**Rami Safadi**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Country: Ecuador

Ecuador’s government consists of a Republic run with 124 members in its legislature, where elections take place every 4 years. The government representing the country has 41.16% of its seats filled by women. Ecuador ‘s past is filled with deep social and economic divides, social unrest and economic instability. The current president of the country, Rafael Correa Delgado, is the first president in its history to rule for three consecutive terms. Rafael Correa has managed to bring political stability to a country with decades of instability. Mr. Correa's policies have yielded some positive results for the country. Poverty rates have been seen to drop significantly, since he retook power in 2007.

By using the Education Index, created by the U.N. Development, we can see that Ecuador’s education is slightly below the rest of the world’s. Having an Education Index of 0.59 out of 1, the country is under the world median of 0.65. Ecuador’s 0.59 on the index has improved from the 1980s were it had an index of 5.1 out of 1. The country’s literacy rate of 94.52% is just under the world average literacy rate of 94.02%. Even though its education is not yet equivalent to most of the world’s, Ecuador has been seeing slight improvements throughout the years in this area.

With the government producing some positive changes, corruption is still a serious problem in Ecuador. Because its borders have been poorly monitored, the country has been used as a center for narcotics and contraband trade. It also does not help that the Ecuadorian officials have been slow to meet with t neighboring countries to secure their border. Even though it has laws that to fight corruption, these laws are not properly enforced. It is important to note that Ecuador not of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery.

**All data taken from: “FindtheData.com”**