (Assembly, 2015). Ecuador has adopted the SDGs and since 2019 it has been revising its national policies to meet goal 10.7. to reduce inequality and regularize migration for mobile persons.

For the first time, the UN General Assembly recognized migration in sustainable development programs and laid out measurable goals for well-governed migration within affected countries (SDGS UNHCR, IOM). In 2016, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants specifically recognized the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the Global Compact for Migrants (GCM). The Global Compact for Migrants specifies the benefits of safe, orderly, and regular migration. Nevertheless, it acknowledges the complex challenges presented by forced displacement and irregular migration (UN General Assembly, 2016). Therefore, monitoring and evaluation of well-governed migration has been integrated into the Sustainable Development Program. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a country-owned process and provides national governments with survey mechanisms to evaluate and report on their process towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals with regional, global, and thematic reviews in the process.

Out of the 17 sustainable development goals, 10 contain targets and indicators directly addressing migration governance and migrant rights. The SDG's central reference to migration appears under goal number 10: to reduce inequality for all, including migrants (International Migration Data Portal, 2018). Target 10.7 specifically is addressed to facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. However, effective implementation requires scalable measures for monitoring and evaluation. The international Organization of Migration (IOM) with United Nations' Department of Economics and Social Affairs have developed indicators to evaluate migration policies in facilitating orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration known as the Migration Governance Indicator or MGI (United Nations, Department of Economics and Social Affairs, 2019). Countries are responsible to evaluate their achievements towards SDGs by using these indicators. Such evaluations can provide insight on policy levers that can be used to strengthen their response to migrants' needs. Unfortunately, the SDGs have not distinguished refugees from other migrants and merely evaluate a broad range of themes related to migration governance across target countries. Therefore, governance mechanisms across bilateral and multilateral stakeholders in response to protracted refugee crises and forcibly displaced persons are not directly targeted within MGI. For example, coordination mechanisms with humanitarian actors who respond to the emergency needs of refugees and migrants are not directly addressed. In our analysis, we aim to better understand the measures included as Migration Governance Indicators both as a point of reference and as an overarching theme adopted by refugee hosting countries such as Ecuador.

The Migration Governance Index has implications for developing coherence coordination metrics in that it reflects on existing governance themes, available data sources, and methods of quantifying progress towards achieving a global collective outcome. It also provides insight into the components that need more attention and development. We will discuss the MGI measures to further investigate the applicability of SDGs to protracted refugee crisis and enabling coherence coordination between humanitarian and development actors. As explicated below, we will investigate the direct mechanisms of refugee management and unidentified coherence practices between I/NGOs, donors, and national governments within Ecuador.

### 3.3.Measuring Well-Governed Migration: Migration Governance Index (MGI)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) initiated measuring orderly migration governance by using the Migration Governance Index (MGI). In 2016, the Inter-Agency and Expert group

on SDG indicators tasked UNDESA and IOM to develop an indicator to measure a country's migration policies in facilitating orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people. As a result, the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs published the development of the SDG indicator 10.7.2 on migration policies (United Nations, Department of Economics and Social Affairs, 2020).

The SDG indicator for goal 10.7.2 is also known as the migration governance indicator (MGI) and follows IOM's Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF). The MiGOF presents governments with 6 thematic frameworks or domains in migration governance and evaluates them through 30 survey items. The 6 domains, proxy measures and relevant questions answered are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1 Domains and proxy measures of SDG indicator 10.7.2**

Domain	Proxy measure	Question
1. Migrant rights	Degree to which migrants have equity in access to services, including health care, education, decent work, social security and welfare benefits	Does the Government provide non-nationals equal access to the following services, welfare benefits and rights?
2. Whole-of-government/ Evidence-based policies	Dedicated institutions, legal frameworks and policies or strategies to govern migration	Does the Government have any of the following institutions, policies or strategies to govern immigration or emigration?
3. Cooperation and partnerships	Government measures to foster cooperation and encourage stakeholder inclusion and participation in migration policy	Does the Government take any of the following measures to foster cooperation among countries and encourage stakeholder inclusion and participation in migration policy?
4. Socioeconomic well-being	Government measures to maximize the positive development impact of migration and the socioeconomic well-being of migrants	Does the Government take any of the following measures to maximize the positive development impact of migration and the socioeconomic well-being of migrants?
5. Mobility dimensions of crises	Government measures to deliver comprehensive responses to refugees and other forcibly displaced persons	Does the Government take any of the following measures to respond to refugees and other persons forcibly displaced across international borders?
6. Safe, orderly and regular migration	Government measures to address regular or irregular immigration	Does the Government address regular or irregular immigration through any of the following measures?

*Table 1 source: Adopted from the technical paper Development, validation and testing of a methodology for SDG indicator 10.7.2 on migration policies (United Nations, Department of Economics and Social Affairs, 2019)*

These domains are measured through a global data source across countries and over time. The UN's Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development (the Inquiry) was used to survey governments on their international migration policies. The proxy measures associated with each of the 6 MiGOF domains is associated with 5 sub-categories that capture the key aspects of migration policies on a national level. A comprehensive rating of governments' responses to these measures comprises the



general Migration Governance Indicator. The full wheel of domains and their sub-categories are presented in Figure 2.

The Migration Governance Indicator is calculated from an unweighted average after translating the responses to a value between 0-100% with 100% coded as fully meeting the migration governance requirements. At the conclusion of the country evaluation process, a country profile is published to reflect its existing capacities and gaps in addressing the SDG goal 10.7.2. Although the country profiles provide a general evaluation on the broad range of migration policies and the country's needs for capacity building, it is not meant to serve as a detailed national monitoring framework (United Nations, Department of Economics and Social Affairs, 2019). As of 2020, roughly more than 110 countries have reported their report. Country's profiles are accessible through the population division of United Nation's department of Economic and Social Affairs<sup>5</sup>.

**Figure 2 Policy domains and sub-categories of SDG indicator 10.7.2**

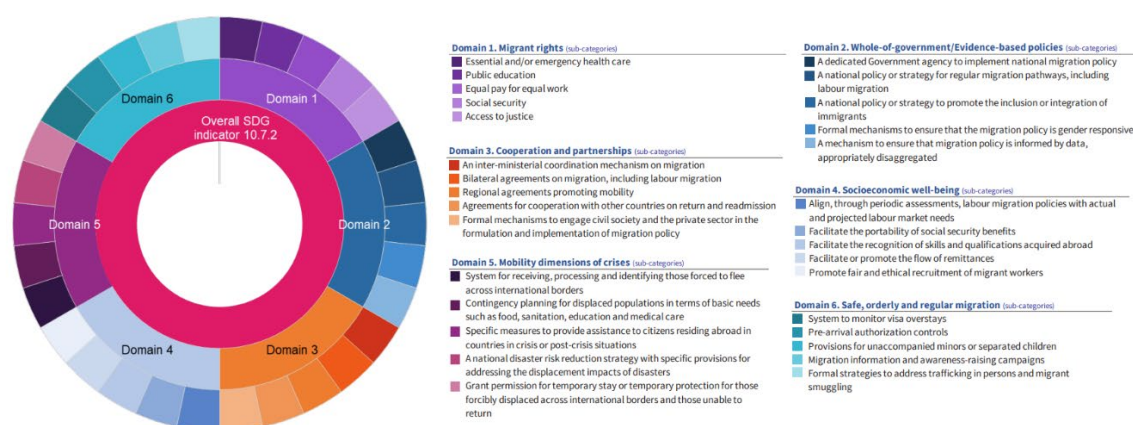


Figure 2 Source: SDG Indicator 10.7.2 Data Booklet (Desa, 2020)

While capturing policy-level developments, the survey items do not reflect on the operational capacities of migration governance and are incapable of detailing the context of migration. Instead, the Migration Governance Indicator uses output indicators to capture the concrete changes that make policies more “development-friendly” in the context of migration (King et al, 2012). For example, establishing a pre-authorization process prior to the arrival of migrants is one output indicator of safe and orderly migration. However, assessing the effectiveness and the impact of a country's migration policies in operationalizing the Sustainable Development Goals requires metrics that measure synergies across input resources (e.g. donor activity), outputs (e.g. concrete policies), outcomes (e.g. livelihood of target

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/theme/sdg/countryprofiles.asp>

groups), and processes (e.g. how policies are developed and operationalized)<sup>6</sup>. Such metrics necessitate a more granular level analysis of a government's activities at different operational levels (e.g. national versus regional) and for different migration crises.

Overall, the MGI outlines general guidelines for establishing not only policies but also mandatory measures for well-governed migrations such as seen in Figure 2. But indeed, it fails to target governance mechanisms across multilateral stakeholders<sup>7</sup> at times of emergency and protracted crises. Migration governance is mostly evaluated as a result of long-term decision making and planning. However, refugee crises and forced displacement add a new layer of complexity to governing practices because it mandates coherence or a level of coordination between government led development programs, humanitarian actors, and international organizations. The aim of this study is to expand coherence between development programs and humanitarian relief during protracted refugee crises. To create a more efficient and effective model of aid, we will identify practices that minimize the disjointed but parallel aid architecture between humanitarian and development aid systems.

To this end, we have chosen Ecuador as a country case study through which we analyze coherence policies and practices and their implications for coherence metrics. Our analysis evaluates policies for ties to decision-making processes resulting in resource allocations for humanitarian and development programs, as an approach to identify indicators of coherence. This, our initial method, involves a general policy document analysis of Ecuador's overall coordination structure, existing policies and strategic frameworks towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals, Ministerial and operational coordination mechanisms, information and data practices, and existing information management tools.

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<sup>6</sup> King et al. have devised indicators for measuring policy coherence in the area of food security using four major indicators; input, output, outcome, and process indicators (King et al., 2012).

<sup>7</sup> Based on GFMD's definition (GFMD, 2012), Multilateral coherence is between the policies and actions of bilateral donors and multilateral organizations, and ensuring that policies adopted in multilateral forums are coherent and contribute to development objectives



## 4. Methods:

As articulated below, the policy analysis method includes three major steps: 1. Operationalizing coherence in the context of forced migration and development, 2. developing a sampling frame, and choosing the sample of documents relevant to refugee management and Ecuador's development program, and finally 3. analyzing Ecuador's response mechanisms to the Venezuelan situation to find opportunities and gaps for coherence.

### 4.1. Operationalizing Coherence

Achieving coherence relies on a complex set of variables in different levels of operation. Coherence for development and in the context of migration heavily depends on identifying preferred objectives, stakeholders, and the processes that result in achieving collective outcomes. Our literature review of humanitarian and development coherence indicates that definitions heavily rely upon policy and institutional governance practices. Rarely is coherence studied from the bottom-up; operational level coherence practices may or may not exist but they must be studied to better inform scalable coherence metrics for better governance and policy making.

For example, OECD's perspective on policy coherence between humanitarian and development aid is meant to ensure synergic and systematic support of policies towards the achievement of common development objectives in all economic, social, environmental, and governance dimensions for sustainable development (OECD, 2017). Similarly, Policy and Institutional Coherence for Migration and Development (PICMD) by KNOMAD extends policy coherence to include the mainstreaming of migration and development programs across centralized and decentralized governance set-ups (Hong & Knoll, 2016). As a general process-oriented approach, mainstreaming implies incorporating migration concerns into development planning and sectoral policies, and integrating development objectives into migration policies (*Rationale | Global Forum on Migration and Development*, n.d.). Although policy coherence across different levels of governance is essential to ensure the delivery of outcomes, there is yet no information on bottom-up coherence practices that might be observed in humanitarian and development programs, nor the upward impact on policies such information might generate. For example, humanitarian and development policy coherence may be informed and evaluated through quantifying policy outcomes such as the livelihood or the socio-economic status of targeted communities. However, the impacts of operational level coherence practices in delivering aid across aid workers, NGOs, civil societies, local communities, etc. in the effectiveness of policies remains invisible. Commonly, these two levels of operation are identified as strategic and operational level coherence practices.

That being said, most if not all coherence studies are tailored towards integrating "migration" with development planning (Asis et al., 2018; Hong & Knoll, 2016; United Nations, Department of

Economics and Social Affairs, 2019). Forced migrants and refugees are rarely distinguished from migrants in international development programs such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). For example, the Ecuadorian government does not address the humanitarian-development nexus (*Humanitarian Development Nexus* / OCHA, n.d.)- within its socio-economic inclusion programs; neither on strategic nor in operational levels. As a result, in this study we reflect on both strategic and operation level coherence opportunities for humanitarian relief and development. We conducted a policy document analysis to identify any existing mainstreaming practices on horizontal and vertical coherence in both strategic and operational levels. Horizontal coherence refers to coherence between entities within the same level of operation (e.g. Across government ministries) and vertical coherence refers to coherence across entities in different levels (e.g. NGOs and the State Government). We identify mainstreaming by conducting a cross-search analyses between sampled documents created from a sampling frame of international and national policies, frameworks, and other resources. In the cross-search process we look for certain keywords and information that are cross-referenced between essential international, national, sectoral, and humanitarian response documents. Details of this process is further discussed in section 4.2.

## 4.2. The Sampling Frame of Policy Documents

The sampling frame of both English and Spanish language policy documents is collected from two major sources; Ecuador's national level programs, and regional response plans to the Venezuelan situation. Most of the documents within the sampling frame and the sampled documents are part of the regional refugee and migrant response. The movement of Venezuelans across the region has created a focus on regional intra-governmental and international strategic programming in oppose to isolated national-level solutions. Moreover, countries' lack of resources asks for international humanitarian support. Specifically, the regional response to the Venezuelan situation was a help to Ecuador's receding economy and social backlash in hosting Venezuelans entering Ecuador. With the extension of regional programs, more situational progress reports are published – both in English and Spanish- through the inter-agency coordination platform. These reports reflect on the inter-agency's humanitarian aid efforts in integrating Venezuelan refugees and migrants within Ecuador and in coordination with the Ecuadorian government. However, the Ecuadorian government is yet to publish its progress towards integrating humanitarian and development programs, and only a few number of documents were useful in addressing refugee issues within governments' policies. As a result, most of the sampled documents are collected from the inter-agency coordination platform with a few ministerial reports from the Ecuadorian governments. These documents can be accessed from Appendix I.

Major regional and situational reports regarding the Venezuelan situation was extruded from the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform known as R4V<sup>8</sup>. The regional platform addresses the protection, assistance, and integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants across Latin American and Caribbean host countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador. R4V is developed to strengthen the regional and national strategic responses through information management, communication, and resource mobilization. The information within the R4V platform is mostly presented through two major mediums: 1) interactive statistics across regions, sectors, organizations, and sectoral assistance and 2) descriptive report documents of the Venezuelan situation, needs, regional and country level responses, and some financial activities (Appendix II). The regional inter-agency platform is also replicated at country

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<sup>8</sup> <https://r4v.info/en/situations/platform/location/7512>

level through country specific working groups. Within Ecuador, GTRM is the responsible entity for information management and coordination among all participants and partners. GTRM's reports are also accessible through R4V and other platforms such as ReliefWeb and Refworld.

Within the R4V platform, we accessed 772 documents, 76 of which were specific to Ecuador. We selectively chose documents regarding regional response plans (3 documents), reports and assessments (3 documents), situation reports and updates (11 documents). Other documents such as maps and geodata (17 documents), dashboards and fact sheets (12 documents), data and statistics (13 documents), communication with communities (1 document), and assessments (2 documents), were excluded due to duplicability or micro level situational reports. The R4V platform provides valuable insight into the humanitarian response from UNHCR and other organizations in coordination with the Ecuadorian Government. Although the government's achievements towards the socio-economic and cultural inclusion of Venezuelans are reported within UNHCR's situation reports on a monthly basis, the challenges facing the country's development in respect to the protracted crises is not discussed in detail. Therefore, we traced UNHCR's Ecuadorian partners through the Regional Response Plans (RRP, RMRP), and UNHCR's country report on Ecuador in order to gain more insight into government level programs in response to the Venezuelan Crisis.

UNHCR's Global Focus on Ecuador provides a yearly overview of the country's response to refugee and migration crises. We identified the responsible Ecuadorian ministries and their response plans addressing the Venezuelan Situation. We also used the Refworld platform to access policy documents and operation plans published by UNHCR. We accessed a total number of 900 documents, but most documents were outdated to before 2014. We chose about 4 fundamental documents relevant to refugee situations in the region and Ecuador. We also used Reliefweb to access publications associated with the government's response to the Venezuelan Situation. We accessed a total of 7600 documents and filtered 400 documents tagged with protection and human rights, refugees, and/or published by the government of Ecuador. We selected a total of 4 documents that reflected on Ecuador's international and national refugee plans.

From our first level analysis we adopted certain keywords that helped us narrow down Ecuador's national policies towards Venezuelans. Surprisingly the Ecuadorian government rarely uses the term "refugee" or "migrant" within its national documents or news media. Instead, "human mobility"<sup>9</sup>, "vulnerable groups" are common terms across the documents published before 2019. Ecuador's latest national plan "toda una vida" which reflects on the 2017-2021 plan for the 2030 agenda for good living does not address the Venezuelan refugee crisis specifically. On the other hand, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility has published a report "for the equality of human mobility" – Agenda Nacional para la Igualdad de Movilidad Humana 2017-2021 in Spanish – that addresses the responsibilities towards asylum seekers, refugees, and stateless persons (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, 2017). This report merely addresses protection of asylum seekers under the authority of the Ecuadorian government. That being said, we generally had a difficult time finding national documents that directly address the needs of refugees and migrants. To find indirect national policies we used other terminologies to find indirect associations between government policies and refugee management some of which are:

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<sup>9</sup> Movilidad Humana

*“movilidad humana”, “desarrollo”, “desigualdad”, “inclusión económica y social”, “Relaciones exteriores”, “ACNUR”, “derechos de los migrantes”, “pobres y vulnerables”, “solicitante de asilo”, “apartida”*

That said, the lack of attention to refugee status applies to both Venezuelan or Colombian refugees and migrants. Our observations are in line with those of IMF in that the Ecuadorian government is reluctant to outwardly address the number of incoming refugees and migrants to the public (Jeffrey D. Pugh, Luis F. Jimenez, 2020). This is due to the public’s dissatisfaction with incoming migrants and, in some cases, xenophobia. Only as of recently, in 2020, the Ecuadorian government now accounts for the needs of Venezuelans within its national policies. Yet the status of Colombians who have entered the country since 2005 and have remained within Ecuador is unclear and rarely addressed.

To assess Ecuador’s presence in global refugee programs and its impact on their national policies, we accessed an innumerable number of documents from the 2019 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in Quito, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion (MIES), and studied the regional policy outcomes such as the 1984 Cartagena Declaration for Refugees, and the Quito Process. From these documents we selected 42 major documents to assess Ecuador’s inter-governmental and multi-lateral coherence (Hong & Knoll, 2016).

#### 4.3. Policy Document Analysis

Our policy analysis of international laws, regional frameworks and response plans, national frameworks, strategic and operational reports, both in English and Spanish has provided major insight into the most active stakeholders and the most vulnerable sectors which are in need for capacity building within the government. With the government’s leadership in development programs, it is important to evaluate international humanitarian coordination mechanisms with government entities at time of protracted crises.

The policy analysis resulted in an understanding of the main coherence themes and practices that from our perspective, favor or hinder coherence between government officials and humanitarian actors at time of crises. We will expand on the coherence themes to identify recommendations for coherence practices in different operational and strategic levels that can be used for translation into scalable metrics. Overall, the sampling frame reflects on the visibility of vertical coherence mechanisms, mostly a top-down and centralized process. Although decentralized coordination and leadership is emphasized throughout Ecuador’s national plans, we rarely found documents and reports that would present horizontal coherence mechanisms across operational or strategic level actors. We would like to address this issue in further studies and potentially within our interviews in later stages of the project.

## 5. Policy Document Analysis

Our analysis of the 42 sample documents, reported in Appendix I, identified several elements that are in favor of coherence opportunities. From the 42 sampled documents, 6 were specifically selected from the Government of Ecuador, *Secretar a Tecnica Planifica* (5 documents in Spanish) , and *Ministerio De Relacioness Exteriores y Movilidad Humana* (1 document in English). A list of major government sources and number of selected documents can be found in Table 2. Most published reports by the Ecuadorian government were naturally published in Spanish which presented difficulties during cross-document analyses and mainstreaming processes when compared to regional reports. This highlights multilingual challenges relating to coherence. For example, coherence mandates the mainstreaming of humanitarian and development policies. The concept of mainstreaming means incorporating refugee and migrant concerns from global humanitarian objective into national development and sectoral policies. As a coherence activity, the Ecuadorian government may need to establish the language to translate global policies on migration and refugee response into its own programs. As a case in point, the adoption of SDGs by the Ecuadorian government establishes a point of connection between global, regional, and national policies and of course, a point of entry for integrating humanitarian and development programs.

The majority of other documents were collaborative reports between international organizations (majorly the UN and UNHCR) and the Ecuadorian government- all of which are published in English. Other publications or reports were also accessed from other active organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the International Organization of Migration. We will discuss our findings from these documents in detail in order to provide insights that are then translatable to coherence metrics. We have investigated coherence models in strategic and operational practices in response to the needs of refugees, migrants, and their host communities. The structure presented here is based on a model of centralized and decentralized governance in which vertical and horizontal coherence is expected.

*Table 2 Government Sources for Policy Documents*

Source of Document	Type of Document	Number of Documents	Language
Secretar a Tecnica Planifica	National Plans, 2030 Agenda, SDG Reports	5	Spanish
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana	International Cooperation Framework for the National Response to Venezuelans on the Movie in Ecuador	1	English
Ministerio de Inclusión Económica y Social (MIES) and UNHCR	Protection of Venezuelans in Ecuador MIES+ACNUR	1	Spanish

## 5.1. Ecuador's Coordination Mechanisms

For many years, Ecuador's open door policies for refugees and migrants earned it a reputation as a progressive refugee hosting country (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, 2019). However, since 2017, the country's economic crisis -due to plummeting oil prices- has reduced Ecuador's capacity to host Venezuelans. To redistribute the shared responsibility for a regional response to the Venezuelan crisis, Ecuador hosted the first Quito process to facilitate intra-governmental coordination. On an international level, Ecuador chaired the 2019 Forum on Migration and Development and has adopted the latest 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals towards well-governed migration. However, the specific needs of refugees and forcibly displaced persons are not directly addressed in any of the national documents and, if so, they do not provide strategic and operational level insight into integration plans. However, in collaboration with UNHCR, the government has taken new steps towards addressing the protracted Venezuelan crisis within its national services. For example, the International Cooperation Framework for the National Response to Venezuelan People on the Move in Ecuador was published in 2019 and has identified national ministries responsible in addressing the emergency needs of Venezuelans (e.g. protection, health, education for children, fight against xenophobia) and their budgetary needs.

- *Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility: \$ 4,722,860.00*
- *Ministry of Interior: \$197,560.00*
- *Ministry of Public Health: \$59,925,845.00*
- *Ministry of Education: \$10.420.135*
- *Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion: \$ 1,336,610.00*
- *Decentralized Autonomous Governments: \$ 220,0000*

Nevertheless, there is not yet a comprehensive national development program that directly addresses economic and social inclusion of refugees within the Ecuadorian employment system. The two Ministries of Labor and Urban Development and Housing are said to work with decentralized governments and the Ministry of Socio-Economic Inclusion to evaluate the labor market for opportunities and provide access to housing and safe spaces – for both host communities and mobile persons. However, we can see the allocated funds for the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion is relatively lower compared to other emergency response programs.

Unfortunately, we were unable to find any government and ministerial reports on progress towards these goals. Although the Ecuadorian government has a website for publishing reports as to provide “transparency,”<sup>10</sup> no information specific to the Venezuelan situation is disseminated or visible. GTRM is the only coordination platform that reports on strategic and operational responses from UNHCR and government Ministries. The Ecuadorian government needs to publish Ministerial Response Plans, Inter-Ministerial Response Plans, and meeting minutes, to reflect progress on activities that are helping all migrant populations and host communities. As a result, we are generally unable to reflect the details of national and ministerial coordination mechanisms; therefore, we provide specific coherence coordination recommendations based on the existence or lack of information on Ecuador's strategic and operational performance.

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<sup>10</sup> Transparencia <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/transparencia/>

## 6. Coherence Opportunities: Elements Favoring Coherence Practices

On the strategic level, we have found regional and intragovernmental coordination platforms to be the key factor in ensuring the systematic and equitable delivery of global aid across national governments hosting Venezuelans. For example, international requirements for sustainable development goals has forced the Ecuadorian government to revise its national plan to include migrant rights and reduce inequality across all populations. Also, UNHCR's Refugee Response Plan is a good example of the international community holding the Ecuadorian government accountable for refugees and migrants' rights through their inclusion in national plans.

On an operational level, Inter-Agency Coordination Platforms such as GTRM ensure the sharing of information across sectors and with officials in state-level governments across its 9 *Zonas*. GTRM facilitates coordination among partners<sup>11</sup> and the state governments to track humanitarian and development assistance to Venezuelans and their host communities. It also ensures the state government's accountability in responding to Venezuelans rights and socio-economic inclusion within their national programs. The national government is also responsible to facilitate local authorities and decentralized governments with capacity building for social inclusion and progressing towards development goals reflected in the Global Forum of Migration and Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We will specifically tap into the details of proposed practices for coherence between humanitarian and development actors across different levels of governance. We will also reflect on operational work that is reported in response to the Venezuelan Situation. The operational level progress provides the ground truth on existing measures that would evaluate the effectiveness or lack of certain coherence practices. Moving forward we will discuss two major coherence themes: Strategic and Operational Coherence. Both themes are detailed through regional and national efforts which together shape coherence coordination mechanisms in Ecuador.

### 6.1.Strategic Coherence

The GFMD working group on Policy Coherence, Data, and Research specifically identifies four strategic levels at which coherence can be promoted through better governance (GFMD, 2012). The Policy and Institutional Coherence for Migration and Development (PICMD) follows the same levels of governance as a model for policy. Our policy analysis uses similar levels of coherence practices (see Table2), including regional and national levels. Our analysis finds, however, an uneven distribution of strategic coherence practices between the two. Most mainstreaming of coherence coordination is reflected on a regional level, through inter-governmental and multi-lateral agreements. However, in 2020 the Ecuadorian government started coherence coordination programs across its ministries in response to the refugee and migration crisis. Our analysis assumes fostering coherence not only builds upon existing opportunities and the strongest links, but benefits from assessing gaps in the coherence efforts of all stakeholders. As a result, we will discuss multi-lateral, inter-governmental, intra-governmental, and multi-

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<sup>11</sup> GTRM Partners as of January 2020 include: ACNUR, ADRA, CARE, Cruz Roja Ecuatoriana, CSMM-PIDHDD, Dialogo Diverso, FUDELA, HIAS, JRS Ecuador, Mision Scalabriniana, NRC, OCHA, OIM, OIT, ONU Mujeres, OPS, Plan Internacional, PMA, PNUD, RET, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Vision <https://r4v.info/en/situations/platform/location/7512>



stakeholder coherence practices to inform strategic coherence opportunities in integrating humanitarian and development aid streams.

**Table 2 Levels of Governance for Policy Coherence**

<b>Intra-governmental Coherence</b>	<b>Coherence across all of the policies and actions of countries in terms of their contributions to development, both within and between different levels of institutions in the government (i.e. central, district-level and local)</b>
<b>Inter-governmental Coherence</b>	Policies and actions should be consistent across different countries in terms of their contributions to development, to prevent one from unnecessarily interfering with, or failing to reinforce, the others.
<b>Multilateral Coherence</b>	Coherence of the policies and actions of bilateral donors and multilateral organizations, and to ensure that policies adopted in multilateral fora contribute to development objectives.
<b>Multi-stakeholder Coherence</b>	Coherence within the policies and actions of international organizations, civil society organizations, and private sectors; and between each other.

*Table 3 Source: Adopted from GFMD's Policy Coherence, Data, and Research Working Group (GFMD, 2012)*

### 6.1.1. Regional Coordination

On a regional level, both development and humanitarian organizations have made progress towards creating regional and country-specific guidelines for integrating migration policies with countries' development programs. The Quito Process initiated in 2018, is held annually to bring together refugee hosting countries within Latin America to exchange information, good practices, and coordinate a regional response to the Venezuelan crisis. As a multilateral initiative, the Quito Process is held to harmonize countries' domestic policies in receiving Venezuelan refugees and migrants and responding to their needs. The Declaration of Quito on Human Mobility of Venezuelan Citizens in the Region also known as Quito I has laid the foundations for an intra-governmental coordinated response that led to countries' adoption of the regional plan.

During the fifth Quito process in 2019, UNHCR and IOM launched the 2020 Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) which outlines regional and country-specific response plans across five major goals: 1) Direct Emergency Assistance, 2) Protection, 3) Socio-economic and cultural integrations, 4) Strengthening the capacity of the host government, and 5) Coordination strengthening. The RMRP



provides regional and country-specific objectives that are mutually accessible to all countries for cross-border coordination and creating intra-governmental coherence through the inter-agency platform called R4V. The R4V regional platform is set up to track the response to the Venezuelan situation and provides information on countries' response strategies, monthly progress, sectoral response, and so on, which is accessible to all stakeholders.

On an operational level, UNHCR's coordination with the Ecuadorian government is facilitated through a country-specific coordination platform known as GTRM. Although GTRM tracks both emergency and long-term solutions to the Venezuelan situation, it is not responsible for inter-governmental coordination. Therefore, it is mainly involved in the humanitarian response to Venezuelans, more so than incorporating host communities.

On the other hand, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) ensures that international development programs such as those addressing the SDGs are streamlined across countries. GFMD guidelines are meant to support countries to build capacities for intergovernmental coherence especially in response to migration and protracted refugee and migration crises. In 2019, Ecuador revised its 2017-2021 national plan to align with GFMD guidelines. With a practical focus on cities as the major hub for migrants and refugees, GFMD 2019 presented a roundtable to address human mobility as part of urban and rural development strategies in order to support arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnership (GFMD, 2019a).

The outcome recommendation from this roundtable is to support and empower cities in their capacity to become inclusive for the shared prosperity of all persons in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The GFMD recommends country's internal institutions, particularly those within cities, be in charge of coordination and the mainstreaming processes for policy coherence. These and other similar recommendations reflect existing strategic and operational coherence opportunities for development and humanitarian actors within Ecuador. Especially with UNHCR's active role in developing the Global Sustainable Development Goals, GFMD creates an opportunity for further coherence between humanitarian and development actors in response to protracted refugee and migration crises on a strategic level.

#### 6.1.2. National coordination

As discussed earlier, Ecuador's adoption of the SDGs provides an opportunity for multilateral coherence between international organizations and governments, as it opens up a point of discussion between the two. However, the translation of international policies and recommendations on a national level is daunting. Ecuador's national development plan has not yet directly addressed the needs of refugees and migrants. With support from the international community, Ecuador's adoption of the SDGs sparked new national programs to implement policies for social cohesion and reducing socio-economic inequality. However, such programs require inter-ministerial coordination and ensuring information transparency across all levels of governance. With the help of UNHCR, the Ministry of National Planning published an inter-ministerial collaboration framework for response to the Venezuelan situation in 2018 (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, 2019). However, as of 2020, we are unable to find information from ministries regarding progress made towards achieving these goals.

The Ministry for Social and Economic Inclusion (MIES) is responsible for socio-economic and cultural inclusion of all populations within Ecuador and therefore is, by our estimation, the entity most

likely to serve as a coordinating body. However, we were unable to find a specific sector addressing refugee and migrant issues specific to Venezuelans or Colombians at MIES' website. In contrast, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs does provide essential information for Venezuelan refugees and migrants to legally remain within Ecuador. Nonetheless, it does not provide essential information for socio-economic support.

We acknowledge that a lack of publicly available information via websites is not necessarily an indication of a lack of activities. We hypothesize that insufficient infrastructure and resources to provide information and therefore transparency or the government's fear of political backlash from Ecuadorians concerned about migrants competing for scarce resources could be contributing to the lack of information on refugee and migrant response. Whatever the reason, it is undeniable that a lack of transparency can hinder opportunities for intergovernmental coherence. For example, the Ecuadorian government indeed emphasizes its decentralized governance across 9 major zones (Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo, 2017), however there is no online resource through which information on the refugee and migrant supporting activities within these zones can be found.

Based on the GFMD theme for policy coherence, coherence mandates information 'roll-up' across all government layers - across ministries, local governments, urban coordinating bodies, the civil society, and so on. Unfortunately, web searches uncovered neither vertical nor horizontal coherence practices within government structures. However, our future research will involve interviews through which we aim to identify cooperation between government, humanitarian and other development entities. As the major coordinating body, GTRM can be a potential information source for understanding funding streams and coherence coordination mechanisms for both humanitarian and development aid.

## 6.2. Operational Coherence:

Literature regarding humanitarian and development coherence mostly focuses on policy and strategic coherence. Operational coherence, on the other hand, is harder to measure and seldom is visible. The outcome approach in measuring the integration of humanitarian and development programs may not be the most effective way to measure their integration success. Development programs mostly take a longer time to flourish, meanwhile humanitarian response gains more visibility for its measurable aid distribution. Therefore, measuring operational coherence must go beyond an outcome-oriented approach to include processes by which the humanitarian and development actors work together for short and long-term response to protracted crisis. Developing process indicators would provide visibility to the work of development actors within long-term humanitarian response and it will help development actors to build capacities for early response to protracted crisis.

As a case in point, GTRM's situational reports (GTRM, 2019) reflect on operational progress in emergency response to refugee populations and the development response for socio-economic and cultural inclusion of refugees. Although the reports detail communication and coordination strategies with government entities for development goals in different urban areas and zones, it does not specifically lay out mechanisms by which coordination between actors is implemented and organized. In other words, there is a lack of systematic understanding of operational mechanisms. Thankfully, GTRM's situation reports are an indication that coherence mechanisms between humanitarian and development actors exist. We will use this opportunity to further investigate the systematic coherence coordination mechanisms between actors and the elements that create successful coherence activity.

In the following, we will reflect on some of the major regional and national operational activities that have facilitated coherence coordination between humanitarian and development actors within the region and Ecuador. GTRM, the Support Spaces, Cash-based assistance, and information cards are some of the operational measures. Nonetheless, more instruments are needed to accurately identify coherence mechanisms.

#### 6.2.1. Regional Coordination:

##### *GTRM*

The Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela is co-led by UNHCR and IOM and has a dedicated online website known as R4V. R4V is presented as an entry point to facilitate communication and enhance coordinated operations in the region to meet the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants through fact-based advocacy. The inter-agency platform has national working groups within each Latin American and Caribbean country. The GTRM working group within Ecuador uses R4V to publish progress reports and essential information for GTRM partners. Roughly 26 international and national partners use GTRM to cooperate with local authorities and create a hub to connect operational level decisions, to national, and regional level policies.

The R4V platform, as the regional inter-agency and coordination monitoring platform, was one of the few resources that provided information on coordinated response between the Ecuadorian government and other organizations such as UNHCR and other NGOs. GTRM within Ecuador is responsible for coordination practices across humanitarian and development actors and was one of the major leads in understanding the government's internal affairs in responding to the protracted crisis. Therefore, we conclude that a unified regional platform that also works on national level is a major element to ensure operational coherence between national and regional level for more effective distribution of responsibilities.

##### *Support Spaces*

Support Spaces or “espacios de apoyo (EA)” are physical locations distributed across Ecuador and the region to provide updated information and immediate standardized packages for food security and protection across persons in need (PIN). Support spaces function beyond the Venezuelan response to support all refugees, migrants, returnees, persons at risk of statelessness, host communities, among others. Following a network model across the region, EAs strengthen coordination across UN, NGOs, the Civil Society and government officials for a harmonized regional response by using two major platforms: ProgresV4 and ActivityInfo. ProgresV4 is a registration and case management system developed by UNHCR. ProgresV4 also ensures a system of internal referrals and an early warning to keep staff informed of specific situations that need attention and follow up. The programs provided in these spaces are implemented by different local, international, and governmental actors in order to remain aligned with country-specific policies and coordination mechanisms.

ActivityInfo, on the other hand, contributes to the national coordination platform for strategic evaluation. The Support Space Coordinator uses ActivityInfo to submit periodic statistical and progress

reports that are later used for monitoring and evaluation by a national coordinator. The report mandates Support Space coordinators meet a checklist of rapid and initial assessment; including weekly coordination meetings and sharing weekly reports to local and national coordinators. The national coordinator is in fact the entity responsible for facilitating standardized tools across all service providers to prepare key statistics, and analysis of trends for policy makers. This report mechanism allows the roll-up of ground-level information, needs, and complaints to national and strategic level coordinators for effective action and decision making.

Support Spaces present a great opportunity for standardizing data collection regarding development activities and the integration of refugees and migrants within host communities. At this point we are unsure how that information is collected and further interviews with Support Space, local, and National Coordinators can be a great opportunity for further insight.

### 6.2.2. National Coordination:

#### *Urban and Rural Development Strategies*

GFMD 2019 mandates horizontal coherence within cities by setting up multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms with relevant actors including migrants, migrants' associations and representatives of displaced persons, diaspora etc., requiring governments to strengthen cities' agencies and streamline support for cities. Based on GFMD's 2019 policy report, internal institutions within cities are to be in charge of coordinating mainstreaming processes for policy coherence. They are also responsible to ensure data collection from populations in need (refugees, migrants, host communities), and to measure policy implementation and progress made by local authorities in response to the global call for migration and development integration. Better measurement enables analysis of policy implementation and the progress made by local authorities in integrating migrants and refugees within host communities. These data will be rolled up to the national authorities and used to reward cities that are progressing in social cohesion. This reward mechanism enables multi-lateral development banks and international organizations to use funding pools such as the multi-partner trust fund for GCM implementation (GFMD, 2019b). However, we are unable to find information related to inter-agency coherence within cities where funds were allocated. Nevertheless, this reward mechanism generate operational coherence opportunities at a national scale.

#### *Cash-Based Assistance*

Cash Based Interventions (CBI) are at the core of integrating sectoral responses, and helping the host-country's economy when distributing long-term aid to refugees and migrants. However, CBI itself mandates a high level of coordination among the RPRM platform with national and sub-regional platforms. This means additional technical designs are needed to be implemented to track available funds for cash-based interventions and monitor their impact on the livelihood of communities. Support Spaces and urban coordination bodies provide an opportunity to monitor cash-based expenditures and evaluate the efficacy of distributing aid through this system. A regional working group for CBI is meant to be created within the regional platform (RMRP, 2019), which will be responsible for: A) the delivery of multi-purpose cash transfers, so that beneficiaries can meet their basic needs, on the basis of strict vulnerability targeting criteria; and B) provision of technical support to strengthen the sectoral and multi-sectoral

coordination of this response modality, implemented by several RMRP partners. The CBI working group will consist of three thematic working groups to promote coordination in monitoring the use of cash transfers by beneficiaries. These include a group on beneficiary targeting (improving coordination and complementarity of existing cash transfer programs), a group on methodology to establish the value of cash transfers – needs assessment, and a group to work with service providers to elaborate financial products tailored to the needs of the target population- facilitating the financial inclusion.

One may ask what challenges aside from lack of monetary resources prevent the use of CBIs? For one, the CBI working group must have the necessary capacities that would prevent the system from being abused by unrecognized groups and activities. Previous reports detail instances where humanitarian cash-based assistance programs were hijacked by the Houthi militias, jeopardizing UNHCR's impartiality (McDonald, 2019). On the other hand, cash-based assistance in Ecuador requires Venezuelans to present an ID in order to open a bank account. However not all Venezuelans have an ID or passport, particularly irregular migrants. Even if they do, refugees might be refused bank administrative assistance by bank owners due to their lack of information regarding refugees' legal rights. Moreover, unlike other countries in the region, the Ecuadorian government does not provide information or identity cards for Venezuelans. Therefore, cash-based interventions are limited to a small number of selected Venezuelans with legal IDs. As much as CBI presents an opportunity for integrating development and humanitarian funding streams in helping the host country's economy, it may not be a practical solution unless certain policies and monitoring systems are in place.

## 7. Gaps in Coherence Practices: Elements Hindering Coherence

Although the regional inter-agency coordination platform is essential to create a coherent response across the region and within governments, it is focused on the Venezuelan situation and does not address other refugee populations (i.e. Colombians). The Venezuelan situation is considered an emergency in need of long-term response planning. On the other hand, the Colombians and other refugee-like situations are overshadowed by the influx of Venezuelans despite their similar circumstances and needs. Although the number of Colombians permanently residing in Ecuador has risen over the years, the number of incoming Colombians is not expected to change.

Venezuelan or not, the Ecuadorian government rarely addresses the needs of its refugees and asylum seekers within its national programs. Our findings are in line with those of the IMF, which notes the Ecuadorian government's avoidance of the term 'refugees' within its news media and instead, uses "human mobility" or "movilidad humana" to publicize the programs associated with incoming migrants (Jeffrey D.Pugh, Luis F. Jimenez, 2020). The Ecuadorian government has rarely provided any public information on its response program for integrating refugees and migrants within its regional development programs. Its lack of public information on financial activities does not help either. The expected financial needs to address the refugee crisis are available through UNHCR, however information on funds provided by NGOs and donors, as well as information on the government's financial capacity for long-term solutions are not available. The lack of financial resources has put the emphasis on humanitarian and emergency response, through UNHCR, and integration programs are limited to recognized refugees. Also, the lack of unified information on Ecuador's general development programs may indicate a lack of international support for government-led initiatives for integrating humanitarian and development funding streams for integration programs and internal development assistance to host communities.

While recognizing the limits of desk research, our analysis identifies potential strategic and operational limitations that, if accurate, hinder coherence activities or, at minimum, highlight a lack of transparency in ongoing efforts. Specifically, we present five major themes that might merit greater attention for coherence to be institutionalized:

1. The Mis-adoption of global frameworks for migration and development.
2. Lack of national coordination
3. Restricted refugee intakes and visa requirements
4. Lack of Data Visibility
5. Lack of Transparency

### 7.1. Further integration of Global Frameworks for Migration and Development in National Policies

In 2019, the Ecuadorian government adopted the Sustainable Development Goals to reduce inequality and facilitate safe and orderly "mobility" for refugees and migrants (Secretaria Técnica de Planificación Ecuador, 2019). However, these goals have yet to be acknowledged within National Development

Plans. The adoption of SDGs by the Ecuadorian government has contributed to their national policies on migration and development for the global compact on migration (GCM), but falls short of specifically discussing the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. For example, the Ecuadorian government has compared their national development plans to the SDG objectives in complementary documents (Secretaria Técnica de Planificación Ecuador, 2019). But rarely do these documents address the protection of refugees and their inclusion in national plans. Instead, the SDGs are used as a framework to argue for reducing inequality for all populations and to support human mobility laws.

As discussed in previous sections of this report, while supporting migration, the sustainable development goals do not specifically address refugee management and humanitarian response. Instead, these emphases are found in the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) and the Comprehensive Response Plan of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which are complementary to the SDGs. By adopting only the SDGs, the Ecuadorian government may fall short of ensuring policy coherence for development and humanitarian response to refugee and migrant crises. Similarly, the Migration Governance Indicators, which the Ecuadorian government has not published its country MGI profile, acknowledge migrant rights and its integration within national development programs but does not provide targeted attention towards forcibly displaced persons such as refugees and asylum seekers. Therefore, the MGIs will not be entirely applicable in measuring coherence coordination mechanisms between humanitarian and development programs. Clearly, the challenges facing the Ecuadorian government are partly due to the global community's imprecise measures for tracking policy impacts and efficacy of humanitarian and development coherence.

## 7.2. Lack of National Infrastructure

Our literature review characterizes Ecuador's ministerial structure and decentralized governance and, in turn, reveals a lack of national coordination in response to protracted refugee crisis. Responsible ministries in providing services to Venezuelans are identified in response to UNHCR's request for a national cooperation framework (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, 2019), yet we have not identified the coordinating entity in the role of monitoring and evaluating progress. Ecuador's national planning group (Secretaría Técnica Planificación) seems to be the only coordinating body responsible for assessing progress on SDGs and coordinating across ministries to report on progress towards Ecuador's National Plan for Good Living. In their latest national plan, Ecuador aims to support all persons, regardless of their race and background. However, there is no direct reference to refugees and asylum seekers. While explicit mention of race and background may be promising on paper, in practice xenophobia, lack of financial resources, and country's economic difficulties hinder the socio-economic inclusion of all migrants.

The government has taken measures to address these issues, including reducing xenophobia against Venezuelans (RMRP, 2019) and improving upon its 0.5 percent negative economic growth in the past years (Emilio Fernandez Corugedo, 2019). These social and economic pressures may be the reason the government has restricted policies in granting refugee status or granting Venezuelans formal IDs, also known as Border Mobility Cards.

As seen in Figure 3, below, Ecuador has a 0.2 percent refugee acceptance rate for Venezuelans (Data, 2018). Out of 11,000 applicants, 5000 have been rejected. The government has drastically reduced



granting refugee status to Venezuelan asylum seekers. These policies only exacerbate the number of persons with uncertain circumstances within the country with no access to country's services and as a result hindering socio-economic coherence within the Ecuadorian community.

Lack of financial resources has also led to a focused emergency response to the Venezuelan situation. Pushing development programs and providing service to refugee and migrant populations aside. Lack of international support to the development program may not only be to lack of international financial availability but also it may be due to Ecuador's insufficient infrastructure in streamlining international development assistance. The government may not have sufficient resources to report on activities or to create a timely, and effective strategies to spend the ODA. Lack of transparency, mechanisms to track progress across authorities, or lack of local resources to reflect on integration activities from the bottom-up are all possibilities that would hinders potential collaboration between humanitarian and development programs.

### Figure 3 Asylum applications for foreign refugees in Ecuador

The total number of initial and continuing applications refers to the year 2018. Please note that the number of decisions (acceptations or rejections) does not have to sum up with the number of applications, because there may still have been open cases from previous years. Also they dont have to be closed within the same calendar year. In addition, asylum procedures can also be closed, if the applicant disappeared or withdrew the application.






Origin	New Applications				Reviews			
	applied	accepted	rejected	acceptance rate	applied	accepted	rejected	acceptance rate
 Venezuela	11,350	10	5,907	0.2 %	0	0	0	
 Colombia	5,264	4,468	1,057	80.9 %	0	0	0	
 Yemen	74	50	27	64.9 %	0	0	0	
 Syria	56	63	17	78.8 %	0	0	0	
 Cuba	54	0	27	0.0 %	0	0	0	

Figure 2 Source <https://www.worlddata.info/america/ecuador/asylum.php>

### 7.3.Restricted Refugee In-takes and Visa Requirements

By definition a refugee has “a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group”(UNHCR, 1951)<sup>12</sup>. While some Venezuelans fit into this category, most Venezuelans have fled their country voluntarily due to profound economic and political crises leading to a systematic violation of human rights (Praag, 2019). Although, the definition of a refugee was expanded in the Cartagena Declaration of 1984, the Ecuadorian government fails to grant all Venezuelans refugee status. Out of 350,000 Venezuelans living in Ecuador by the end of 2019, only a fraction are registered refugees. Out of 70 thousand registered refugees within Ecuador, 95% are Colombians. The rest of the Venezuelan population are either considered asylum seekers and, if not accepted as refugees, are considered as migrants. The latter group is required to apply for separate visas prior to entering Ecuador's territory.

<sup>12</sup> The 1951 Refugee Convention <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/3b66c2aa10>



In 2019, the UN General Assembly intervened in the unlawful acts of the Ecuadorian government mandating visas from Venezuelan asylum seekers entering the country (UNHCR, 2019b). Prior to this policy change, Ecuador was recognized for its liberal protection laws for migrants and refugees (Jeffrey D.Pugh, Luis F. Jimenez, 2020). Between 2016 and mid 2019 Ecuador maintained an ‘open door’ policy that allowed more than 1.7 million refugees and migrants from Venezuela to enter the country in a regular manner – facilitated by an identity document from the country of origin (RMRP, 2019). However, since 2019, Ecuador has hardened its requirements to grant refugee status to asylum seekers. The issuing of Executive Decree No. 826 on July 26th, 2019 and subsequent Ministerial Resolution 000103/2019, established the requirement for Venezuelan nationals to obtain an entry visa prior to arriving at the border with Ecuador. The policy change is largely considered a result of President Moreno blaming Venezuelans for social insecurity and the associated social backlash and xenophobia (Jeffrey D.Pugh, Luis F. Jimenez, 2020).

With such measures, the number of Venezuelan entries to Ecuador has drastically decreased from about 2000 per day to about 23(RMRP, 2019). The number of overall registered refugees are reported to be almost 70 per month as for February 29 2020<sup>13</sup>. These numbers indicate slower refugee acceptance rates, with the resulting lower levels of protection for asylum seekers and migrants. This is due, in part, to the policy of the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana, which states only those granted refugee status are eligible for protection rights.<sup>14</sup>

Ministry of Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana lays out the conditions for granting refugee status based on UNHCR’s definition of refugee. Refugee status brings with it other rights and benefits, including financial support, employment, education, and so on<sup>15</sup>. Granting refugee status requires Venezuelans to apply for a 180-day temporary visa. Later, based on the decisions made on refugee applications, Venezuelans may need to apply for visa renewals. Otherwise, Venezuelans become ‘irregular migrants’ and must leave Ecuador<sup>16</sup>. Visa renewal may include applying for a temporary 2-year visa, which requires a \$240 fee, a passport, and a criminal history check<sup>17</sup>. After two-years, their financial and economic status will be used to assess their eligibility for a permanent visa. These conditions are very restricted for the Venezuelans who are fleeing the economic crisis in Venezuela.

#### 7.4. Lack of Data Visibility

RMRP report identifies the lack of information as one of the major barriers for refugees to exercise their rights and gain access to education and health (UNHCR, 2020). Our analysis of government websites confirms the lack of important information for incoming refugees and migrants. The only information currently available concerns visa requirements, which requires all entering Venezuelans to obtain a 180-day tourist visa prior to attempting to enter the country.

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<sup>13</sup>Based on the Ecuadorian Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/informacion-sobre-refugio/>

<sup>14</sup> Based on the government’s requirements for Venezuelans refugees

<https://www.gob.ec/index.php/mremh/tramites/concesion-visa-visitante-temporal-especial-turista>

<sup>15</sup> Based on Government’s visa requirements for Venezuelans

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/plataforma-visas/>

<sup>16</sup> As of August 2020 Venezuelans entering Ecuador can regularize their stay by accessing immigration amnesty.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.consuladovirtual.gob.ec/web/guest/inicio>

This lack of information extends itself across government entities and national authorities. Seeking to understand the responsibilities of various government entities at national and sub-national levels, as well as their interactions with development and humanitarian partners, we found limited information. Coherence best practices encourage governments to establish comprehensive coordinating bodies for inter-governmental, multi-lateral and multi-stakeholder coordination. In particular, the CRRF provides guidelines for governments to take a leadership role in bringing humanitarian and development actors together.

## 7.5. Lack of Transparency

Our literature review suggests similar results as MPI's report regarding Ecuador's response to Colombian and Venezuelan Refugees. Generally, the Venezuelan crisis has overshadowed that of Colombia. The visibility of the Venezuelancrisis is largely due to the IOM/UNHCR Regional Response, bringing international attention to the severity of the crisis. Consequently, most publicly available documents on refugee response within Ecuador are concerned with the Venezuelan situation. Therefore, our analyses are biased towards the Venezuelan response. Meanwhile, others in refugee-like circumstances, such as but not limited to Colombians, face challenges such as finding employment, housing, and enrolling kids in school, lack of proper documentation, and social discrimination due to xenophobia. Although the Colombians have been fleeing to Ecuador since early 2000, we have not found any comprehensive response from the national government addressing their needs. Therefore, we conclude, Ecuador's Venezuelan response is driven by international and regional cooperation. The Ecuadorian government has barely provided any relevant information on their assistance to Colombians and in certain circumstances it seems like they are not providing the true number of persons in need. Figures 4 and 5 indicate government's lack of transparency in publicizing the number of incoming asylum seekers and migrants; limiting the reporting to only the numbers of recognized refugees. We were unable to find any other publicized information from the government regarding the number of Venezuelans and Colombians residing in Ecuador.

Neither of Ecuador's national plans (2013-2017 and 2019-2021) talk of refugees or migrants directly. They mostly use "human mobility" to include programs regarding foreign persons (personas extranjas). The Ecuadorian government only has a ministry for human mobility and similar language is used in all policy documents produced by the government entities. This finding of ours is similar to the report by MPI which presents the infrequent use of the word "refugee" and "UNHCR" across Ecuadorian news media since 2012 while human mobility has appeared more frequently according to an analysis of more than 800 newspaper articles (Jeffrey D.Pugh, Luis F. Jimenez, 2020).

This lack of transparency from the government may hinder coherence. Lack of transparency and support has generated distrust of the Ecuadorian government by Colombians and Venezuelans alike (Jeffrey D.Pugh, Luis F. Jimenez, 2020). In turn, irregular movements and illegal activities increase; making it harder for international community to provide support in the protracted crises, while at the same time hindering coherence. Figure 4 somewhat communicates Ecuadorian government's avoidance to grant all Venezuelans refugee status unless they fit the UNHCR's classic definition of refugees. Only 68,000 out of 350,000 Venezuelans in Ecuador are registered as refugees and as a result, only a fraction of the Venezuelans are represented in the data.

Figure 4 Issues of data visibility

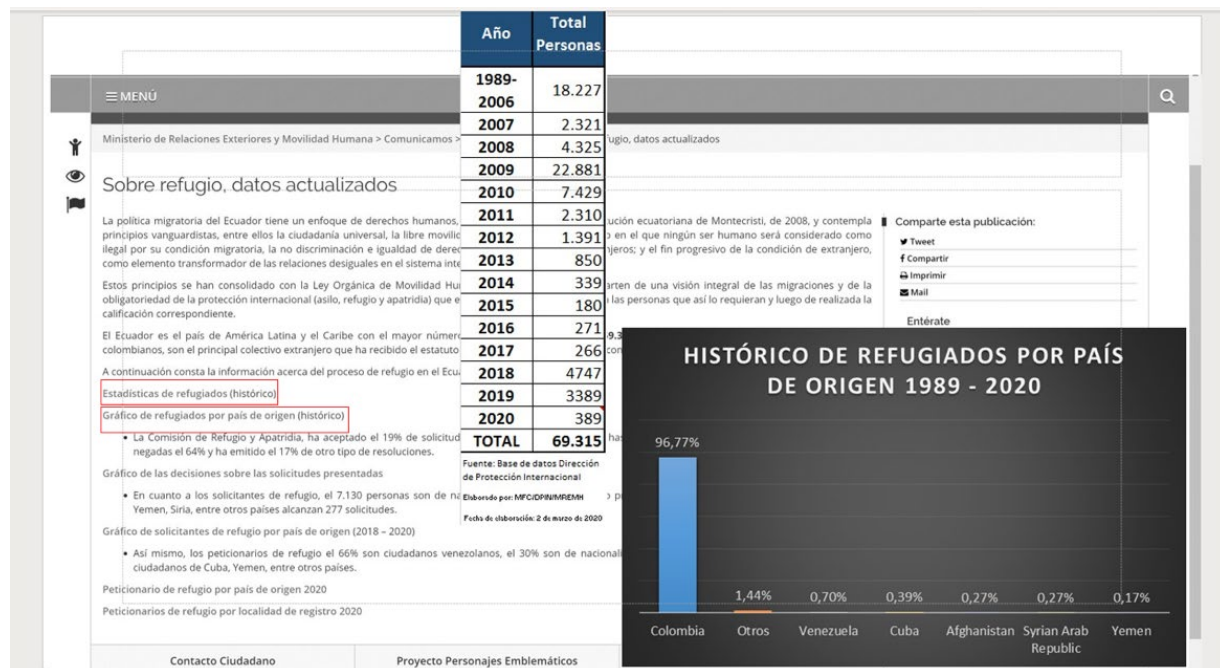


Figure 3 source: Made by Author and adopted from the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Gráfico de refugiados por país de origen (histórico) accessed March 2020 <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/2020/06/18/sobre-refugio-datos-actualizados/>

## 8. Observations

The observations presented here derive from our overarching review of 42 policy documents and other supporting information accessed online, and reflect the elements having implications for coordination coherence at regional and national governance levels. In particular, our observations derive from two major approaches: 1) pointing out coherence practices that are currently common across organizational, national, sectoral, and operational stakeholders; 2) identifying capacities for improving coherence practices based on existing coordination gaps. Insights from these observations are categorized in four major themes, namely Global Framework for Refugees and Development, Regional and National Coordination Mechanisms, Data Visibility and Transparency, and Refugee and Migrant Rights. These themes subsequently will be used to generate coherence metrics.

### 8.1. Adoption of Global Frameworks for Refugees and Development

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Plan (CRRF) (UNGA: UN General Assembly, 2016) specifically addresses the integration of development and humanitarian programs in response to protracted refugee crisis. CRRF advocates for refugee hosting governments serving in a leadership role, coordinating humanitarian and development activities. Although we acknowledge that not all governments may have the capacity to implement CRRF, it is important for the international community to support governments for this purpose. While the Ecuadorian government's adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals provides a mechanism for handling migration issues within the context of development, it has yet to specify the means of doing so. Also, the SDGs are not applicable to the context of emergencies. Therefore, we believe support for developing a national CRRF plan in Ecuador could provide a valuable link between development and humanitarian efforts that extends from the time of crisis into longer-term development programs.

### 8.2. Regional and National Coordination Mechanisms

Regional coordination mechanisms facilitate inter-governmental coherence across refugee hosting countries in response to a mutual crisis. Regional coordinating platforms ensure countries are held accountable and are following international guidelines for protection of human rights. The Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform, and the Ecuadorian Coordinating platform known as Grupo de Trabajo sobre Refugiado y Migrantes (GTRM) are international coordinating platforms co-led by UNHCR and IOM to provide support to the regional countries with the emergency response to the Venezuelan situation. These platforms work closely with national authorities and sub-national governments and provide transparency of national and regional progress through online websites and reports. Especially when a government lacks infrastructure to collect and disseminate data, regional coordination mechanisms are valuable. However, regional coordination cannot replace the important horizontal and vertical coordination coherence requires within nation states. Therefore, where regional coordination is strong, international institutions should assess and potentially invest in building intra-governmental coordinating capacities at national and sub-national levels.

### 8.3.Data Visibility and Transparency

Understanding funding mechanisms allocated from multilateral and bilateral donors would provide insight to how aid is prioritized. For example, how much of international aid is allocated towards reducing inequality among all populations including refugees, asylum seekers, host communities and so on. Currently lack of financial resources from humanitarian actors has caused a one-sided approach to emergency and humanitarian aid for Venezuelans. as a result, less funding is allocated towards development programs to follow up on SDGs and the integration of all refugees and migrants within the host community. publicizing institutional and government capacities and financial resources will help with building capacities where needed, and prioritizing resources for sustainable response to the refugee crisis. For example, an alternative approach would be to prioritize the economy of host governments in building capacities for the integration of migrants and refugees in oppose to investing on short-term emergency needs of refugees. However, this goal cannot be achieved unless both humanitarian and development actors communicate data, information, and their available funds. Nevertheless, these decisions must be informed by operational level achievements, hinderances, and opportunities.

Regional governments, community centers, aid workers, civil societies, and NGOs all provide opportunities to gain insight on organic coherence practices that could be translated into strategic metrics. Sustainable and flexible data collection mechanisms must be established or reinforced for the better roll-over of information from operational level to strategic policy makers. In Ecuador, operational level coordination bodies such as the support spaces or urban coordination bodies can be very helpful to reflect on the needs of all populations and create horizontal coherence on an operational level. Coherence therefore is not merely a top-down process; policy coherence is the means and the result of operational level coherence and both require transparent data practices that can be used for financial assessments and aid distributions. We hope to study operational coherence in the future to not only identify coherence practices that are naturally in place but discuss ways that those practices can become visible to policy makers and organizations.

### 8.4.Refugee Recognition and Migrant Rights

The number of accepted refugees IN Ecuador has drastically been reduced to only those who fit UNHCR's definition. This approach certainly excludes protection rights towards other asylum seekers who do not fit this definition. But needless to say, it may be at Ecuador's best interest to accept the numbers that fit the country's available resources. Although it is not so simple to assume Venezuelan migrants will not attempt to enter Ecuador. The Ecuadorian recent policies frames Venezuelan migrants as illegal if not obtained a temporary humanitarian visa. Even if visas are issued, no access to jobs or fundamental humanitarian needs will exacerbate Venezuelan situations within Ecuador. Moreover, irregular movement, human trafficking, sexual abuse, and other abusive behavior may occur when Venezuelans try to avoid visa requirements. Such irregularities will lead to inaccurate statistics and number of refugees and migrants who are within Ecuadorian borders. Naturally, this will hinder coherence since actual needs of the population are unknown and cannot be addressed. Currently the government asks for a fee to grant legal permission for temporary stay within the country.

The Ecuadorian government solely uses the number of official refugees, regardless of total Venezuelans in need, to structure its development programs. This lack of transparency in the total number of refugees and migrants will make it difficult to measure coherence in that many of the goals of coherence- such as integrating refugees into government programs. If actual number of refugees and

migrants are not accounted for, coherence metrics will only reveal program-specific successes and failures and will fall short of a true systematic assessment. So clearly a metric should be a clear and consistent reporting of refugee and migrant numbers, which can serve as a denominator of numbers integrated into government programs.

## 9. GENDER ANALYSES: No Refuge for Women

Here we will focus on the most problematic elements in gender inclusion in coherence programs. We acknowledge that positive elements and practices exist and position opportunities for coherence based on cultural and social activities on community levels. However, focusing on the problems facing the most vulnerable, our gender analysis reflects issues of gender-based violence and their inclusion in development programs.

States, international agencies, and other humanitarian actors have increased their focus on the rights and needs of displaced women and girls since the 1990's. There exist multiple frameworks and policy recommendations for host countries and international organizations, resulting in hundreds of local interventions designed to address women's specific safety needs in both humanitarian and early development assistance efforts.<sup>18</sup> However, refugee women remain more affected by violence than any other population of women in the world, and at dire risk of physical and sexual violence both inside camps and in host communities.<sup>19</sup> Rape remains a constant threat and an underreported one, although noted global trauma expert Richard Mollica found that 95 percent of the Cambodian women in refugee camps had experiences of unwanted sexual encounters, abuse, or rape.<sup>20</sup> In "The Irony of Refuge: Gender-Based Violence against Female Refugees in Africa," Miller drives the point that there is no refuge for women who are forced into lives in refugee settings that make them increasingly susceptible to violence for all the well-documented reasons<sup>21</sup> - rampant domestic partner abuse, food and sanitation dynamics, abusive security and humanitarian professional staff, and little chance of recourse. It is due to this lack of recourse that so many instances of gender-based violence (GBV) remain underreported and under-prioritized, and at the core of all other gender inequities faced by women and girls. To create gender recommendations for an information-centric approach to coherence, we can extrapolate indicators and approximate baselines from both national gender statistics and specific refugee studies in Ecuador.

### 9.1. Ecuador's women – development despite machismo

In 2017, Ecuador adopted the Human Mobility Law to codify adherence to international standards for refugee protection, including civil registration and issuance of ID cards to refugees, although 45% of Venezuelan refugees have been unable to successfully register. With services going to refugees and not Ecuadorian communities facing economic strain, local tensions between refugees and native Ecuadorians run high, exacerbating the well-documented xenophobia outsiders face.

There are dozens of respected international gender equality indices, with various methodological approaches. Most concentrate on economic empowerment and political participation, indicators that are not directly germane to refugees who are not citizens of the host country. As we know from systemic urban-rural and socioeconomic divides within countries, many developing countries with women in positions of State power do not enjoy the same level of women's representation among poor communities such as the host communities where refugees often try to assimilate. Some generally representative indicators for the host countries include the following reports.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/23/44>

<sup>19</sup> Vulnerable Women's Project. 2009. "The Vulnerable Women's Project: Refugee and Asylum Seeking Women Affected by Rape or Sexual Violence - Literature Review." London: Refugee Council.

<sup>20</sup> Mollica R. Cambodian refugee women at risk. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association; 1986.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.du.edu/korbel/hrhw/researchdigest/minority/Africa.pdf>



**General Ecuadorian and gender data:** The UN Women Database on Gender Based violence lists GBV prevalence in Ecuador at 40.4%<sup>22</sup>, although other UN Women reports list this as high as 70% in low socioeconomic groups.<sup>23</sup> There is little political will to prioritize gender equality in the National Development Plan, which contains no targets to address gender gaps.<sup>24</sup> Furthermore, “Ecuadorian society in general has a strong machista component. “Appropriate” gender roles between men and women are largely seen as fixed and being a woman, by itself, ratchets up GBV vulnerability.”<sup>25</sup>

The UN Gender Data Portal lists 47% of Ecuadorian girls attend some secondary school; women make up 24.6% and 64.4% of Ecuador’s agricultural and service workforce respectively and have a life expectancy of 79.4 years.<sup>26</sup> UNHCR lists the Venezuelan refugee number in Ecuador at 380,000, a 158% increase in refugees from the year before, and a change in refugee population from primarily Colombian to now Venezuelan-dominated.<sup>27</sup>

**World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report 2020**, which comprises statistics from other international organizations across four key dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment. Ecuador ranks 48<sup>th</sup> across 153 countries, down 7 places from the 2018 report.<sup>28</sup> It is unclear if refugee women are part of the 2020 sampling or if the decline in Ecuador’s ranking has to do in some part to the large influx of refugees into Ecuador.<sup>29</sup>

**Social Progress Index:** The Social Progress Index (SPI) includes fifty-four indicators that assess a country’s efforts to provide for the social and environmental needs of their citizens and is based on work by such Nobel laureates as Sen and Stiglitz. Ecuador ranks 52 out of 128 countries in the 2019 Social Progress Index (SPI).<sup>30</sup> SPI indicators are listed in Appendix I. It is unclear if refugee communities were part of the sample.

**HDR reports:** In 2020, the theme of the UNDP Human Development Report (HDR) was “Tackling Social Norms: a game changer for gender inequalities.” This report issued the first Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI), which measures how social norms affect gender equality. Overall, this index demonstrated that bias against gender equality is increasing, and that 91 percent of men and 86 percent of women hold a clear bias against gender equality. In Ecuador, 93% of both men and women surveyed hold at least one heavy bias against women’s equality.<sup>31</sup> The HDR also contains other important gender indices. The Gender Inequality Index (GII) measures gender gaps across health, empowerments as defined by education level and parliamentary representation, and economic status, expressed by labor force participation rates. Ecuador is ranked 90 out of 162 countries.<sup>32</sup> The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is another HDR index that specifically measures standards of living and vulnerability contexts of 101 developing

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<sup>22</sup> <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/americas/ecuador>

<sup>23</sup> <https://lac.unwomen.org/en/donde-estamos/ecuador>

<sup>24</sup> *ibid*

<sup>25</sup> <https://s33660.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/GBV-Urban-Refugees-in-Ecuador-2015.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/gender/country/ecuador>

<sup>27</sup> <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/2543>

<sup>28</sup> [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> The United States ranks 53<sup>rd</sup>.

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.socialprogress.org/?code=UGA>

<sup>31</sup> [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hd\\_perspectives\\_gsni.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hd_perspectives_gsni.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> *ibid*



countries and measures progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Ecuador has a Global MPI score of 0.013 – meaning that the percentage of people in severe poverty and destitution is low, at .8%, and in the middle of Latin American and Caribbean countries (Appendix II).<sup>33</sup>

## 9.2. Women Refugees

There are multiple declarations and policies that explicitly call for the protection of women and other vulnerable populations in refugee and IDP camps – the IOM/UNHCR Standard Operating Procedure for Prevention of and Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence<sup>34</sup>; Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings: Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies<sup>35</sup>; UNHCR’s Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Guidelines for Prevention and Response<sup>36</sup>; Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (UNICEF)<sup>37</sup>, and many more. However, these international decrees have little bearing on the lives of female refugees who face myriad gender-based challenges. First, they often suffer extreme SGBV (Sexual and Gender Based Violence) in their home countries prior to making the migration to refugee camps and host communities; rapes and sexual extortion are common along the route, especially for unaccompanied young women.

Many refugees in Ecuador are women heads of households, who are vulnerable to exploitation and discrimination. Many turn to prostitution for their livelihoods, although there are no figures, just anecdotal data. Óscar Sánchez-Piñeiro, a head of one of the country’s UNHCR offices, states, “Survival sex is the cruelest aspect of exploitation to which refugee women in Ecuador are exposed on a daily basis. Combatting this type of violation of the rights of refugee women is definitely the biggest challenge for us.” “We know that it is impossible to move forward to reach equality, development, and peace without protecting refugee women from this serious form of violence.”<sup>38</sup>

Cash and Voucher programs led by NGOs and multilateral development agencies have shown success in pilot program to reduce sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and reduce the need for female refugees to pursue prostitution. However, recommendations from these pilots include involving Ecuadorian women as well as refugee women to manage tensions and discord between these populations.<sup>39</sup> UNFPA and UN Women are also employing multipurpose cash transfers to women to counter GBV, trafficking and sexual exploitation. These programs are small – up to a few thousand women beneficiaries total.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> [https://ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CB\\_ECU\\_2019\\_2.pdf](https://ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CB_ECU_2019_2.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/sgbv-toolkit/policy-and-standards/>

<sup>35</sup> IASC. 2005. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings: Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies. <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/439474c74.html>.

<sup>36</sup> UNHCR. 2003. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Guidelines for Prevention and Response. At: <http://www.unhcr.org/47cfae612.html>.

<sup>37</sup> Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (UNICEF 2003)

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/stories/2014/5/53738c839/dilemma-faces-female-colombian-refugees.html>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/blog/cash-and-voucher-assistance-works-to-protect-displaced-women-from-gender-based-violence-in-ecuador/>

<sup>40</sup> [https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/18-RR-ECU-32097-NR01\\_Ecuador\\_RCHC.Report.pdf](https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/18-RR-ECU-32097-NR01_Ecuador_RCHC.Report.pdf)

There is no GBV database such as the UNHRC-led GBVIMS<sup>41</sup>, and no national or sub-national statistics on SGBV rates for refugee women in Ecuador. The closest study is a rapid assessment conducted by CARE in Colombia, which found instances of refugee women becoming sex and labor slaves in order to secure shelter, and that in some regions in Colombia, 90% of the sex workers were refugees from Venezuela.<sup>42</sup>

### 9.3.Recommendations

Many references state that the refugee crisis in Ecuador will likely worsen, with additional refugee flux and new austerity measures being instated in a recent agreement between Ecuador and the International Monetary Fund. Unfortunately, gender issues have not been a priority in refugee efforts, and no SGBV database for incidence reporting exists. While the UNHRC and other CSOs have sponsored some gender programming, the number of beneficiaries is small – 500 women in one area, 1000 in another.<sup>43</sup> Ecuador should sponsor a GBVIMS system in order to track instances of SGBV, although all recommendations consulted mention that any gender empowerment effort should include Ecuadorian women as well.

Growing and standardizing cash transfers to refugee women has demonstrated potential. Ecuador could build on the experiences of other refugee situations like Jordan, where there have been concerted cash transfer programs aimed at Syrian refugee women who, like their peers in Ecuador, live mainly within host communities.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> <http://gbvims.com/>

<sup>42</sup> [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CARERapidGenderAnalysis\\_Colombia\\_May2019.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CARERapidGenderAnalysis_Colombia_May2019.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/63088>

<sup>44</sup> [https://gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/381\\_Cash-based\\_Initiatives\\_in\\_Jordan.pdf](https://gsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/381_Cash-based_Initiatives_in_Jordan.pdf)

## 10. Implications for Metrics

UNHCR has published a framework for indicators to measure The Global Compact of Refugees (UNHCR, 2019a) in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. These indicators follow a more granular approach compared to the Migration Governance Index to monitor the progress in achieving the socio-economic inclusion and well-being of refugees within host communities. However, we consider socio-economic inclusion and well-being as outcome measures that fail to evaluate the processes involved in achieving livelihoods. To us, it is important to assess actors' activities in developing communication channels and coordination mechanisms for a new-way of work (*Humanitarian Development Nexus / OCHA*, n.d.). Following the lessons from MGI and GCR indicators we aim to develop coherence metrics to measure activities that would result in achieving sustainable development goals for the global compact of refugees and migrants. In order to optimize the activities between humanitarian and development entities in distributing aid, we first must be able to develop measures to evaluate gaps and opportunities in addressing the needs of refugees and their host communities. Using the recommendations projected in this report, we will translate strategic and operational coherence activities to coherence metrics.

In order to create consistency in developing coherence metrics and clarity for other researchers in the field, we follow the Indicator Framework presented by UNHCR for Global Compact on Refugees (UNHCR, 2019a). We will identify a number of objectives that contribute to coherence practices and their expected outcomes. The final metrics will propose evaluation measures to reflect on each of the corresponding outcomes. These metrics must be captured either through direct measurement or proxy measures. However, some metrics will be less measurable or would require collecting new data sets for measurements. Following the UNHCR framework, we distinguish between these metrics as Tier 1 and Tier 2. Tier 1 refers to metrics with clear conceptual definitions and measurable variables. Tier 2 refers to metrics with clear conceptual definitions but are complicated to quantitatively measure and would require more research. A diagram of the model extracted from the GCR Indicator Framework better explains the structure of the model (Figure 5).

In our policy translation report, we will propose methods and data sources to measure each of the metrics extracted from recommendations. For Tier 2 metrics we will lay out existing methods and resources. For Tier 2 metrics, we will propose methods for data collection and analysis.

**Figure 5 Outcome model of indicators for the Global Compact of Refugees**

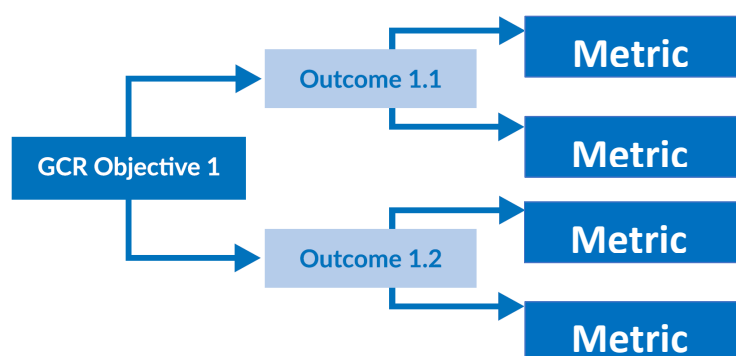


Figure 4 Source from the Global Compact of Refugee Indicator Framework by UNHCR (UNHCR, 2019a)

## 11. Conclusions

In this report we analyzed Ecuador's policies on regional and national levels to address the project's first objective to generate insights from national level coherence policy documents. The policy analysis was guided by one major question: What are the best practices for collaboration among development and humanitarian actors and how existing data can be used to inform collaboration potential among actors? Our evaluation is informed by a desk study of survey documents, progress reports, and meeting minutes that reflect on the achievements and obstacles facing both humanitarian and development actors in all scales of Ecuador's national governance. Through an analysis of policies, including Ecuador's national development plan, the Regional Response Plan to Refugees and Migrants, situational reports, Ministry Statements among other, we identified four thematic recommendations which are the building blocks for policy translation into coherence metrics (Refer to Recommendations in section 8).

Our case study of Ecuador identified the necessity for regional and inter-agency coordinating platforms such as GTRM. We also provided insights onto data visibility and governments role in creating transparency to facilitate coherence. However national capacities and socio-economic challenges must be considered. We also reflected on existing global metrics for measuring migration governance such the Migration Governance Metrics and its implications for coherence metrics. Although global development programs have recently acknowledged the contributions of migration on positive development practices, emergency response to refugee crises must become more explicit. Therefore, the MGIs must be expanded to better integrate humanitarian and emergency response within development programs. We use these recommendations and available resources on governance indicators to develop coherence metrics on strategic and operational level.

Developing scalable metric requires a comparative analysis across different contexts of study. We therefore will compare our findings from the case of Uganda to Ecuador and will develop comprehensive strategic metrics to be evaluated during in person interviews. These metrics will include both localized (context specific) and global metrics. The comprehensive comparative analysis would allow us to proceed with policy translation and distinguishing between scalable and local coherence metrics.

Moving forward, our future report will be comparing the Ugandan coherence policy recommendations with one's presented here from Ecuador. We will also conduct gender analysis of both Ecuador and Uganda policy documents in later report. Policy translations and metric should be detailed by the end of the third quarter in order to pursue with field interviews. Field interviews should be aimed at evaluating the practicality of the coherence metrics among all stakeholders such as NGO's, UN representatives, Government Actors and so on, who are present at the host countries.

Between the time of this report and Q3 report, we will track progress on gender analysis and forced migration analyses. We will also proceed with developing initial strategic metrics and initiate interviews to evaluate our findings and inform later operational coherence practices.

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## APPENDIX I: Sampled Documents

Data Portal	Key words and Filters	Available Documents	Selected Documents	Inclusion / Exclusion Criteria					
				Inclusion / Exclusion	Date of the report	Relevance: Coherence Policy Metric	Full/ draft	Sections: General Policy, Migration, Sectorial	Notes
UNHCR' RefWorld > Publisher UNHCR (55 documents)  <a href="https://www.refworld.org/country,,ECU,,,0.html">https://www.refworld.org/country,,ECU,,,0.html</a>	Refworld Ecuador > Publisher: UNHCR > Category: Policy Document > Topic: Right to Development , (1 document)		1. Statement of Good Practice on Targeting Development Assistance for Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement  <a href="https://www.refworld.org/country,POLICY,UNHCR,,ECU,,471dcaf27,0.html">https://www.refworld.org/country,POLICY,UNHCR,,ECU,,471dcaf27,0.html</a>	Included	2005	It presents previous work on the Framework on Durable Solutions for Refugees and Persons of Concern	Full	International General Objectives	Even Though a more outdated document, but may reflect on UNHCR's long lasting policies within Ecuador and other countries such as Uganda.
	Google Search From Doc #1		2. Framework for Durable Solutions For Refugees And Persons of Concern  <a href="https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/partners/partners/3f1408764/framework-durable-solutions-refugees-persons-concern.html">https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/partners/partners/3f1408764/framework-durable-solutions-refugees-persons-concern.html</a>	Included	2003	DAR: Development Assistance for Refugees 4Rs: Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction DLI: Development through Local Integration	Full	General International Frameworks	Was Referenced in Document #1. It is important to acknowledge that sustainable development efforts and including refugees have been a topic of discussion

									in the past decades.
	Refworld Ecuador > Publisher: UNHCR > Topic: Refugees > Universal Periodic Review (5 Documents)	Other documents in this category were older and excluded	3. Submission by the UNHCR for Refugees for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Compilation Report- Universal Periodic Review 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cycle <a href="https://www.refworld.org/publisher,UNHCR,COUNTRYREP,ECU,58ee427e4,0.html">https://www.refworld.org/publisher,UNHCR,COUNTRYREP,ECU,58ee427e4,0.html</a>	Included	Latest Document : 2016	Refugee rights (Freedom of movement, work, etc) within Ecuador	Full	International Framework/ Ecuador General Policy	It is somewhat outdated so it is focused on Colombian Refugees and not Venezuelans.
	Refworld Ecuador > Publisher: UNHCR> Type: Country Operation Plans	Country Operations Plan 2008-2009		Excluded	Outdated 2009				
		COUNTRY OPERATIONS PLANOVERVIEW		Excluded	Outdated 2006				
UNHCR' RefWorld Ecuador (857 available documents)	Refworld > Asylum Seekers > 1951 Refugee Convention		4. UNHCR's intervention before the Constitutional Court of Ecuador in the framework of Public Unconstitutionality Action <a href="https://www.refworld.org/docid/5e15dd864.html">https://www.refworld.org/docid/5e15dd864.html</a>	Included	2019	This document discusses the constitutionality of Ecuador's decision in requiring background checks from Venezuelan refugees	full	International Law	This document advocates for the protection of Venezuelans whose conditions are in line with Cartagena's definition of refugees
	Refworld > Asylum Seekers > 1984	Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, Colloquium on		Excluded	1984				This document focuses on

	Cartagena Declaration	the International Protection of Refugees in Central America, Mexico and Panama <a href="https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b36ec.htm">https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b36ec.htm</a> !							central America
ReliefWeb Ecuador	ReliefWeb Ecuador > Publisher: Government of Ecuador > Protection and Human Rights (82 document results)		5. Monitorio de proteccion MIES- ACNUR (Mayo-Agosto de 2019) <a href="https://reliefweb.int/report/ecuador/monitoreo-de-proteccion-mies-acnur-mayo-agosto-2019-ecuador">https://reliefweb.int/report/ecuador/monitoreo-de-proteccion-mies-acnur-mayo-agosto-2019-ecuador</a>	Included	2019	Includes a study of Social Integration and protection of Venezuelans in Ecuador	Full	National Protection Cycle Report	
	ReliefWeb Ecuador> Vulnerable Groups> Refugees (299 document results)		6. Rapid Assessment of Markets <a href="https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/1560971575.MARKET%20ASSESSMENT%20REPORT_WVECUADOR.pdf">https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/1560971575.MARKET%20ASSESSMENT%20REPORT_WVECUADOR.pdf</a>	Included	2019	Assessment on economic integration	full	National Development Report	
			7. Protection monitoring of Venezuelan Situation <a href="https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20Protection%20Monitoring%20Report%20for%20VenSit%20-%20EN%20-%20July%202019.pdf">https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20Protection%20Monitoring%20Report%20for%20VenSit%20-%20EN%20-%20July%202019.pdf</a>	Included	2019	Refugee Situations		Sectoral Report: Venezuelan Refugee Protection Report	

UNHCR Global Focus	UNHCR Global Focus > Situations: Venezuela > Americas		8. The Americas <a href="http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/ga2020/pdf/Chapter_Americas.pdf">http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/ga2020/pdf/Chapter_Americas.pdf</a>	Included	2020	Update on the Venezuelan Situation in the Americas	Full	Venezuela Regional Report	
Ministerio De Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana	From Google Search: This document was referenced in the GTRM and RMRP Q&A document.		9. International Cooperation Framework for the National Response to Venezuelans on the Move in Ecuador <a href="https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2018/12/international_cooperation_framework.pdf">https://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2018/12/international_cooperation_framework.pdf</a>	Included	2019	Cooperation Objectives and strategic plans	Full	National Response Framework to the Venezuelan Emergency Response	Due to an increase in emergency assistance to Ecuador from international community, Ecuadorian Government published this framework.
R4v Ecuador (76 Documents)	R4V Ecuador > Situation Reports (14 documents in Spanish and English)	Only the 2019 Reports were selected and only the latest one was included in analyses	10. Situational Report August <a href="https://r4v.info/en/situations/platform/location/7512">https://r4v.info/en/situations/platform/location/7512</a>	Included	2019	Reflects on both humanitarian and development action taken place on the ground	full	National operational reports by R4V	considering protection, food, and shelter emergency response and Education, livelihood, and social cohesion as development action
		Protection monitoring of Venezuelan Situation <a href="https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20Protection%20">https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20Protection%</a>		Excluded					Was Previously Found in ReliefWeb

		<a href="#">20Monitoring%20Report%20for%20VenSit%20-%20EN%20-%20July%202019.pdf</a>							
			11. The GTRM and the RMRP in Ecuador Questions and Answers <a href="https://r4v.info/en/documents/details/68191">https://r4v.info/en/documents/details/68191</a>	Included	2019	Information on Ecuador's Coordination Structure	full	International Coordination among different working groups	
	R4V Ecuador > Regional Response Plans (3 Documents)		12. RMRP: Refugees and Migrants Response Plan 2020	Included	2020	Provides insight onto regional response and coordination mechanisms	Full	International Framework on Regional Response to the Venezuelan Crisis	Included
			13. Refugee and Migrant Response Plan 2020 One Pager	Included	2020	Summary on Regional Migrant Population, Budgetary Requirements, and Sector Specific Needs and Priorities	Full	Summary Report	Interestingly all reports regarding RMRP have host population included as targeted persons of interest next to Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants. + Integration is considered a new sectoral response. MIES is probably

									responsible for it.
R4V Coordination Platform	R4V Coordination Platform> Regional Response > Funding (5 Documents)		14. Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan Funding Report <a href="https://r4v.info/en/documents/details/73413">https://r4v.info/en/documents/details/73413</a>	Included	2019	Funding requirements for each country in the region responding to the Venezuelan crises	full	Financial Tracking	There are 3 reports Dec 1 <sup>st</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , and 31 <sup>st</sup> and I chose the latest
	R4V Coordination Platform> Regional Response (722 Documents)		15. R4V Mid-Year Report <a href="https://r4v.info/en/documents/details/72195">https://r4v.info/en/documents/details/72195</a>	Included	2019	Regional and country specific updates in Emergency Response, Protection, Socio-Economic Inclusion, Education, Capacity Building	full	Regional Response Report	
		RMRP 2020		Excluded	2020		Full		Previously Included
			16. Special Update on Quito Process: IV Technical Meeting on Human Mobility of Venezuelan Citizens in the Region (Argentina) <a href="https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/70522">https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/70522</a>	Included	2019	Presents coordination on regional level	Full	Regional response Report	
			17. Update on Activities of the UNHCR-IO Joint Special Representative for Venezuelan Refugees and Migrant in the Region <a href="https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/69999">https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/69999</a>	Included	2019	UNHCR and IOM's responsibilities towards the Quito Process	Full	International Coordination on Regional Response to the Venezuelan Crises	

			18. Support Spaces Inter Agency Mission Report Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru <a href="https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/interagency%20mission%20report%20support%20spaces%20Peru%20Colombia.pdf">https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/interagency%20mission%20report%20support%20spaces%20Peru%20Colombia.pdf</a>	Included	2019	Protection for refugees, migrants, and host communities including emergency response and preparing for socio-economic inclusion	Full	Regional Report	
			19. Support Spaces Venezuelan Situation Toolkit <a href="https://r4v.info/en/documents/details/72707">https://r4v.info/en/documents/details/72707</a>	Included	2019	Using Progress4v to better harmonize			
			20. Update Regional Platform for Sustainable Development Goals	Included	2019	Regional Coordination between Donors and actors	Full Summary Report	Update Report	This document lead to understanding the World Bank's activity in the region
		Producing a study on the short- and medium-term impact and response strategy on population movement from Venezuela to Colombia		Excluded	2019	It is irrelevant to the case of Ecuador.			A study for Ecuador and Peru is underway by the World Bank



		<a href="https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/30651/131472SP.pdf?sequence=3&amp;isAllowed=y">https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/30651/131472SP.pdf?sequence=3&amp;isAllowed=y</a>							
Migration 4 Development <a href="http://www.migration4development.org/defaultsite">http://www.migration4development.org/defaultsite</a>	IOM > Migration4Development > Policy > Policy Coherence > Case of Ecuador		21. Success Stories: A collection of good practices and lessons learnt by local actors harnessing the development potential of migration (Website is regularly Down and links cannot be retrieved)	Included	?	Social Coherence	Full	Global Migration and Development Report assigned by IOM	The M4D group have done direct work on policy coherence and have done case studies in Ecuador in defining decentralized and centralized coherence.
			22. Guidelines on Decentralized Migration into Decentralized Cooperation for Enhanced migration management for local development	Included		Ecuador's Multilevel Governance Approach	Full	Global Report on Cooperation	
			23. Issue 3: Measuring Migration Governance	Included	2018	Measuring Coordination and Migration Governance by Developing Indicators.	Full	General Coherence for Sustainable Development Goals	A lead to Migration Governance Indicator (MGI). I traced the development

									of this indicator to find applicability and space for expansion.
IOM Migration Data Portal	SDGs and Global Compact for Refugees > GCM Data Bulletin <a href="https://migrationdataportal.org/data-bulletin-gcm">https://migrationdataportal.org/data-bulletin-gcm</a>		24. Issue 4: Improving data for safe, orderly and regular migration <a href="https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/data_bulletin_issue_4_improving_data.pdf">https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/data_bulletin_issue_4_improving_data.pdf</a>	Included	2018	Data Practices for Better coordination and coherence in migration response	Full	General Coherence for Sustainable Development Goals	The Global SDG program is a lead towards developing better Coherence and Governance indicators. Reliable Data is an important aspect in this regard.
	SDGs and Global Compact for Refugees> Measuring Migration in SDGs> Migration Governance Framework		25. MiGration Governance Framework (MiGOF) <a href="https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/about-iom/migof_brochure_a4_en.pdf">https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/about-iom/migof_brochure_a4_en.pdf</a>	Included	Unknown (no earlier than 2018)	In line with the objective #10.7.2 in SDGs: Countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration	Full	General Migration Governance	Lays out the 6 major domains to be used in measuring migration governance. As a framework, these domains are measured through sub-categories (indicators).
	SDGs and Global		26. Measuring well-governed migration:	Included	2016	Creating Indicators for	Full	General Migration	Lays out how the Migration

	Compact for Refugees> Measuring Migration in SDGs> Migration Governance Indicators		The 2016 Migration Governance Index <a href="https://migrationdataportal.org/resource/measuring-well-governed-migration-2016-migration-governance-index">https://migrationdataportal.org/resource/measuring-well-governed-migration-2016-migration-governance-index</a>			Measuring well-governed migration		Governance Framework	Governance themes/ Domains and the final framework was developed and tested within country case studies.
	SDGs and Global Compact for Refugees> Measuring Migration in SDGs> Target 10.7 > 10.7.1	Statistics for SDG indicator 10.7.1 BY KNOMAD		Excluded	Unknown	This document targets the 10.7.1 OF THE SDGs regarding recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination			Not related to the Governance measures
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs <a href="https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/sdg/SDG_10.7.2_2019_Data%20Booklet.pdf">https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/sdg/SDG_10.7.2_2019_Data%20Booklet.pdf</a>	SDGs and Global Compact for Refugees> Measuring Migration in SDGs> Target 10.7 > 10.7.2 > Department of Economic and Social Affairs > Publications		27. SDG indicator 10.7.2 data booklet <a href="https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/sdg/SDG_10.7.2_2019_Data%20Booklet.pdf">https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/sdg/SDG_10.7.2_2019_Data%20Booklet.pdf</a>	Included		Measuring Migration Governance through 6 domains of MiGOF	Full	General Migration Governance from the	This is a very important methodological report for us to learn from. More will be discussed through papers.
		Policy Brief #1 <a href="https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/technical">https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/technical</a>		Excluded					It is the summary of Document #27

		<a href="#">al/Policy%20Brief_10.7.2.pdf</a>							
			28. Technical paper - Development, validation and testing of a methodology of SDG indicator 10.7.2 on migration policies <a href="https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/publications/pdf/technical/Technical%20Paper_10.7.2.pdf">https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/publications/pdf/technical/Technical%20Paper_10.7.2.pdf</a>	Included	2019	Migration Policy Indicator development methods and evaluation	Full Paper	General Migration Policy Indicators	
	SDGs and Global Compact for Refugees> Measuring Migration in SDGs> Target 10.7 > 10.7.2 > Department of Economic and Social Affairs > Country Profiles		29. Profiles for SDG indicator 10.7.2	Included	2019	Measuring country specific Migration Governance	Full		There is a report on Uganda. Not on Ecuador. There are a total number of 55 country reports.
	SDGs and Global Compact for Refugees> Measuring Migration in SDGs> Target 10.7 > 10.7.2 > Department		Module III: International Migration 30. <a href="https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/publications/pdf/technical/UN%2012th%20Inquiry%20Module%20III%20International%20Migration.pdf">https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/publications/pdf/technical/UN%2012th%20Inquiry%20Module%20III%20International%20Migration.pdf</a>	Included					A survey form that countries can fill in in case they would like to measure their migration governance. This survey provides

	of Economic and Social Affairs > Survey Instrument								insight to how and what information is collected.
	SDGs and Global Compact for Refugees> Objective 10> Resources		31. About the Migration Governance Indicators <a href="https://migrationdataportal.org/overviews/mgi#0">https://migrationdataportal.org/overviews/mgi#0</a>	Included				General Migration Governance Indicators	This website provides general insight towards the indicator.
International Monetary Fund IMF <a href="https://www.imf.org/external/index.htm">https://www.imf.org/external/index.htm</a>	IMF > Regional Economic Reports > Western Hemisphere (a total of 28 documents were found but only one report on 2019)		32. Regional Economic Outlook: Western Hemisphere Stunned by Uncertainty <a href="https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/WH/Issues/2019/10/22/wreo1019">https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/WH/Issues/2019/10/22/wreo1019</a>	Included	2019	Regional Economy	Full	International Governance	This document lays out the economic impact of Venezuelans in the region including Ecuador
Government of Ecuador: Secretaría Técnica Planificación Ecuador <a href="https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/">https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/</a>	Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2017-2021> Toda Una Vida		33. Toda Una Vida Plan Nacional De Desarrollo 2017-2021 <a href="https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2017/10/PNBV-26-OCT-FINAL_OK.compressed1.pdf">https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2017/10/PNBV-26-OCT-FINAL_OK.compressed1.pdf</a>	Included	2017	National Development Plan for sustainable Development Goals	Full	National Governance	
	Country's National Plan 2013-2017		34. Good Living National Plan: A better world for everyone <a href="https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/10/Plan-Bien-Vivir-2013-2017.pdf">https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/10/Plan-Bien-Vivir-2013-2017.pdf</a>	Included	2013	National Development Plan	Full	National Development Plan	This may be older but it is the only document available in

			<a href="#">content/uploads/downloads/2013/12/Buen-Vivir-ingles-web-final-completo.pdf</a>						English so it would give an idea of the country's structure easier than others.
	Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible		35. Resolucion No STPE-003-2020 <a href="https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Resoluci%C3%B3n_stpe-003-2020.pdf">https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Resoluci%C3%B3n_stpe-003-2020.pdf</a>	Included	2020	National Sustainable Development Plans	Full	National Resolution Agreement	Indicates objectives for achieving the 2017-2021 national sustainable development goals. Including a technical alignment to present achievements.
			36. MATRIZ DE ALINEACIÓN DEL PLAN NACIONAL DE DESARROLLO CON LOS OBEJTIVOS De DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE DE LA AGENDA 2030 <a href="https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Matriz-de-alineaci%C3%B3n-PND-ODS.pdf">https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Matriz-de-alineaci%C3%B3n-PND-ODS.pdf</a>	Included	2020	Alignment of National Development Plans with Sustainable Development Goals	Full	Matrix Report	This is an important document for my analyses of country's development plan
		Nota Técnica de la Alineación del Plan Nacional de		Excluded	2020				The Matrix is a better Indicator of

		Desarrollo 2017-2021 y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible de la Agenda 2030. <a href="https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Nota-t%C3%A9cnica.pdf">https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Nota-t%C3%A9cnica.pdf</a>							these objective for alignment
	Biblioteca> Agenda 2030		37. Informe De Avance Del Cumplimiento de la Agenda 2010 Para el Desarrollo Sosteinible 2019  <a href="https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2019/07/Informe-Avance-Agenda-2030-Ecuador-2019.pdf">https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2019/07/Informe-Avance-Agenda-2030-Ecuador-2019.pdf</a>		2019				
	Biblioteca> Agenda Nacionales para la Igualdad		38. Agenda Nacional para la Igualdad de Movilidad Humana 2017-2021  <a href="https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2020/03/AGENDA-MOVILIDAD-HUMANA-FINAL-FEB-2020-1.pdf....-comprimido-1.pdf">https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2020/03/AGENDA-MOVILIDAD-HUMANA-FINAL-FEB-2020-1.pdf....-comprimido-1.pdf</a>						
		La desconcentració		Excluded	2014 outd ated				



		ndel Ejecutivo en el Ecuador <a href="https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/La-desconcentraci%C3%B3n-del-Ejecutivo-en-el-Ecuador.pdf">https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/La-desconcentraci%C3%B3n-del-Ejecutivo-en-el-Ecuador.pdf</a>							
Global Forum on Migration and Development GFMD <a href="https://www.gfmd.org/">https://www.gfmd.org/</a>	Ecuador 2019 publications <a href="https://www.gfmd.org/documents/ecuador-2019">https://www.gfmd.org/documents/ecuador-2019</a>	Concept Paper and Work Plan GFMD 2019 (2 Documents)	39. Concept Paper <a href="https://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/concept_paper_gfmd_2019_ecuador_chairmanship.pdf">https://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/concept_paper_gfmd_2019_ecuador_chairmanship.pdf</a>	Included	2019	International Summit in Quito for coordination and migration development	Full	International Coordination	A summary of Roundtables
		Twelfth GFMD Summit Meeting – Quito (more than 50 Documents) only relevant documents were selected	40. RT 1.2. Background Paper Facilitating social and economic inclusion	Included	2019	International Goals For Socio-Economic Inclusion of Migrants in National Development Programs	Full	International General Coordination Goals	
			41. RT 3.1. Background Paper Supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholders partnership <a href="https://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/final_gfmd_2019_rt_session_3.1_background_paper.pdf">https://www.gfmd.org/files/documents/final_gfmd_2019_rt_session_3.1_background_paper.pdf</a>	Included	2019	International policy coherence for national development	Full	International General Policy Coherence Goals	

		Preparatory Meetings of the 2019 GFMD Troika, SD, and FOF (more than 50 documents)		Excluded			Full	Meeting minutes and Agenda	
		GFMD 2019 Thematic Workshops (8 workshops)		Excluded					The relevant workshop papers were chosen above
		GFMD and the Global Compact for Migration (10 country reports and one summary report)					Draft	Dialogues and Missions per Participating countries and summary report	Uganda has a document which is very terribly scanned
		GFMD and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (3 documents only the summary was chose)	42. GFMD Recommendations to 2019 HLPF – Executive Summary <a href="file:///C:/Users/nasim/Desktop/executive_summary_gfmd_recommendations_to_the_2019_hlpf_final.pdf">file:///C:/Users/nasim/Desktop/executive_summary_gfmd_recommendations_to_the_2019_hlpf_final.pdf</a>	Included	2019	Social Inclusion and equality for SDGS	Full	International Development Goals for Migration Development	
		Other GFMD 2019 Related Activities (6 documents)		Excluded	2019				GFMD Specific
		GFMD Ten-Year Review (Report)		Excluded	2018				GFMD Specific

## Appendix II: SPI indicators

Basic Human Needs	Foundations of Wellbeing	Opportunity
<b>Nutrition and Basic Medical Care</b> Undernourishment Depth of food deficit Maternal mortality rate Child mortality rate Deaths from infectious diseases	<b>Access to Basic Knowledge</b> Adult literacy rate Primary school enrollment Secondary school enrollment Gender parity in secondary enrollment <b>Access to Information and Communications</b> Mobile telephone subscriptions Internet users Press Freedom Index <b>Health and Wellness</b> Life expectancy at 60 Premature deaths from non-communicable diseases Suicide rate <b>Environmental Quality</b> Outdoor air pollution attributable deaths Wastewater treatment Biodiversity and habitat Greenhouse gas emissions	<b>Personal Rights</b> Political rights Freedom of expression Freedom of assembly Private property rights <b>Personal Freedom and Choice</b> Freedom over life choices Freedom of religion Early marriage Satisfied demand for contraception Corruption <b>Tolerance and Inclusion</b> Tolerance for immigrants Tolerance for homosexuals Discrimination and violence against minorities Religious tolerance Community safety net <b>Access to Advanced Education</b> Years of tertiary schooling Women's average years in school Inequality in the attainment of education Globally ranked universities Percentage of tertiary students enrolled in globally ranked universities

Figure 5 SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX 2017

### Appendix III: MPI scores

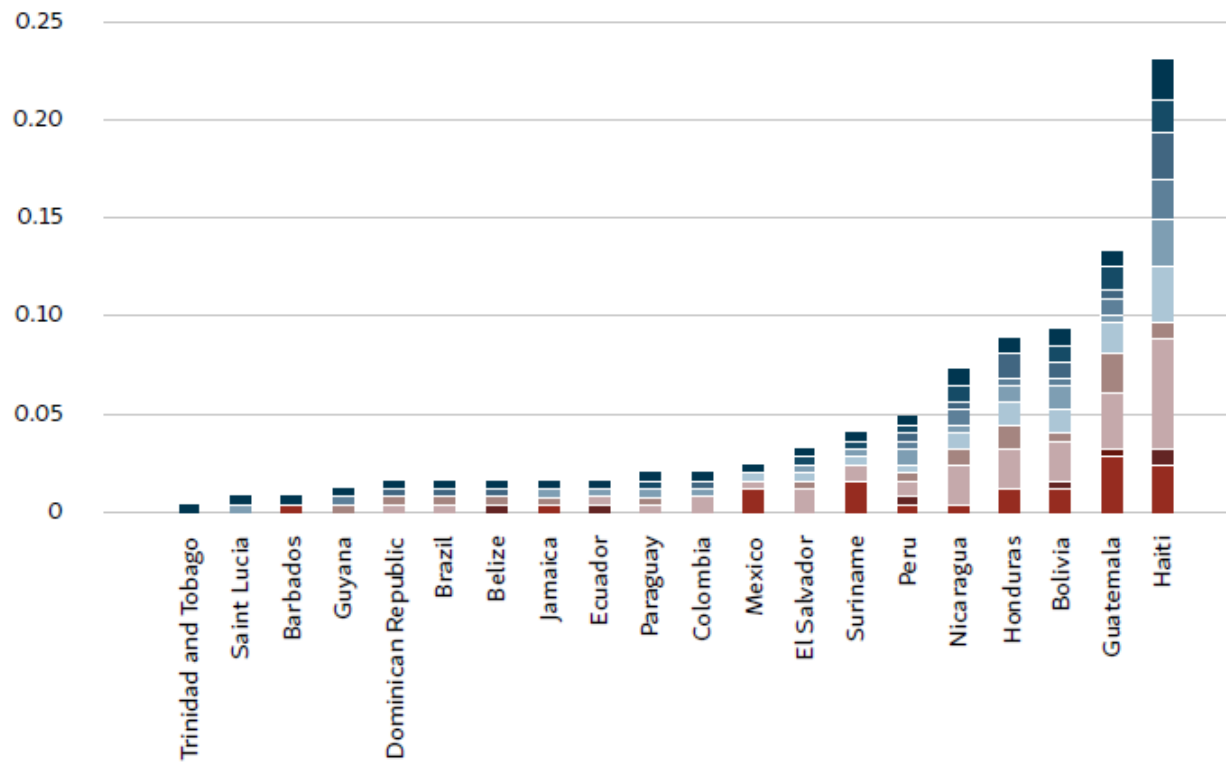


Figure 6 from [https://ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/G-MPI\\_2018\\_2ed\\_web.pdf](https://ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/G-MPI_2018_2ed_web.pdf)