PROTECTING REFUGEE YOUTH IN ECUADOR:
AN EVALUATION OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

HARVARD FXB
CENTER FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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ACRONYMS

ASA	Asociación Solidaridad y Acción
CEISH-UIDE	Ethics Committee for Research in Human Beings – International University of Ecuador
DINAPEN	Dirección Nacional de Policía Especializada para Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes
ELN	National Liberation Army / Ejército de Liberación Nacional
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
FEPP	Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio
FIC	Feinstein International Center
FLASCO	Latin American Social Sciences Institute
FMS	Federation of Sucumbios
FUDELA	Fundación de las Américas
GEE	Generalized Estimating Equations
HIAS	Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
JIPS	Joint IDP Profiling Services
MIES	Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion
MSPSS	Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support
POC	Persons of Concern
RDS	Respondent Driven Sampling
RET	Refugee Education Trust
RSD	Refugee Status Determination
SJR	Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
URP	Urban Residency Permit

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adolescent refugees around the world, facing years of protracted displacement, are increasingly moving to cities in search of safety and opportunity. This study was undertaken as UNHCR's first systematic effort to understand the impact of its protection work with urban adolescent refugees. This report focuses on youth living in the cities of Quito and Lago Agrio, Ecuador, and has two research goals. First, it defines and describes the protection system for urban adolescent refugees and the role of UNHCR within that system. Second, it assesses the effects of the existing protection system on the health and wellbeing of refugee youth by examining a range of indicators in the areas of education, livelihoods, psychosocial and physical health, home life, safety and violence, and knowledge and use of available programs.

Four data collection methods were used to address these two goals: a literature review; focus groups with refugee adolescents; key informant interviews with stakeholders in the protection system; and a quantitative survey with 299 adolescent refugees between the ages of 15 and 19. This target was reached using Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS), an adapted chain-referral method intended to draw a statistically representative sample from hidden, socially connected populations of unknown size.

RDS analysis was conducted with the data from Quito, where the sample can be considered a close approximation of the broader population of refugee youth in that city. Peer referrals in Lago Agrio happened particularly slowly, due to factors including low social connections among youth and high rates of internal migration, with the result that sufficient waves of peer referrals were not reached during the study timeframe. As a result, the necessary assumptions for RDS analysis were not met. For both datasets, Harvard FXB also used a statistical model to partially account for additional bias in the chain-referral data. This method would be applicable to other urban refugee populations.

Ecuador is host to Latin America's largest refugee population. Estimates from 2016 put the population of concern at 127,436, of which 60,253 were registered refugees. The majority of these are Colombian, fleeing an internal conflict between government, paramilitary groups, crime syndicates, and left-wing guerrillas that began in the 1960s. Today, many others are arriving in Ecuador from locations as far as Afghanistan and Syria. These refugees and forced migrants are attracted in part by the country's remarkably progressive approach to migration, which serves as a powerful counter-example to current global trends of border securitization and social exclusion of migrant populations. Ecuador's legal and policy framework fully incorporates international commitments to refugee rights into its domestic legislation.

The results of this study demonstrate considerable room for improvement in how this progressive vision is realized in the lives of urban adolescent refugees in Ecuador. Problems persist, primarily in implementation of current law and policy, but also with program design, and are compounded by structural, social and political challenges relevant to this highly vulnerable and hidden group.

There are several options for refugees in Ecuador to regularize their legal status: refugee visas, two-year MERCOSUR work visas, or dependent visas for those with family connections to Ecuador. Huge backlogs in the asylum procedures and an increase in refugee rejections mean 75.9 percent of youth in Quito and 57.9 percent in Lago Agrio reported having refugee registration ongoing or under appeal, leaving them in legal limbo. MERCOSUR and dependent visas are underutilized as alternatives. Despite the Colombian peace accord, study results show the majority of refugees in Ecuador – 91.0 percent in Quito and 78.6 percent in Lago Agrio – do not plan to return to their country of origin under any circumstances.

Ecuador places no constraints on refugees' freedom of movement within the country. The government provides refugee youth with free access to secondary education and to healthcare services. The Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion provides cash transfers to qualifying low-income families and legal referrals for victims of rights violations. Children under 18 receive protection services through a decentralized system of Cantonal Councils and Boards, which monitor policies and attend to individual cases of abuse. The Public Defender's Office provides legal support and individual complaints can be brought to a separate human rights Ombudsman that reports to the National Assembly.

UNHCR in Ecuador aims to play an essential role in filling the gaps in this system. The Office leads multiple macro-level initiatives to coordinate dispersed protection actors. It provides technical expertise and training to government and civil society on refugee issues and enjoys a generally positive, collaborative relationship with government. UNHCR also advocates for improvements in policy and law; for example, the country's new Human Mobility Law. UNHCR also financially supports a network of nonprofits working on the ground to provide short- and long-term care to refugee youth.

Study results show that discrimination and social stigma negatively affect refugees' ability to find stable housing, stay in school, gain decent work, and develop social connections in Ecuador. As people from Colombia perceive the situation, Colombians are associated with criminality and sex work. Focus groups suggest that racism against Afro-Colombian refugees is particularly pervasive. It is important as well to point out that ostracization by host communities is compounded by Colombians' own fear of their fellow nationals. Factions of the Colombian civil conflict continue to pose risk to some refugees living in Ecuador. Colombian youth report that fear of discovery by other co-nationals has a significant impact on their lives.

Study results indicate that this complex network of stakeholders does not constitute a cohesive protection system but instead a set of disjointed services and programs. Relevant ministries and programs do not have a specific focus on refugees, so there is no systemic data collection and sharing on refugee needs and individual cases. Macro-level efforts to coordinate stakeholders often do not translate into ground-level service delivery. UNHCR operates at a significant funding gap, which limits the reach and visibility of the programs it supports. According to the Government's Refugee Office, "any project that is aimed at the refugee population also has to accommodate the native population because...the refugee in Ecuador has to be just one more child." As a result, the most vulnerable refugee youth with several protection needs receive piecemeal support and many fall through the cracks entirely. Only 15.9 percent of refugees in Quito and 11.4 percent in Lago Agrio knew where to go if they had a complaint; 26.9 percent in Quito and 45.2 percent in Lago Agrio did not know what the role of UNHCR was.

School attendance is 57.2 percent in Quito and 80.5 percent in Lago Agrio . Over a quarter of refugee youth in the capital, as well as 14 percent in Lago Agrio, are not enrolled[1] in any form of education and have also not finished secondary school. Urban refugee youth face several barriers to accessing education: inflexible school registration requirements; placement in schools far away or in separate schools from siblings; costs of uniforms and other incidentals; family economic insecurity; teen pregnancy; and internal migration. Attendance and retention rates are in turn affected by widespread discrimination and violence in school: 52.8 percent of youth in Quito and 24.7 percent in Lago Agrio reported that they did not feel safe in school. Youth with legal status (refugee, MERCOSUR or dependent) are significantly more likely to attend school than those in the application process or without documentation. This latter group cannot graduate from secondary school or apply for university because of their status. Despite

1 Enrollment is defined as being registered at a school as a student, and does not equate to regular school attendance.

high demand for higher education, almost no refugee youth achieve this level that would facilitate social mobility.

Poor education outcomes combine with other disadvantages to leave refugee youth at the back of the queue when applying to jobs. Underemployment is a serious problem for refugee youth, as it is for many Ecuadorians. Barriers to work limit refugee prospects for integration and personal development. These barriers pose a particular concern in Lago Agrio, where 11.0 percent of youth worked for someone outside the household during the last week, compared to 21.6 percent in Quito. Results show a large unmet need for skills training.

Young refugees who do gain employment find it almost exclusively in the informal market. Many are self-employed, selling things on buses or at traffic lights, or working in beauty salons, bars and restaurants. Refugee youth often work in hazardous and exploitative environments, with low wages and long hours. During the last year, 47.2 percent of working youth in Quito and 15.6 percent in Lago Agrio suffered injuries on the job. A small but significant proportion of youth fall into sex work (2.3 percent in Quito and 0.7 percent in Lago Agrio) as well as criminal activities such as drug trafficking, according to key informants.

These urban refugee youth are a healthy demographic and benefit from state provided primary healthcare services that are generally accessible and free of charge. However, this study identified need for sexual and reproductive health education and services, as well as treatment programs for drug dependency. Results suggest that food scarcity is a prevalent issue for the most vulnerable refugees, and that current financial support programs to address this problem are not sufficient. There are also clear unmet needs regarding the mental health of these youth: 29.6 percent of youth in Quito and 57.1 percent in Lago Agrio exhibited results indicating depression.

Existing state-level efforts in Ecuador to tackle sexual and gender-based violence do not take into account the particular vulnerability of refugees, and key informants in the protection system did not discuss sexual violence as a priority area. However, reports from the youth suggest these issues are significant to them. Our quantitative findings on sexual violence are alarming even while almost certainly underestimating prevalence: one fifth of youth in Quito, and one tenth in Lago Agrio, reported suffering sexual abuse during the last year. While home is often a bedrock of support for refugee youth, one quarter in Quito and one fifth in Lago Agrio reported experiencing physical abuse in the home, and a majority did not know where to go in case of a problem. Particularly in Quito, refugees are widely geographically dispersed, with poor access to public transport, and spend much of their time indoors. A large proportion of refugee youth do not feel safe in public: 66.3 percent in Quito and 30 percent in Lago Agrio. These findings, along with others discussed, reinforce the inference that this population faces real challenges in social integration and personal development.

Cumulatively, our results call for increased attention to and support for the needs of urban adolescent refugee youth in Ecuador. The ongoing needs of this vulnerable population are particularly important to consider as the Colombian peace accord shifts the political, legal and social terrain for refugees living in Ecuador.

I. INTRODUCTION

Nearly two thirds of the world's 21.3 million refugees live in cities. More than half of those are children.[2] Young people forcibly displaced from their homes are increasingly seeking safety and opportunity in urban areas. However, the global system of humanitarian response to refugees was built around the encampment model, which simplified service delivery to people in consolidated, and supposedly temporary, camps. The growing shift to urban settings, however, requires a fundamental rethinking of strategies for action and a corresponding change in the approach that researchers must take, in terms of methodologies as well as substantive questions of concern.

Until 2009, UNHCR's official approach to urban refugees was one of minimal engagement, "based on the presumptions of state responsibility for protection and assistance, and refugee self-reliance."[3] That year, however, the organization released the "Policy on Refugee Protection and Solutions in Urban Areas," extending its responsibilities towards refugees regardless of their location.[4] Broadly, the policy commits UNHCR to activities encompassing the promotion of legal status, ensuring basic access to food and shelter, and prohibitions on refoulement. The policy offers the "broad contours and underlying principles" for UNHCR's more substantive engagement in urban areas, and encourages the progressive development of national legal and policy frameworks to integrate refugees in these environments.[5] The policy recognizes that "funding shortfalls may prevent [urban refugee] needs being fully met" and does not set priorities for funding allocation.[6] It does not provide operational guidelines or clear metrics for evaluation of its work in these expanded arenas.

In 2012, UNHCR also rolled out a new strategy for child protection.[7] A Framework for the Protection of Children articulates UNHCR's commitment to protect and advocate against all forms of discrimination against refugee children; prevent and respond to abuse, violence, and exploitation; and ensure access to services and to durable solutions in the child's best interests. It does not address the specific circumstances or needs of children and adolescents living in urban areas, such as access to state services or interactions with law enforcement. UNHCR has since 2014 been investing in a suite of research and assessment projects to develop a toolkit for child protection programming in urban contexts. The toolkit will be published in 2018.

These policy developments have been accompanied by a surge in interest from scholars and practitioners in urban refugee issues. However, there is still very little known about what constitutes "good" urban refugee policy, in particular for children and adolescents. At present, "only a handful of cities attract serious attention from academic and human rights researchers—notably Nairobi, Johannesburg, and Cairo."[8] It is highly challenging to characterize social realities in rapidly transforming urban centers, even without the numerous added challenges of locating and interviewing refugees. Many urban refugees live dispersed in marginal and deprived areas. Those with irregular status may wish to remain undiscovered. Language differences, time constraints due to long or irregular working hours and lack of trust due

2 UNHCR, "Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2015" (Geneva: UNHCR, June 2016), http://www.unhcr.org/576408cd7.pdf.
3 UNHCR, "UNHCR Comprehensive Policy on Urban Refugees" (Geneva: UNHCR, March 25, 1997), 2.
4 UNHCR, "UNHCR Policy on Refugee Protection and Solutions in Urban Areas" (Geneva: UNHCR, September 2009).
5 Ibid., 3.
6 Ibid., 7.
7 UNHCR, *A Framework for the Protection of Children* (Geneva: UNHCR, 2012).
8 Tim Morris and S. Ben Ali, "UNHCR Reviews Its Urban Policy: An Air of Complacency?," Urban Refugees website, 2013, http://urban-refugees.org/debate/unhcr-reviews-urban-policy-air-complacency/.

to marginalization, racism, and stigma also present challenges. Quantitative studies of refugees have also been limited by the lack of a meaningful sampling frame. Because there is scarce data on the size or location of refugee populations in urban areas, it is difficult to identify or create, let alone study a representative sample.[9]

The present study was undertaken as UNHCR's first systematic effort to understand the impact of its protection work with urban adolescent refugees. In December 2013, Columbia University, UNHCR, the Child Protection in Conflict Learning Network, and the Association of Volunteers in International Service-Rwanda collaborated on a pilot child protection study in Kiziba Camp, Rwanda.[10] A subsequent Uganda camp-based study built on the findings from the pilot study in Rwanda.

In 2015, UNHCR engaged Harvard's FXB Center for Health and Human Rights to replicate this Uganda study, with appropriate adjustments, in urban refugee settings. Research was undertaken with urban adolescent refugee populations in Quito and Lago Agrio in Ecuador, as well as in Lusaka, Zambia. This report focuses on the results from Ecuador.

This FXB research project aims to specifically contribute to understanding the needs and experiences of older refugee adolescents. UNICEF uses the World Health Organization's definition of adolescents as persons between the ages of 10 and 19, and further defines older adolescents those aged 15-19 years.[11] UNHCR has only recently developed strategies or guidance notes specific to youth 18 or above, and to systematically collect age-disaggregated data on this population.[12] However, investment in this older demographic has the potential to result in exponential gains for host societies.[13] Specifically, this study aims to:

(1) Define and describe the protection system for older adolescent refugees living in Quito and Lago Agrio, Ecuador, and the role of UNHCR within that system;
(2) Assess the effects of the existing protection system on the health and wellbeing of older adolescent refugees by examining a range of indicators, including: school attendance and experiences in school; safety and experiences of physical, emotional and sexual violence; work conditions and labor exploitation; experiences of discrimination; mental and physical health; and knowledge and use of available programs and services.

This project also advances understanding of methodologies for the collection of rigorous data on hard-to-reach refugee populations in urban environments. Traditional impact assessment methodologies are often not applicable in humanitarian or displacement contexts, especially in urban, non-camp settings. This gap in ascertainment capacities leaves state actors without robust evidence on needs and experiences, as well as on the effects of interventions aiming to prevent and respond to these concerns.

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9 Marcin J. Sasin and David Mckenzie, *Migration, Remittances, Poverty, and Human Capital: Conceptual and Empirical Challenges* (Washington, DC: World Bank, 2007).

10 S. Meyer, L. Muhorakeye, and L., Stark, *Measuring Impact through a Child Protection Index: - Report of Pilot Study, Kiziba Camp, Rwanda* (UNHCR and CPC Learning Network, 2013), http://www.cpcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Rwanda-pilot-study-FINAL-1.pdf.)

11 UNICEF, *Adolescence: An Age of Opportunity*, *The State of the World's Children 2011* (New York, NY: UNICEF, 2011), 6.

12 UNHCR and Women's Refugee Commission, "We Believe in Youth: Global Refugee Youth Consultations Final Report," September 2016, https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2200-WRC-Youth-Report-LR.pdf; UNHCR, "UNHCR's Engagement with Displaced Youth: A Global Review" (Geneva: UNHCR, 2013), 10.

13 George C Patton et al., "Our Future: A Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing," *The Lancet* 387, no. 10036 (June 2016): 2423–78.

This study employs Respondent Driven Sampling in order to address this gap, contributing to UNHCR's future efforts to gather a comprehensive evidence base concerning at-risk displaced youth in urban contexts.

II. BACKGROUND

URBAN REFUGEE YOUTH

Concerns of the host country and the diversity of refugee communities in urban environments make service provision and refugee advocacy a complex task. Target "communities" are not static, varying widely in structure and size; some are highly consolidated and networked, others disperse and internally heterogeneous. This reality can lead to challenges with representation, participation, community outreach, and prioritization of services.

Likewise, there is no single experience of refugee youth living in urban environments. Existing accounts suggest, however, that many are particularly vulnerable to exclusion, social discrimination, violence, and abuse.[14] Refugee youth often compete with the poorest locals for the worst jobs and housing, and they contend with explicit and de facto barriers to education, health, and other services. Many lack documentation and official status; many lack a caregiver or guardian. UNHCR has written that this population is "seldom consulted and frequently overlooked ... [their] talents, energy, and potential ... remain largely untapped."[15]

The growing urbanization of refugee populations has led to increased interest from scholars and practitioners in this issue. The resulting literature consistently emphasizes the central importance of increased collaboration between humanitarian and development actors. In urban areas, many refugee services rely less on aid agencies like UNHCR and more on line ministries, municipal authorities, the private sector, and national civil society actors.[16] Effectively engaging these actors "demands a shift in both approach and language."[17] It requires creative engagement with local authorities to prioritize non-voting populations—for example, by identifying the skills and contributions of urban refugees; it also requires strategies that align protection concerns with local political economic factors.

Another debate centers on the tension between the need to address refugees' heightened vulnerability and the need to avoid parallel programs of services and assistance.[18] Specialized services aimed exclusively at refugees can be financially unsustainable and, in some contexts, politically counterproductive. They can unintentionally highlight the presence of refugees living in cities illegally or help to legitimize both popular and legislative backlash by fostering a sense of unfairness.[19] Recent work has also examined the

14 See, for example, Sara Pavanello et al., "Survival in the City: Youth, Displacement and Violence in Urban Settings," Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) Policy Brief 44, March 2012; Koichi Koizumi and Gerhard Hoffstaedter, eds., *Urban Refugees : Challenges in Protection, Services and Policy* (Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2015).

15 UNHCR and Women's Refugee Commission, *"We Believe in Youth," Global Refugee Youth Consultations Final Report* (Geneva: September 2016), 4.

16 Shelly Culbertson, Olga Oliker, Ben Baruch, and Ilana Blumm, *Rethinking Coordination of Services to Refugees in Urban Areas : Managing the Crisis in Jordan and Lebanon* (Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation for US State Department, 2016).

17 Loren B. Landau et al., *Becoming Urban Humanitarians Engaging Local Government to Protect Displaced People* (Washington, DC: Urban Institute, August 2016), v.

18 António Guterres, "Protection Challenges for Persons of Concern in Urban Settings" *Forced Migration Review* 34 (2010): 8–9.

19 "In South Africa—once considered the site for model urban refugee assistance—such direct assistance has

importance of identity documents and status.[20] These designations can undoubtedly reduce exploitation and harassment and remain a pillar of UNHCR's protection work. However, some observers suggest that forced migrants are often marginalized irrespective of status,[21] which underscores the importance of providing refugees with skill sets and assets to cope with their circumstances on their own. With agency, as better-educated people with good skills, refugees are less vulnerable. Some research suggests that urban refugees are, in many contexts, not that different from disadvantaged host populations with regard to their assets, skill sets, and vulnerabilities.[22] Given that few states will prioritize refugees above their own citizens, refugee advocates must consider integrating policies that support this population into wider policy agendas in urban settings.

REFUGEES IN ECUADOR

Ecuador is host to Latin America's largest refugee population. It was a destination for persecuted Jews during and after the Second World War, but its refugee numbers only swelled as a consequence of the Colombian civil conflict. Today, many other refugees are arriving in Ecuador from locations as far as Afghanistan and Syria.[23] They are attracted in part by the country's remarkably progressive approach to migration, which fully incorporates international commitments to refugee rights into its domestic legislation.

While reliable statistics are not available, UNHCR estimated that in 2016 the total population of concern in the country was 127,436.[24] According to government statistics from 2016, 60,253 refugees were officially recognized in Ecuador.[25] Approximately three-quarters of refugees live in urban areas, including the capital Quito and Lago Agrio, the biggest city of a province that abuts 60 percent of the Colombian border. In Quito, a city of roughly 1.6 million, it is estimated roughly one third of the country's refugees (~38,200) live dispersed in marginalized areas of the city, boxed in by mountains and many living in dwellings built on the slopes of the active Pichincha volcano, with restricted access to public transport. Lago Agrio is an oil town of roughly 60,000 that hosts approximately one eighth (~14,400) of the country's refugees, characterized by increased presence of criminal trafficking networks as well as high internal migration to the province's rural areas.

Ecuador is a middle-income country with a GDP of $97.8 billion USD. Since 2007, Ecuador has had a left wing government. It doubled social spending as a percentage of GDP from 4.3 percent in 2006 to 8.6 percent in 2016. During this time the poverty rate declined by 38 percent, and extreme poverty by 47

proved both financially unsustainable and politically counter-productive as it has drawn negative attention to refugees from an equally deprived and under-serviced host population. Similarly, the kind of expensive direct assistance provided to Iraqi refugees in Jordan and elsewhere has proved problematic and is now recognized as a model that cannot be widely replicated." E. Lyytinen and J. Kullenberg, "Urban Refugee Research: An Analytical Report" (New York: International Rescue Committee, 2013).

20 Óscar Raúl Ospina and Lucy Santacruz, "Refugiados Urbanos En Ecuador: Estudio Sobre Los Procesos de Inserción Urbana de La Población Colombiana En Situación de Refugio, El Caso de Quito Y Guayaquil" (FLASCO Ecuador, May 2011).

21 Loren B. Landau, "Urban Refugees and IDPs," in The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (Oxford: OUP, 2014), 143.

22 Loren B. Landau and Marguerite Duponchel, "Laws, Policies, or Social Position? Capabilities and the Determinants of Effective Protection in Four African Cities," *Journal of Refugee Studies* 24, no. 1 (2011): 1–22.

23 Published UNHCR Population Statistics for 2016 show that refugees from countries other than Colombia make up 1.67 percent of the population of concern, while other estimates approximate this number at 5 percent.

24 UNHCR, "Persons Of Concern: Ecuador," *UNHCR Population Statistics*, accessed July 31, 2017, http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/persons_of_concern.

25 UNHCR, "Factsheet: UNHCR in Ecuador," April 2016, 2.

percent.[26] The last two years have been more difficult: declining oil prices, the stronger U.S. dollar (the country dollarized in 2000), and a devastating earthquake in April 2016 all had an impact. Between 2014 and 2016, Ecuador reported large budget deficits, urban unemployment rose from 4.5 percent to 6.5 percent and underemployment increased from 11.7 percent to 18.8 percent.[27] The left wing government was reelected in early 2017.

The UNHCR has operated within the country since 2000 in an advisory capacity to the government, collaborating with the different government agencies that protect and serve this population, for example, with technical support, advice, and monitoring and evaluation. It also conducts advocacy and awareness-raising activities at the national and international level. UNHCR representatives indicated that the organization is considering a process of "responsible disengagement" that is scheduled to begin in 2018, whereby the responsibilities of the agency will be handed over progressively to the government and to civil society.

This move towards responsible disengagement follows a peace deal, ratified in December 2016, between the Colombian government and the country's largest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). UNHCR has stated that this process of disengagement does not imply that Colombian refugees must immediately return home, and that Ecuador "will likely continue receiving Colombians seeking asylum [and] interest in voluntary repatriation among this group is expected to remain low."[28] Other armed groups, such as the National Liberation Army (Ejército de Liberación Nacional, ELN) and paramilitaries, and organized criminal gangs, continue to operate in Colombia. A few hundred people arrive each month into the Ecuador, whose government has made no official statement regarding future asylum status for this population. The country is also host to an increasing number of people escaping the escalating crisis in Venezuela, as well as people fleeing countries outside of Latin America.

In 2013, the UNHCR's Policy Development and Evaluation Service conducted a review of the implementation of UNHCR's urban refugee policy in Ecuador. The two-week qualitative project found that, despite the comprehensive legal and policy refugee framework, refugees experience several issues with access to rights and services, discrimination and xenophobia. The review found a lack of reliable or disaggregated data on refugees, who are "highly dispersed and highly mobile" in urban areas, not well connected or organized internally, and not aware of their rights and obligations.

These findings have been confirmed and developed by other studies of urban refugees in Ecuador.[29] For example, a 2011 study by the Latin American Social Sciences Institute (FLASCO) found that racism, sexism, gender-based discrimination and public perceptions of refugees all impede integration and realization of rights.[30] A 2012 Feinstein International Center (FIC) report noted protection gaps result from the large backlog in the centralized asylum system, barriers to livelihood creation, and inattention

26 Mark Weisbrot, Jake Johnston, and Lara Merling, "Decade of Reform: Ecuador's Macroeconomic Policies, Institutional Changes, and Results" (Washington, DC: Center for Economic and Policy Research, February 2017).

27 "The World Bank in Ecuador: Overview," *World Bank*, accessed August 7, 2017, http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/ecuador/overview.

28 "Ecuador: Global Focus," accessed April 20, 2017, http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/2543?y=2017#year.

29 See also, Raul Moscoso and Nancy Burneo, "Más Allá de Las Fronteras: La Población Colombiana En Su Proceso de Integración Urbana En La Ciudad de Quito" (UNHCR, November 2014); Andrea Karolina and Aldeán Sandoval, "Adolescentes Refugiados Colombianos En El Ecuador: Asistencia Gubernamental Y No-Gubernamental Con Énfasis En El Área Educativa" (Quito: Colegio de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades, May 2016).

30 Ospina and Santacruz, "Refugiados Urbanos En Ecuador".

to the risks some refugees experience from armed actors operating in the country.[31] Finally, a 2014 report by UNHCR, JIPS and FIC on the profiles of urban refugees in Quito found that the type of documentation that Colombians hold has an effect on their level of access to education, housing and work, as well as social integration in the city.[32]

III. METHODOLOGY

OVERVIEW

This study employed a mixed-methods methodology to address two central research goals. First, define and describe the protection system for refugee youth in Quito and Lago Agrio, Ecuador. In urban environments, this system is neither clear nor integrated. It is comprised of multiple stakeholders from the UNCHR and government, the private sector, civil society, and community groups. This evaluation describes the laws, policies, and procedures in place to protect and assist refugee youth in Quito and in Lago Agrio. It traces the role of UNHCR within this picture, and the partnerships that UNHCR maintains with other key stakeholders. This report describes the services available to refugee youth and the utilization of those services.

The second research aim is to assess the outputs and outcomes of the existing protection system on the health and wellbeing of refugee youth. This study involved a wide-ranging assessment of young refugees' experiences and needs in the public and private realms. Going beyond a simple humanitarian assessment of basic needs, this project seeks to understand how well the existing protection system enables refugee youth in Quito and Lago Agrio to progressively achieve levels of welfare and security in line with local standards and the youth's own heterogeneous objectives.[33] Four data collection methods were used to answer these two research questions:

1. QUANTITATIVE SURVEY

The survey was administered with 299 adolescent refugees between 15 and 19 years old. This target was reached using Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS). At the request of UNHCR, the questionnaire employed in this study was the same one developed during the Rwanda and Uganda camp studies, with minor necessary adjustments for context. This survey assessed adolescent health and wellbeing, covering the following areas:

- Demographic characteristics;
- School attendance and experiences in school;
- Safety and experiences of violence – physical, emotional and sexual – in the home, at school, and in the city;
- Decent work and labor exploitation;
- Experiences of discrimination;
- Mental and physical health;
- Knowledge and use of available programs and services.

Sample size for the survey was calculated based on rough total population estimates. Although official statistics are not available, UNHCR estimates that the capital, Quito, hosts approximately 26.8 percent of the estimated total population of concern (~127,400), so approximately 34,100

31 Feinstein International Center, "Refugee Livelihoods in Urban Areas: Identifying Program Opportunities. Case Study Ecuador" (Boston: Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University, October 2012).

32 UNHCR and Instituto de la Ciudad, "Urban Profiles of the Colombian Population in Quito: Main Results and Recommendations" (UNHCR, 2014).

33 Amartya Sen, *Inequality Reexamined*, paperback ed. (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1995), 5.

persons of concern (POC), and that Lago Agrio hosts 12 percent, or 14,400 POC.[34] Based on the results of a 2014 UNHCR baseline survey, 10.28 percent were between the ages of 12-17 and 17.55 percent aged 18-25. Thus, approximately 10 percent are in our target age range of 15 – 19. Due to funding and time constrains, a sample of 150 was collected in Quito and 149 in Lago Agrio. In the most conservative scenario, using a population proportion of 0.5, a sample size of 150 in Quito and 149 in Lago Agrio would allow for accuracy of results with a Confidence Interval (CI) of +- 0.08 (8 percent). Using a population proportion of 0.1, a sample size of 150 in Quito gives a Confidence Interval of +-0.039 (3.9 percent), and 149 in Lago Agrio gives a Confidence Interval of +-0.035 (3.5 percent).

2. FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Nine focus group discussions (FGDs) were carried out with groups of six-to-eight young refugees living in Quito and Lago Agrio, recruited by the nonprofit HIAS through their existing networks. Focus groups lasted one hour, and centered on youth's personal experiences of life as a refugee in Quito/Lago Agrio. Major topics included: risks, concerns, unmet needs, as well as knowledge and use of services, and barriers to access.

3. KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

Fifteen in-depth qualitative interviews were conducted with key informants who worked within the protection system for urban refugee youth (listed in Annex C). These individuals were purposively sampled from UNHCR, nonprofits, other service providers, and government in order to provide differing perspectives on the experiences and needs of refugee youth in Ecuador, as well as the nature of the protection system and priorities for its improvement.

4. DESK REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A comprehensive literature review was conducted of existing academic scholarship and policy reports, and grey literature that discuss urban refugee issues generally and the Ecuadorian refugee context specifically.

STUDY IMPLEMENTATION AND ETHICS PROCEDURES

Data collection took place during a ten-week period between December 2016 and March 2017. Logistics of study implementation were coordinated by the nonprofit HIAS Ecuador, a UNHCR partner in Ecuador, with supervision by Harvard FXB. One project coordinator and six researchers who had not previously worked for HIAS were contracted to conduct the survey and focus groups in order to avert any risk of conflict of interest.[35] Research team members were Ecuadoreans and Colombians experienced in research and working with vulnerable populations. Key informant interviews were carried out by Harvard FXB staff.

Harvard FXB conducted a week-long training in ethical procedures and study protocols at the start of the study. The study protocol was reviewed and approved by Harvard University's Longwood Medical Area Institutional Review Board as well as the Ethics Committee for Research in Human Beings - International University of Ecuador (CEISH-UIDE). At the request of the committees, unaccompanied minors were excluded from the study sample for both locations due to the ethical concerns of interviewing vulnerable minors without the consent of a guardian. Informed verbal consent was obtained as appropriate in Spanish from all participants in the quantitative survey and focus groups, and also from the caregivers

34 UNHCR estimates that 23.66 percent of refugees live in the department of Sucumbios, and roughly one half in that province reside in the capital, Lago Agrio. *See* UNHCR, "Factsheet: UNHCR in Ecuador," April 2016, 2.

35 This risk was also reduced because individual performance of HIAS was also not evaluated by the study.

of those participants aged 15-17 years. Participation was entirely anonymous. Refugees were identified only by a referral code in the survey and in research team records. Interviews were originally conducted at HIAS offices in central Quito; however, during data collection research staff determined that the travel time and cost was a large deterrent to participation, so new and more easily accessible locations throughout the city were identified in consultation with refugee youth.

The quantitative survey was administered on electronic tablets by interviewers through the mobile app, Qualtrics Offline. Finished surveys were automatically uploaded to a server and erased from the tablet. The survey section pertaining to sexual and physical violence was self-administered by respondents in private, without the interviewer present. Study interviewers informed participants of this at the start of the interview, emphasizing anonymity of all self-administered responses. Interviewers were trained by HIAS counselors to identify signs of significant distress and follow a system for referrals. Interviewers offered each participant a list of referrals to available services (e.g. legal aid, psychosocial support, and health services).

Refugees were reached for participation through Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS), a modified chain-referral technique. Recruitment was initiated with a group of ten committed and socially-connected "seeds" (eligible respondents) selected by HIAS outreach workers in both Quito and Lago Agrio, reflecting the diversity of the refugee demographic along key outcome variables (gender, age and national origin). Each seed received three recruitment coupons to recruit his/her peers; peers were instructed to call the study team for screening and additional information before arranging a time and place to take the survey. This system enabled fully anonymous participation. Coupons contained: the study title, location and opening hours of interview sites, a contact phone number, a coupon ID linking the recruiter and the recruit, and information on participation incentives. Eligible recruits who finished the survey were given three coupons to recruit peers, continuing until the target sample size was reached. Eighteen additional seeds were added later during data collection after peer referral experienced delays.

RDS relies on a double incentive structure. Survey respondents received one incentive for participating in the survey, initially set at 5 USD, and additional incentives, set at 2 USD, for each eligible participant that they successfully recruited into the study, with a maximum of three participants per seed. Incentives served as remuneration for travel costs and appreciation for the time and effort of participation and for facilitating inclusion of people with economic barriers to participation.[36] Secondary incentives were subsequently raised to 4 USD to address slow referral rates following reports from participants that amounts were not sufficient. Appropriate, non-coercive amounts were determined in consultation with HIAS and UNHCR, reflecting roughly an hour's wage. Altruistic motives for participation and recruiting peers were emphasized.

Focus group discussion participants were identified by researchers through HIAS's service networks, and conducted by the local study team. Six to eight refugees per FGD were chosen to reflect different population subgroups: girls, boys, minors under 18, adults, and some a mixture of these groups. Some participants also chose to take the quantitative survey. Informed consent was obtained from all participants (and caregivers of minors).

36 Guri Tyldum and Lisa Johnston, eds., *Applying Respondent Driven Sampling to Migrant Populations: Lessons from the Field* (Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire ; New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), 51.

RESPONDENT DRIVEN SAMPLING DIAGNOSTICS

The analysis program RDS-Analyst (RDS-A)[37] was used to assess whether RDS assumptions were met for the sample of 149 refugees in Lago Agrio and 150 refugees in Quito, i.e. whether it was appropriate to use RDS weights in order to approximate a random sample. For the Lago Agrio sample, diagnostic tests identified presence of bottlenecks, meaning that the sample overrepresented certain subsects of the population. The diagnostic tests also showed that several key variables did not converge to a stable value with additional waves of recruits, so RDS weights were not used: this sample cannot be said to be representative of the broader population of refugee youth in Lago Agrio. For the Quito sample, however, equilibrium was attained for a majority of the variables assessed, recruitment across different sub-groups was substantial for most variables, and we did not observe significant differences in peer recruitment on key demographic variables, such as the number of months in Ecuador, family size, degree, and highest level of education. So RDS weights were applied to the Quito sample, and the sample can be considered a close approximation of the broader population of refugee youth in Quito.

LAGO AGRIO

In Lago Agrio, recruitment was initiated by 21 seeds, and recruitment chains extended for a maximum of eight waves. The sample of refugees in Lago Agrio exhibited high homphily[38] on the number of months that each participant reported living in Ecuador. The recruitment tree in Lago Agrio was wider and not as deep as that in Quito, indicating each person recruited several peers and the majority of recruitment chains were short and had not yet converged on key demographic variables, including: months lived in Ecuador, age, and gender. We also observed bottleneck effects for age, gender, marital status, and months lived in Ecuador. This could indicate that (a) our sample reflects multiple unique sub-populations, rather than a representative view of a single, networked population, or (b) many variables did not reach convergence because of short recruitment chains, so appear to reflect different sub-populations (see Appendix B). We also observed recruitment differences, which could introduce bias. Interclass correlation coefficients (ICCs) indicate that recruiter-recruit pairs were significantly more likely to be similar to one another with respect to the number of months in Ecuador, family size, degree, and highest level of education than what would be expected in a simple random sample where individuals were sampled independently. In sum, in Lago Agrio there was not sufficient cross-group recruitment and the sample was not representative, so we did not use RDS weights.

QUITO

Recruitment in Quito was initiated by 17 seeds, and recruitment chains extended for a maximum of 9 recruitment waves. There were less substantial issues identified with the sample collected in Quito. We noted no significant differences with respect to peer recruitment by key demographic characteristics and all variables examined converged. We found higher homophily for months lived in Ecuador and family size than ideal, and a bottleneck effect on school attendance and marital status. However, the weighted estimates and unweighted estimates for these variables were similar (see Appendix B), so the weights do not introduce significant bias to the estimates. The recruitment tree in Quito was narrow and recruitment chains were on average longer, indicating that each person recruited fewer peers, thereby reducing the design effect. Therefore, we used RDS weights for the Quito sample as well as a cluster adjustment.

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37 Mark S. Handcock, Ian E. Fellows, Krista J. Gile (2014) RDS Analyst: Software for the Analysis of Respondent-Driven Sampling Data, Version 0.42, URL http://hpmrg.org

38 Homophily is the principle that contact between similar people occurs at a higher rate than between dissimilar people. Here, those with many months in Ecuador recruited others with similar length of stay, and so did recent arrivals. *See* Tyldum and Johnston, eds. *Applying Respondent Driven Sampling to Migrant Populations*, 2.

ANALYSIS METHODS

Using a peer-referral strategy will lead to higher between-cluster variance and lower within-cluster variance than expected from a simple random sample. In other words, individuals will be more similar to their recruiter and their recruits than they will be to others in the sample, and more similar to those who share the same seed than they will be to others in a distinct RDS chain. Standard RDS adjustments do not account for this lack of independence, which can in some cases create large design effects, reducing the precision of the resulting estimates.[39]

Therefore, in both cities we sought to account for this lack of independence through a statistical model that estimates sample prevalence using generalized estimating equations (GEE), which produce population-averaged estimates, with robust sandwich variance estimators to account for misspecification of the correlation structure.[40] The biases introduced by high homophily and bottleneck effects observed in our sample may be partially accounted for by the modeling approach used and the GEE approach provides more realistic estimates of sampling variance.

The coefficients in the GEE marginal model represent population prevalences.[41] Estimates stratified by gender and age group were derived from empty GEE model. In the GEE models for refugees in Quito, we used the weights from RDS-Analyst and clustered on "seed" in order to account for the network-based sampling strategy, while for the sample of refugees in Lago Agrio, we only clustered on seed. Since common recruiter was completely nested within "seed", this lower level of clustering was also accounted for by the GEE sandwich estimators.[42] For all prevalence estimates for both samples (Quito and Lago Agrio), 95% confidence intervals were also computed. Significant differences between different age groups and gender categories were determined using a two-sided test criterion of alpha=0.05.

For the Quito sample of refugees, both clustering and RDS weights were used. Using the RDS package in software R,[43] we calculated 'visibility' (i.e. a measurement error model used to impute one's inclusion probability in the context of the sample based on each participant's self-reported network size, number of recruits, and time to recruit) and a Bayesian prior (i.e. an educated approximation of the population size to compute more realistic and precise populations size estimates).[5] We set the prior for the estimated population size at 3,410 and used the Successive Sampling[44] estimator to calculate RDS weights based on imputed visibilities in RDS-Analyst. Because self-reported degree is prone to biases[6] and others have demonstrated that using imputed visibility rather than self-reported degree leads to improved

39 Salganik MJ. , "Variance estimation, design effects, and sample size calculations for respondent-driven sampling..," *Journal of Urban Health*. 2006 Nov 1; 83(1):98. ; Johnston LG, Chen YH, Silva-Santisteban A, Raymond HF. An empirical examination of respondent driven sampling design effects among HIV risk groups from studies conducted around the world. *AIDS and Behavior.* 2013 Jul 1; 17(6):2202-10.

40 For a similar approach, see: Rudolph AE, Gaines TL, Lozada R, Vera A, Brouwer KC. Evaluating outcome-correlated recruitment and geographic recruitment bias in a respondent-driven sample of people who inject drugs in Tijuana, Mexico. *AIDS and Behavior*. 2014 Dec 1; 18(12):2325-37.

41 In the empty (intercept-only) model, the intercept represents the population prevalence. In the multivariable model, the beta coefficients provide the corresponding measure of effect (i.e., difference in means or odds ratio, etc.)

42 Rebecca A. Betensky, James A. Talcott, and Jane C. Weeks, "Binary Data with Two, Non-Nested Sources of Clustering: An Analysis of Physician Recommendations for Early Prostate Cancer Treatment," *Biostatistics* 1, no. 2 (2000): 219–230; Diana L. Miglioretti and Patrick J. Heagerty, "Marginal Modeling of Nonnested Multilevel Data Using Standard software." *American Journal of Epidemio*logy 165, no. 4 (2007): 453–63.

43 R Core Team (2017). R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. https://www.R-project.org/

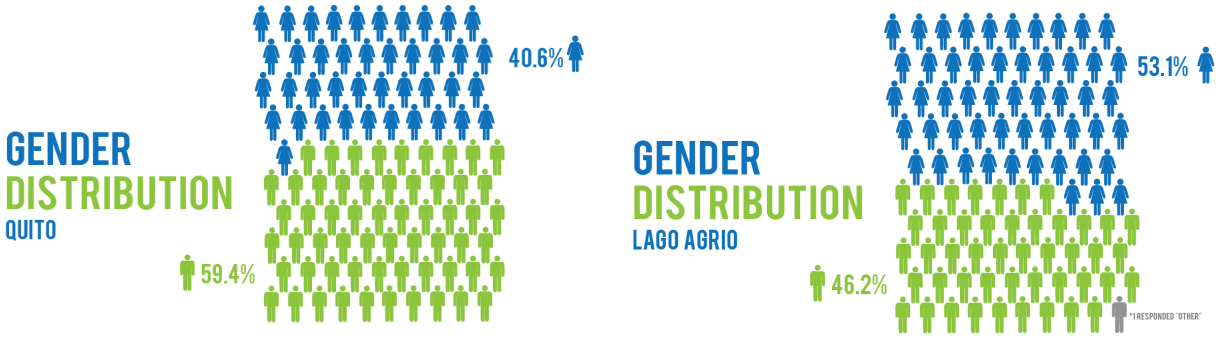
44 Gile KJ, Handcock MS. "Respondent-driven sampling: an assessment of current methodology..." *Social Methodology*. 2010; 40(1):285–327.

estimates,[2] we used imputed visibilities to calculate weights. For the Lago Agrio sample of refugees, only clustering was used as it was deemed inappropriate to use the RDS weights as detailed above.

IV. STUDY FINDINGS

A. DEMOGRAPHICS

This study surveyed 150 youth between ages 15-19 in Quito and 149 in Lago Agrio. Every surveyed refugee youth in Lago Agrio was born in Colombia, compared to 97.7 percent of those in Quito (others came from countries including Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria). Refugee Office representative, Laura Romero, stated that "since January 2016, applications from Colombian citizens are more or less 80 percent, and applications from citizens of other countries more or less 20 percent, which means the problems we are facing are no longer the same...we have to be prepared." The average length of residence in Ecuador for refugees in Quito is 22.9 months, and 56.0 months in Lago Agrio.



In Quito, 63.1 percent of surveyed refugees between ages 15 and 19 were children (15-17 years) and this proportion is even higher, 84.9 percent, in Lago Agrio. Males make up 59.4 percent of the urban youth population in Quito, and 46.2 percent in Lago Agrio.

Separated children made up 2.4 percent of refugee youth in Quito and 2.3 percent in Lago Agrio. Whereas nearly all youth had their biological mother living – 96.8 percent in Quito, 94.0 percent in Lago Agrio – far fewer had a living biological father – 77.5 percent in Quito and 79.5 percent in Lago Agrio. Unaccompanied children were excluded from this study at the request of the Ethics Committee, but Paola Botta from UNHCR reported that in 2016 the Office handled 15 cases of unaccompanied children in Quito.

Significantly more refugee youth in Quito are in a relationship (27.2 percent) or married (0.9 percent) when compared to Lago Agrio, where only 4.7 percent of youth reported being in a relationship and none being married. In Quito, 28.9 percent of females and 13.5 percent of males have biological children, compared to only 4.9 percent of all youth in Lago Agrio. Parenthood was higher amongst youth aged 18-19 than amongst those aged 15-17. For youth aged 15-17, 8.8 percent of those in Quito and 4% of those in Lago Agrio have biological children. Amongst youth aged 18-19, 41.1 percent of those in Quito and 9.7 percent of those in Lago Agrio have biological children. When asked about sexual orientation, roughly two thirds of refugees in both cities identified as straight or heterosexual, one quarter chose not to respond, and 3.3 percent in Quito and 7.0 percent in Lago Agrio stated that they were lesbian, gay or bisexual.

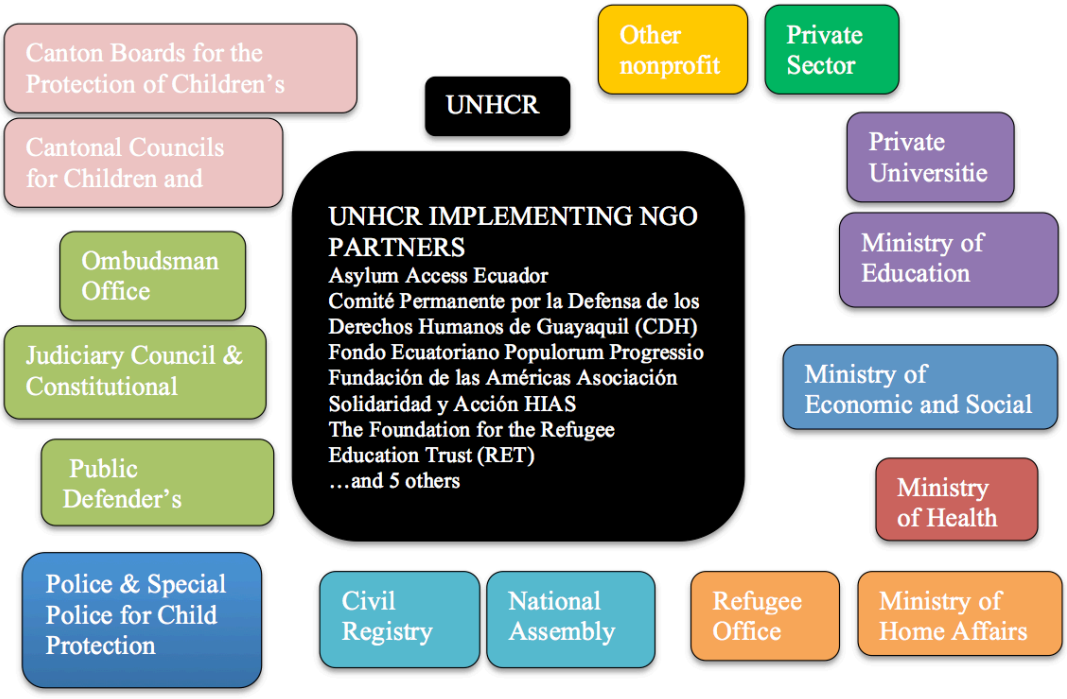
B. PROTECTION SYSTEM IN ECUADOR

OVERVIEW

Ecuador ratified the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees in 1958 and its 1967 Protocol in 1969. These instruments are codified in national legislation, specifically, the Presidential Decree 1182, issued on 30 May, 2012, which states that refugees will have equal rights to Ecuadorian citizens, with the exception of voting. Refugees are accorded access to the judicial system as well as health, education, housing, social security, financial and other services. The Ecuadorian Constitution of 2008 recognizes the principle of universal citizenship and human mobility as a human right (section three, article 40). In addition, Article 41 recognizes "the rights of asylum and refuge, in accordance with international law and international human rights instruments."

Following the completion of data collection for this report, Ecuador's National Assembly passed a new Human Mobility Law, which became effective in February 2017. The law regularizes the situation of people on the move – including refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and victims of trafficking. It includes guarantees free movement of people under the State's protection; no criminalization of those with irregular migration status; equality under the law and non-discrimination; the best interest of children and adolescents; the principle of non-refoulement; and the pro persona principle in the context of human mobility. It increases opportunities for naturalization and proposes measures to prevent statelessness. This report indicates where the new legislation may impact specific findings in the immediate future.

The Government of Ecuador is ultimately the main responsible party for the wellbeing of urban refugee youth. It conducts all refugee status determination and facilitates access for urban refugees to existing state services. UNHCR strives to fill gaps in this system and provide specialized protection and support services to vulnerable refugees by conducting advocacy at the macro-level and by supporting nonprofit implementing partners at the grassroots level. Several other actors are relevant to refugee youth wellbeing, including other civil society members, private educational and health institutions, and private employers. This complex web of actors is represented in the graphic below.



REGISTRATION, DOCUMENTATION AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS

MAIN FINDINGS

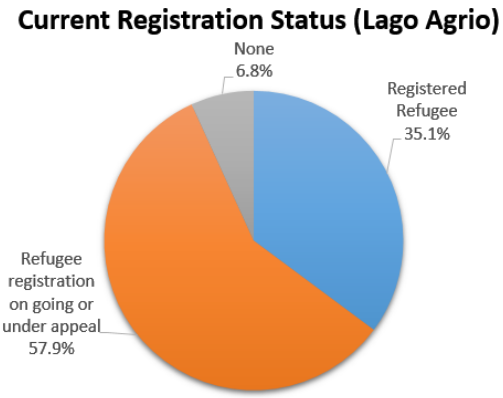
- There are several options for refugees in Ecuador to regularize their legal status: refugee visa, MERCOSUR visa, or dependent visa. Only 2.2 percent of youth in Quito and 5.5 percent in Lago Agrio reported having no status at all, yet 75.9 percent of youth in Quito and 57.9 percent in Lago Agrio reported that they had refugee registration ongoing or under appeal.

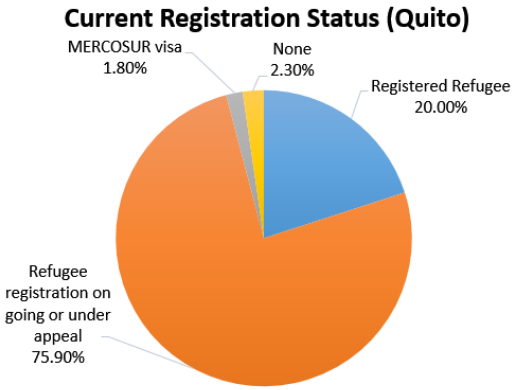
- The majority of refugees in Ecuador do not plan to return to their country of origin under any circumstances (91.0 percent in Quito and 78.6 percent in Lago Agrio).

- MEROCUSUR visas are considered an alternative for Colombians in Ecuador who may not gain or renew refugee status following the peace accord. However, the economic solvency requirement for MERCOSUR renewal presents a significant barrier for long-term viability.

REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION

In this study, 20.0 percent of youth in Quito and 35.1 percent in Lago Agrio were registered refugees. Refugee visas are made available to those who apply within 90 days of arriving through a two-step process with appeal rights that is conducted exclusively by the Refugee Office of the Ministry of Home Affairs ("Refugee Office"). Status must be renewed by the Refugee Office every two years. Key informants indicate that there is no flexibility for refugees who, whether due to fear, ignorance or misunderstanding, do not apply within the 90-day window. If accepted into the asylum procedure, refugees are issued a provisional asylum-seeker ID card, valid for 60 days with possibility for renewal, and the registration





process begins. An eligibility commission of government officials determines claims to refugee status; UNHCR and civil society actors can participate, but do not vote.

The complexity and centralization of the application system produces a significant backlog of pending claims. In Quito, 75.9 percent of refugee youth had refugee status determination ongoing or under appeal, as well as 57.9 percent in Lago Agrio. Key informants stated that the application process should only take three months, but that in reality more than half applicants wait over a year and some up to six years. According to Cesar Cherrez at UNHCR, "during this time people are left without documentation, this is one of the aspects that is key." Unaccompanied children go through an expedited asylum process "on account of their vulnerability" but are not assigned a guardian during this process. UNHCR and

several other key informants suggested that the Public Defender's Office could assume this role.

According to a Refugee Office representative, Laura Romero, the Colombian peace accord means that government "will have to review individual cases of refugees whose motivation was not clearly to flee the guerilla, but I believe this will reduce the number of refugee applicants." However, Judiciary Council representative Veronica Espinel expressed that "There is risk ... of policy that presupposes that peace exists, that says we will stop recognizing refugees or recognize less, but the insecure situation [in Colombia] continues ... it could cause displacement and violence, deprivation, violation of rights. It's a situation with a lot of uncertainty."

Once formally recognized as refugees, individuals are given a refugee visa. This visa currently has a number that is not compatible with the Civil Registry in Ecuador, which issues the national identification cards (cédula) necessary to open a bank account, gain social security, register for school, and many other essential activities. The result of this, noted Maria Gutierrez at Asylum Access, is that "there are many people who have their refugee visa but want to change to another migratory status because they are continually denied certain services or rights when they show their refugee visa documentation." Under the new 2017 Human Mobility Law, refugees will be granted a national identification card issued by the Civil Registry.

The second visa option is the MERCOSUR visa. Only 2.2 percent of those in Quito and no respondents in Lago Agrio reported having this two-year temporary work visa, made available in 2015. The visa carries minimal requirements and is available to nationals of the country members and affiliates of the MERCOSUR Latin American regional bloc.[45] The visa application fee ($230) is waived for Colombian citizens. Key informants indicated that the visa is appealing to refugees as it has fast application times and carries less social stigma. Laura Romero indicated that the Refugee Office hopes Colombian economic migrants that previously looked to refugee visas to regularize their presence will now instead make use of this option.

MERCOSUR does not provide any safeguard against refoulement, and renewal after two years is contingent upon demonstrating "economic solvency," which can be proved in various ways: a contract or last paycheck from an employer, a social security number, taxpayer number or bank account number. Maria Gutierrez at Asylum Access, a refugee legal services nonprofit in Ecuador, stated that "we're having problems with renewal...it is not easy. With the economic crisis, the vast majority [of refugees] don't have jobs with employers and have small businesses...it's not enough to have a bank account." As the first MERCOSUR visas issued in 2015 start to expire, UNHCR in Lago Agrio noted that "this raises the question of deportation."

Finally, asylum seekers with family ties to Ecuadorian citizens, such as a spouse or child born in the country, can obtain a third option, a dependent's visa. This offers permanent residence and full access to legal rights. UNHCR promotes this as a feasible and stable alternative for refugees to the refugee visa. Although results show 19.8 percent of youth in Quito and 4.9 percent in Lago Agrio have children and are technically eligible, none have a dependent visa.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Desire for voluntary repatriation among refugee youth in Ecuador is low: 91.0 percent in Quito and 78.6 percent in Lago Agrio said they did not intend to return under any circumstances. Colombian youth in focus groups agreed that the recent peace accord did not immediately change their plans for repatriation, viewing the agreement with skepticism.

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45 The agreement covers citizens of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay

After three years with refugee status, individuals may apply for permanent residence and Ecuadorian citizenship. Key informants indicated that very few refugees are able to naturalize as citizens or gain permanent resident status, due to the expensive and lengthy legal process required. Children of refugees born in Ecuador receive Ecuadorian citizenship under the jus solis principle. However, administrative obstacles continue to hinder refugees from registering their children and there are no protocols in place to ensure that birth certificates are issued to the children of refugees. Key informants expressed concerns that many refugee families do not go through this step, leaving them effectively stateless, i.e. legal citizens that lack the documents necessary to assert their legitimate claim to state services.[46]

PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND RIGHTS

UNIVERSAL PUBLIC SERVICES AND STATE PROTECTION MECHANISMS

Ecuador's government does not provide specialized programs for refugees, but integrates them into existing social services. For example, Ministerial Agreement 337 of 2008 guarantees free primary and secondary education, coordinated by the Ministry for Education, for all migrant children in Ecuador regardless of status.[47] Urban refugee youth are also guaranteed free access to the public healthcare system coordinated by the Ministry of Health. (See sections C and E for further details.) As Laura Romero of the Refugee Office explained, "Any program, any project that is aimed at the refugee population also has to accommodate the native population because the refugees in Ecuador are not isolated in one specific place...the refugee has to be just one more youth."

Ecuador's 2003 Code on Children and Adolescents defines the child protection system for those under 18, the age of majority. It calls for Cantonal Councils for Children and Adolescents to formulate policy, and monitor and protect the rights of all children and adolescents residing in Ecuador.[48] The scope of the Councils will soon be expanded to focus on human rights issues for all marginalized groups, not just children: a move criticized by key informants as diluting already scarce resources for children. According to one social worker for the nonprofit ASA in Quito, "They don't collaborate...many times if I, as ASA, present a case to the Council, they just tell me to investigate more. It is dumping the responsibility." The 2003 Code also calls for the creation of Cantonal Rights Protection Boards, operational bodies at the cantonal level whose main job is to protect individual and collective rights by assessing particular cases of rights infringements for children and taking remedial action. Key informants note that these Protection Boards usually don't have the necessary staff capacity – social workers, psychiatrists, lawyers – to handle the sensitive cases they receive.

The Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion (MIES) is responsible for the dispersal of welfare to the poorest refugees through cash transfers, if they are part of families with children 15 or under.[49] However, a social worker at ASA pointed out that this assistance does not go far enough: "The investment in children of all nationalities is very minimal - 1 dollar a day. For that, a child doesn't eat anything, so they

46 Jacqueline Bhabha et al., "Children on the Move: An Urgent Human Rights and Child Protection Priority" (Boston: Harvard FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, 2016), 17.

47 The Agreement removed the requirement for documentary proof of immigration status by foreign students who apply to public educational establishments, making presentation of any identity document sufficient for access.

48 There are Cantonal Councils operational in Quito and Lago Agrio, in addition to a National Council for Children and Adolescents.

49 The Bono de Desarrollo Humano (Human Development Bond) program benefits families who are below the poverty line and have children 15 and younger. Conditions include that children age six and younger must go to the doctor twice a year, and children from the ages of six through 15 must enroll in school and attend at least 90 percent of classes. In 2016, families received $50 per month.

become malnourished." MIES is also charged with coordinating aid from other departments in cases of specific protection needs. The Ministry does not specifically keep track of cases involving refugees, according to MIES sub-secretary, Guido Mosquera, "rather we classify them by type of violation."

MIES coordinates foster and alternative care for unaccompanied children. There is an acute shortage of shelters to protect and assist unaccompanied refugee youth – the Ministry directly operates ten shelters nationally, none in Lago Agrio – as a result, these youth are often placed in temporary centers reserved for "street children" juveniles who have committed legal infractions, which are generally not equipped with requisite specialists.

UNHCR stated that the Refugee Office has produced a protocol for the care of unaccompanied refugee youth in Ecuador. This is not publicly available and no key informants interviewed from nonprofits or civil society, including legal expert Maria Gutierrez at Asylum Access, knew of this policy: "I think it would be fundamental to have a protocol to guide work with unaccompanied minors." A protocol is also lacking for the reintegration of children who have left armed groups, which Marta Gutierrez at UNICEF described as "the main problem that we can identify" for this population.

The Public Defender's Office provides free legal services to registered refugees who feel that their rights have been violated. In Quito, the office has defenders specializing in child and adolescent rights. In addition, the Judiciary Council, the governing body of the judicial branch, advises judicial bodies such as judges and prosecutors on human rights issues and standards of access to justice, including those relevant to refugees. The Council runs a committee with all those who work on children and adolescent legal issues in Ecuador (including the State Attorney General's Office, DINAPEN, MIES and the public defender's office). This committee identifies all the cases of children and adolescents in need of alternative care, and identifies access to justice issues and remedies. Finally, refugee youth who do not wish to begin legal proceedings may approach the Human Right's Ombudsman's office to bring individual complaints about the services they receive to this legally established body.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES FROM UNHCR AND ITS PARTNERS

UNHCR advocates with government for progressive legislation and policy to facilitate the integration and protection of refugees in Ecuador. Key informants indicated UNHCR enjoys a cooperative relationship with relevant government departments, which it regularly trains on issues such as fair and efficient RSD procedures, reduction of RSD backlogs, and implementation of policies to strengthen basic services. UNHCR determines the refugees that are submitted for resettlement to third countries. It also provides financial assistance to the Refugee Office and the Civil Registry, with the aim of strengthening long-term institutional capacity.

UNHCR has a big role in coordinating the dispersed actors in the protection system through events and working groups. For example, in 2015 it founded a Working Group for the protection of children and adolescents in the context of human mobility, involving the Public Defender's office, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ombudsman's Office, the Canton Board and local nonprofits.[50] This group, which does not formally coordinate with the aforementioned committee for children and adolescents' legal issues, identifies and seeks to coordinate solutions to issues around access to documentation, addiction and sexual and reproductive health. UNHCR also attempts to include the private sector in these initiatives, as well as other international organizations such as UNICEF (which operates only in Lago Agrio).

50 According to Veronica Espinel at the Judiciary, this working table "has been able to position child protection on the agendas of these institutions, so now each has a monthly meeting to discuss the problems and policies for children and adolescents in the context of migration."

UNHCR has offices in both Lago Agrio and Quito, and directly provides initial humanitarian assistance to newly arrived asylum-seekers ranging from renting a hotel room for new arrivals, to providing used furniture or clothes, to support with documentation processes. UNHCR also delivers long-term humanitarian assistance and follow-up for select, highly vulnerable refugees. This assistance includes cash transfers (at the same level as that provided by MIES) and also a Graduation Model that includes consumption support, savings, assets transfer, and skills training.

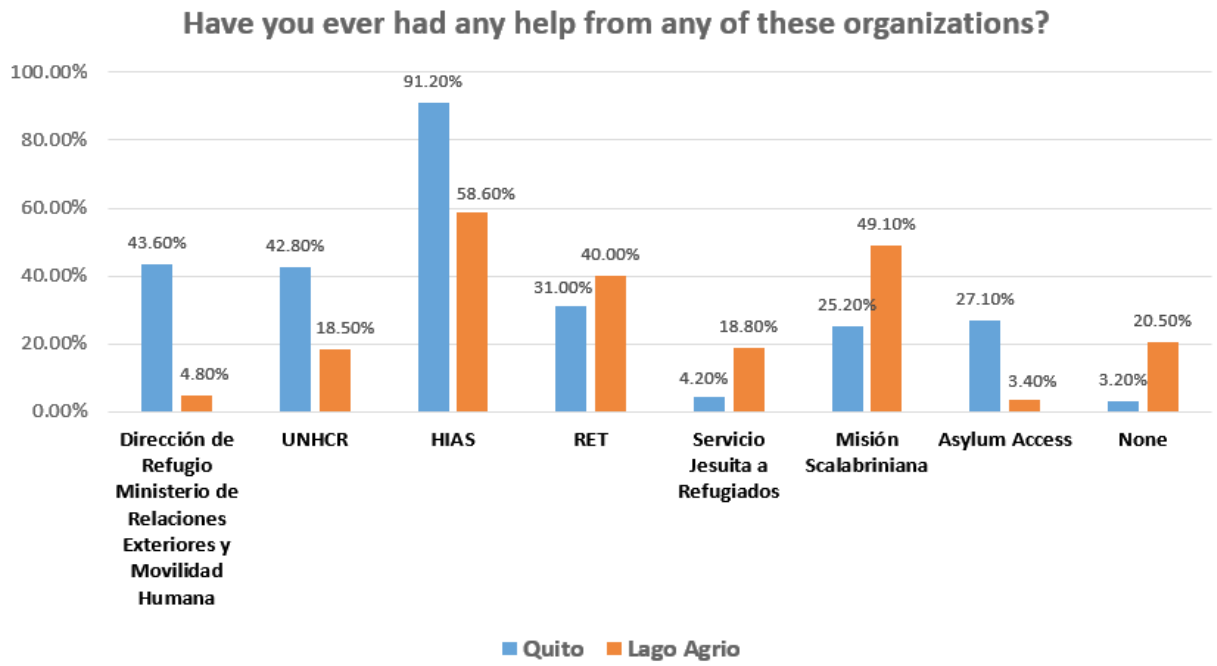
UNHCR provides additional services through implementing partners, national and international nonprofits provided with financial and technical support. In both Quito and Lago Agrio: HIAS provides humanitarian assistance, psychological help, and integration/self-sufficiency programs for refugees; Asylum Access Ecuador works to provide specialized legal services to refugees, along with community outreach, advocacy and strategic litigation; the Foundation for the Refugee Education Trust (RET) works with individual families to help their children get an education, providing non-formal education, skills workshops and business plans, and psychosocial assistance; Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio (FEPP) conducts microcredit projects with refugees and other marginalized Ecuadorians; and both Misión Scalabriniana and Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados (SJR) focus on providing case-by-case support to refugees with education and health access, as well as humanitarian assistance.

In Quito alone, UNHCR supports Asociación Solidaridad y Acción (ASA), which assists unaccompanied, separated and street children, both Ecuadorian and refugee, by providing shelter, livelihoods training and psychological support; CAI Matilde, a temporary safe house for approximately 35 women victims of violence and their children; and Fundación de las Américas (FUDELA), which conducts workshops, activities and programs that focus on sport as a training tool. There are monthly meetings held between some of these actors in Quito in order to track programs and specific children in order to define priorities. In Lago Agrio, Oxfam Italia was operating until 2017, providing skill training and self-esteem workshops to refugee youth.

CHALLENGES IN PROTECTION SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

Despite Ecuador's progressive legal and policy framework for the protection of urban refugee youth, significant challenges exist to the full implementation of this framework, and to the actual access to rights refugees experience.

Reach and uptake are particular issues. The figure below shows that the reach of the protection system is far wider in Quito among urban refugee youth. Here, only 3.2 percent had never received help from any of the service providers, compared to 20.5 percent in Lago Agrio. UNHCR and Government presence is considerably weaker in Lago Agrio, and refugee youth overall have most frequent contact with nonprofits.



When asked, "What do you think is the role of the UNHCR," the most common response in Quito was that UNHCR helps refugees (61.3 percent), an option not listed in the survey but entered as "other," followed by "resettlement" (27.7 percent), and then "do not know" (26.9 percent). In Lago Agrio, the most commonly chosen option was "do not know" (45.2 percent), then "resettlement" (23.3 percent), followed by "raise awareness on child rights" (14.0 percent), "protect children from violence and abuse" (14.1 percent), and helping refugees (13.1 percent).

Refugee youth have low awareness about complaint mechanisms for the services they receive: 15.9 percent in Quito and 11.4 percent in Lago Agrio knew of a place to go to file a complaint. A small fraction of these youth in the know actually filed a complaint: one study participant in Quito received feedback after making a complaint, and none in Lago.

Key informants expressed concern that urban refugees who do not access services from the state, or UNHCR and its partners, are the most vulnerable. These include unaccompanied, abused and out of school youth, youth with unstable living situations, and youth at ongoing risk of persecution from other Colombians. According to Veronica Espinel at the Judiciary Council, "What keeps surprising me is we have so few reports of child abuse or abandonment, so few requests to initiate protection measures for discrimination and crimes against refugees, when I know they are the most vulnerable people in Ecuador. I think that there is not a culture of reporting."

The first systemic challenge to service delivery is funding. UNHCR has an increasing funding gap: just 7 percent of the 19.9 million USD requested in 2016 were delivered. Financial support for implementing partners has accordingly decreased in recent years. As Carolina Rodriguez at RET explained, "This is the position of the government, that we don't actually need funds because the refugee issues are just the same as those in the rest of society. We are entirely dependent on the public servants that treat refugees as ordinary citizens. But there is a very detailed law here that specifies refugee's specific vulnerability, that says that all of these kinds of discrimination are not legal."

Despite several ongoing efforts to coordinate multiple protection system actors, all key informants mentioned poor coordination on ground-level service delivery as a significant issue. Guidelines fail to translate into practice; for example, key actors were unaware of the protocol for care of unaccompanied minors. As one Oxfam representative noted, "We are not good at working together and implementing, we have so many meetings but then we're waiting for the next one." The challenges of implementing this protection framework were summed up by Cesar Cherrez at UNHCR:

> "You see, in my personal opinion, Ecuador does not have a protection system beyond in conceptual terms ... one of the worst problems is that you do not have structure. You have some programs here, some programs there, but there is no systemic logic, no systemic approach. For children, there is something [the 2003 Code], but it is very, very weak... The protection system should not only be universal services for education and health, the most complex part is how you respond to more specific needs that refugees may have, whether that be violence, child abuse, homelessness, or begging."

Guido Mosquera at MIES confirmed that "each sector of the government has their role but they are working in an isolated fashion...I think the best way to tackle these cases would be to have one interinstitutional board, where they could address refugee cases in a holistic way and each government authority could identify how their capacities could speed up the case: if there is a victim of rights violation, then it's for MIES, or if there is a situation in which they haven't established their migratory status, then it's for the [Refugee Office]."

Coordinating with government is made difficult by high staff turnover, lack of technical capacity and inflexible bureaucracies. Key informants spoke of concerns regarding the lack of technical capacity within MIES and other government agencies to coordinate and provide front line services to vulnerable refugees, as well as their ability to regulate, support and guide non-state actors. As ASA social worker Monica Barreno commented: "I don't know where the money goes; it is being totally bureaucratized. There is so much personnel in MIES that no one ever sees specialists who have to accompany [vulnerable youth], but the only thing they come to do is to fill out a form." It is understood that the wealth of knowledge and experience within the non-state sector is not effectively capitalized on, particularly in terms of participation in development of Government policy and standards. This separation means that informal barriers for refugee's accessing services that arise, for example, from logistical inefficiencies, discrimination and stigma, are not addressed at the policy level.

Finally, issues in coordination and service delivery are knowledge and data. UNHCR is currently assisting the Ecuador Government to clean and standardize the ProGres database, which is currently incomplete and underutilized. There is no reliable available data on the urban refugee youth population disaggregated by age, gender and country of origin. Various state ministries such as MIES or the Education Department keep record of or share information on only the refugee-specific cases they deal with. As such, the scope of the issues affecting refugee youth is underestimated, and initiatives to address them left unsupported.

QUITO VS. LAGO AGRIO

"The protection system for children and adolescents [in Quito] is much stronger than in other localities, there are many more actors involved", according to Paola Botta at UNHCR, "the protection system is certainly not seen when you leave the city." While it is easier to disseminate information about available services in Lago Agrio, a smaller city with a comparatively larger Colombian population, there are more UNHCR implementing partners in the capital operating with more resources. State infrastructure is stronger in Quito – specifically the health and education sectors. Resources in Ecuador are distributed by central government to provinces in accordance with census estimates of the number of resident citizens there, which directly limits resources in Lago Agrio, supporting a comparatively large number of refugees not accounted for in the central government's resource equation.

Key informants suggested that many younger children stay in Lago Agrio with their families because Colombians are a more prominent demographic and because many were displaced from rural areas and so prefer a smaller city. However, older adolescents move out of the city to rural areas or to Quito due to a lack of job or education opportunities. Refugees still at risk from Colombian armed actors also do not stay in Lago Agrio, moving to the capital where they can be more anonymous.

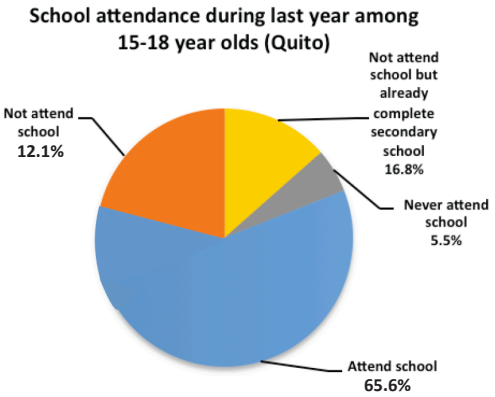
C. EDUCATION

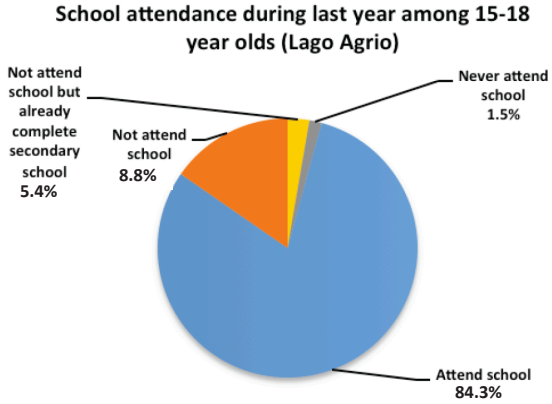
MAIN FINDINGS

- Among school age children, school enrollment is 65.6 percent in Quito and 84.3 percent in Lago Agrio (See Appendix A). In the capital, over a quarter of all refugee youth are not in education and have also not finished secondary school, as well as 14 percent in Lago Agrio.
- Youth with legal status (refugee, MERCOSUR or dependent) are significantly more likely to attend school than those in the application process or without documentation. This latter group cannot graduate from secondary school or apply for university because of their status.
- Other barriers to access and to retention, which is a significant issue, include: inflexible school registration requirements; placement in schools far away or in separate schools from siblings; discrimination and stigma in school; safety concerns at and on the way to school; costs of uniforms and other incidentals; family economic insecurity; early pregnancy; and internal migration.

Under Ecuadorian law, primary and secondary education is free and compulsory for all those in Ecuador between 5 and 18 years of age.[51] Public higher education institutions are also free of charge. Application to secondary school requires enrollment through the central database, MOGAC, run by the Ministry of Education, which allocates children to schools. In order to register, youth need three things: (1) identification in the form of an Ecuadorean cédula; (2) proof of residence in a particular district; and (3) documentation of past studies, absent which youth can take a placement exam through MOGAC. There is no petition system for students to change their allocated school.

51 The 2008 Constitution states that "Universal access, permanence, mobility and graduation without any discrimination shall be guaranteed, as well compulsory attendance of initial schooling, basic education and secondary education or their equivalent." (Section, Article 8) The 2011 Ley Organica de Educacion Intercultural guarantees education access to all citizens of Ecuador and those legally resident in the country (Article 94). Pre-university schooling is organized into separate levels: Educación General Básica (Basic General Education) for those 5 – 15 years of age; and Educación Bachillerato (Baccalaureate) for those 15 – 18 years of age. There are public schools run by central government as well as private schools.





SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

In Quito, school attendance among study participants of school age (15-18 years) was 65.6 percent. Among all surveyed youth in this city, only 16.8 percent had completed secondary school: over a quarter were not in school and did not hold a secondary school degree. In Lago Agrio, attendance among school age children was higher at 84.3 percent, but only 5.4 percent of the total had completed secondary school, leaving approximately 8.8 percent out of school without a degree. It is possible that these estimates of school attendance in Lago Agrio, where RDS weights were not used to approximate a generalizable sample, are inflated, as refugee youth in school will have more regular exposure to other youth and thus refer their peers to the study at higher rates than out of school youth.

Documentation status is an important indicator of school attendance. Among all youth ages 15-19, those with legal status – either refugee, MERCOSUR or dependent – are significantly more likely than those either in the application process or without documentation to attend school: 75.9 vs 47.1 percent in Quito, respectively, and 89.7 vs 74.2 percent in Lago Agrio.

Although only one surveyed youth (in Quito) stated that he was attending university, demand for tertiary education remains high among this population: 83.4 percent of youth in Quito and 74.5 percent in Lago Agrio stated that they would complete tertiary education.

ACCESS TO AND RETENTION IN SECONDARY SCHOOL

Education access and retention is a priority area for refugee youth, and the subject most frequently discussed in focus groups. Key informants noted that challenges to education access have improved greatly for refugee youth in the last five years, though they remain significant. The main challenges discussed were those affecting school retention.

These challenges begin with the school allocation process. Delays are often so great that children "stay in limbo without work or school," fall additional years behind and simply give up. According to Carolina Rodriguez of the education nonprofit RET, "The districts will send refugee children to schools on the other side of the district and will often separate siblings, meaning that parents who are struggling need to do various trips and they cannot cope, often pulling children out of school." Several refugees in focus groups mentioned poor transportation options as compounding this problem: "They sent me to study but the school was so far, and, so, why go." "I am not studying, I spend the whole day in my house doing nothing and that has me feeling bad because I want to occupy my mind with something, or perhaps the education here is not good because they sent us to a school very, very far away."

Documentation requirements are a challenge for enrollment and graduation. Key informants stated that in order to enroll in MOGAC, the user has to enter a number for an Ecuadorian ID (cédula). As a result, many youth with refugee documentation cannot apply. Carolina Rodriguez at RET noted that she had registered over 80 young refugees as her "children," as they did not know anyone else with a national ID who could do this for them. Additionally, in the Ecuadorian system, if you have irregular status, you can enroll in school but you cannot graduate. One refugee youth commented: "Yes I had problems, I was in school, but they took me out because I didn't have documents, for this reason now I am not studying."

According to Omar Quichimbo from RET in Lago Agrio, it "happens with some frequency that refugees fail the placement exam" that is required of youth without proof of past education attainment. The materials to prepare for the exam, books of 200 pages each, are rarely available and much of the content is specific to Ecuador's history and culture, unfamiliar to refugees. Colombia ends middle school at 11 years of age and Ecuador at 13, so these youth are already missing a year or two of school, but then many are allocated after the placement exam to grades below their age and attainment level. Refugees in this situation are seen as "lagging behind," suffer from lack of motivation, social stigma, and often drop out of school.

Generally speaking, informants complained of a lack of flexibility in the system. Carolina Rodriguez at RET explained that "exceptionally high turnover rate in all the relevant ministries and school districts, [means that] the people involved do not have knowledge or understanding of the issues that affect refugee youth when applying to school. So they do not act with flexibility when there are difficult circumstances for these [refugee] youth." For example, several refugee youth in focus groups reported that they had fallen behind as they were not given time to collect their papers from Colombia that attested to their education attainment. Another case handled by RET was of an indigenous woman from El Nariño in Colombia, whose three daughters were all placed in different schools by the district. They said that they could not be sisters as they all had different last names. The mother explained that in her culture, children take the last name of the leaders of the indigenous community they are born in, and because of their displacement they had lived in several communities, but the district refused to believe her or make an exception.

Even once successfully enrolled, many refugee youth face discrimination and stigma in school, principally from other students but also teachers. In Quito, 36.2 of youth reported that they felt discriminated against or ostracized during the past year, compared to 15.1 percent in Lago Agrio. This was a key subject raised by refugee youth in focus groups, some of whom reported moving from school to school to avoid severe bullying: "Xenophobia is so strong here... in school, parents do not want their children to hang out with Colombians." Omar Quichimbo reported that RET sees "cases of reported physical and psychological abuse towards the students by the teachers or by the other students... parents often decide to remove the kid from the school."

Of those in education, only 55.6 percent in Quito and 23.3 percent in Lago Agrio said that they knew where to go if they had a problem at school. Regardless, key informants indicated that complaint mechanisms are ineffective. Carolina Rodriguez described "a case of one child, whose teacher admitted to smashing their head against the wall, and they got 15 days suspension. In the end, nothing ever happens. So we have stopped making these kinds of complaints."

There are also significant security concerns that impact school attendance. In Quito, 52.8 percent of youth reported that they did not feel safe in school, as well as 24.7 percent in Lago Agrio. Many also reported being the victim of physical violence in school – 27.1 percent in Quito and 9.3 percent in Lago Agrio – though this largely was perpetrated by peers rather than teachers. Though no difference by

gender was observed in Quito, boys in Lago Agrio reported physical abuse at significantly higher rates that girls: 16.2 percent compared to 4.6 percent. Corporal punishment by teachers was not a pervasive issue, with only 3.2 percent prevalence in Quito and 0.9 percent in Lago Agrio).

Economic factors present a significant barrier to educational attainment. Although attendance is free, the associated costs of travel, books and uniforms are often prohibitive. Some public schools require their students to purchase items beyond the Ministry of Education determined list of supplies. RET described "one school that has one uniform for sport, one for Mondays, one for Tuesdays-Saturdays, and one for special occasions. This can cost between $170 and $200 per child." Many young refugees reported in focus groups that they did not attend school because they had to earn money to support their families: "I did not want to study, to help economically for the rent which is $75 per month, plus food, plus transport, so for that reason I had to help with that." Key informants noted that early pregnancy and cohabitation with older partners also means that girls drop out at a higher rate than boys.

Finally, many children drop out because of high internal migration. According to RET in Lago Agrio, "Internal mobility within the province is constant for some refugee families...perhaps for questions of job opportunities...that also means their kids abandon the school year and causes educational delay. Perhaps 15-20 percent move from the urban zone to other cantons."

ACCESS TO TERTIARY EDUCATION

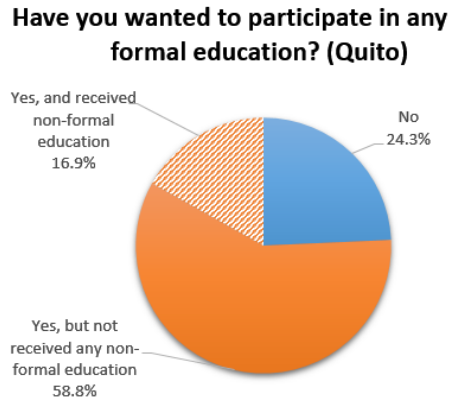
UNHCR has conducted advocacy with several universities to secure merit grants for certain refugees. However, limited access to tertiary education was listed as a key concern by youth in focus groups. This access question is part the result of limited supply. There are insufficient places in free public universities available to residents of Ecuador, and key informants expressed the view that refugee youth always go to the "back of the queue" in applications. There are no universities in the department of Sucumbios, where Lago Agrio lies, so any youth wishing to further their studies must migrate. Refugee youth cannot generally afford to pay for private tertiary education.

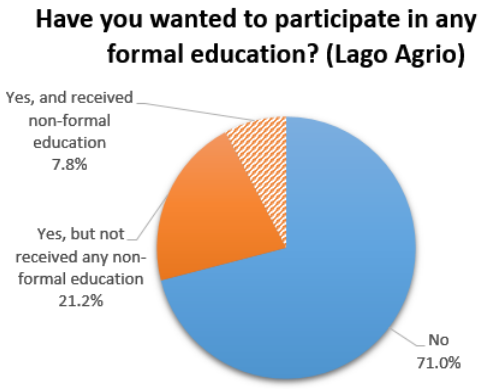
Documentation issues also limit access to university. Lawyer Maria Gutierrez at the nonprofit Asylum Access noted that, "The scholarships to state universities that they give are discriminatory...one of the requirements is that the applicant be Ecuadorian or have a permanent visa, and the refugee visa is not a permanent visa." Those with refugee status pending or under appeal (75.9 percent of those in Quito) cannot apply for university outright. Additionally, if a Colombian refugee arrives having completed high school, but does not have any documentation of this, they need to retake the last year of school.

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AND SKILL TRAINING

Results show an unmet need for non-formal education to help mainstream back into the formal educational system, as well as skill training that will better prepare them to enter the job market. This was particularly true for older youth ages 18-19 in Quito, 82.8 percent of which wanted to participate in skill training as compared to 60.3 in Lago Agrio. No statistical differences were observed across gender. Several focus group participants in Quito emphasized the value of the training they received through UNHCR as part of the graduation model, and through nonprofits such as HIAS and FUDELA in areas

including electrician skills, cooking, nursing, hotel and tourism and beauty care.





Several refugee youth expressed a wish for night classes: "Studying at night would be the only thing to make it easier for us accessing education, because if you work, it is the only time. But the problem is that there are few night schools."

D. LIVELIHOODS

MAIN FINDINGS

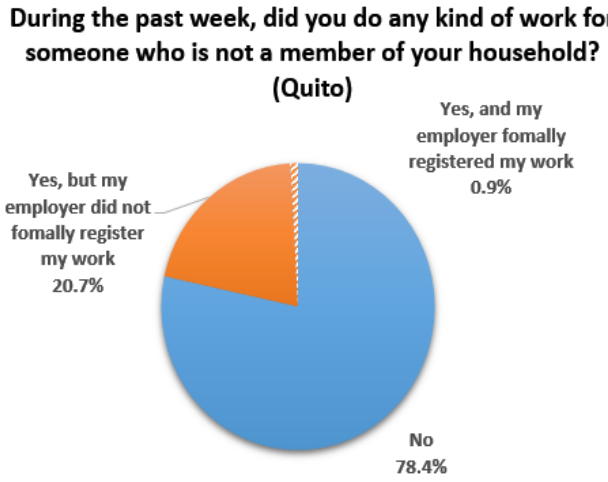
- Underemployment is a significant issue for refugee youth, especially in Lago Agrio: 21.6 percent of youth in Quito worked for someone outside the household during the last week, compared to 10.7 percent in Lago Agrio. These refugees work almost exclusively in the informal market: 4.2 percent of employed youth in Quito and 16.7 percent in Lago Agrio had their employment formally registered.

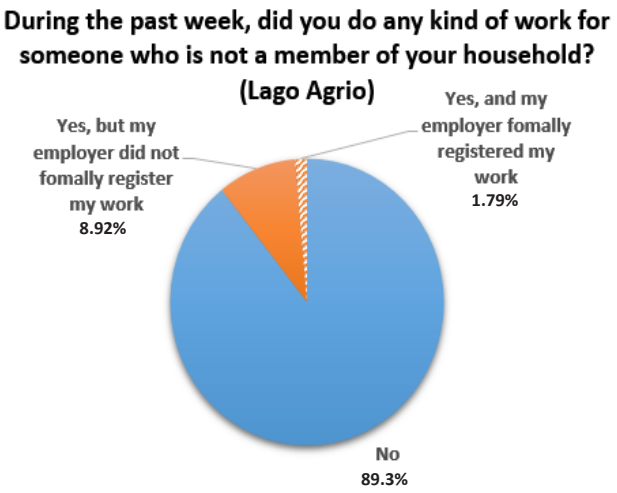
- Of working youth, 47.2 percent in Quito and 15.6 percent in Lago Agrio suffered injuries on the job during the last year. They often experience harassment, low wages and long hours.

- Barriers to work include: the economic crisis and depressed job market; discrimination on the grounds of race and nationality; unclear law regarding rights to work for asylum-seekers; and misunderstandings of the law by employers.

Refugees in Ecuador are explicitly guaranteed by law the right to work and to start businesses. In the last several years, the government of Ecuador has made a concerted effort to eradicate child labor. The Child and Youth Code fixes the minimum working age at 15. It stipulates that teenagers over 15 cannot work more than six hours per day and 30 hours a week, or if work interferes with his or her education.

RATES OF WORK





Overall, data show that more refugee youth are working in the capital city: during the last week, 21.6 percent worked for someone outside the household for an average of 23.9 hours. These rates were significantly higher for older youth ages 18-19 (35.2 percent) compared to those ages 15-17 (14.9 percent), and higher for boys (27.9 percent) than for girls (12.3 percent). Slightly lower numbers worked in the street or for a family business: 29.1 percent of older youth and 6.8 percent of younger youth, for 25.2 hours on average, with no difference by gender. In Lago Agrio, only 10.7 percent of all youth worked for someone outside the household for 15.9 hours on average, and 11.0 percent worked during the last week in the street or for a family business for 14.9 hours on average, with no significant differences observed by age or gender.

Refugee youth in both cities help considerably in the home: 96.2 percent in Quito and 91.0 percent in Lago Agrio helped with domestic chores or caring for family members during the last week. The average number of hours dedicated to this in Quito was 20.4 for girls and 12.8 for boys. In Lago Agrio, youth worked an average of 5.2 hours in the home, with no difference by gender.

Focus groups and key informant interviews indicated that in Lago Agrio youth migrate seasonally out of the city to rural areas where work is available on farms. The great majority of refugee youth in urban areas work in the informal market: informal sales on buses or at traffic lights, bar and restaurant businesses, and beauty salons. Only 4.2 percent of working youth in Quito and 16.7 percent in Lago Agrio had their employment formally registered.

BARRIERS TO WORK

Underemployment is a problem for refugee youth, as it is for many Ecuadorians, especially in the current economic crisis. Lago Agrio, whose economy principally relies on the oil industry, has been particularly hard hit. According to the World Bank, the youth unemployment rate in Ecuador is 13 percent.[52] However,

52 "Unemployment, Youth Total (% of Total Labor Force Ages 15-24) (Modeled ILO Estimate) | Data," accessed

this rate is much higher for refugee youth, who for several reasons are at the back of the queue for available jobs. Discrimination in the job market was the most frequently cited reason in focus groups, particularly on the grounds of race. As one youth commented: "If you work on the streets... they don't let you work. And when you go to look for a job for no reason they don't accept you, first because of racism for color of the skin and then for being Colombian, there's nothing worse." Another youth stated that Ecuadorians "think that because a person has dark skin that they are bad, many times they don't give you a job and they give it to a white person."

Discrimination is also based on nationality. As Maria Salinas, member of the Canton Council, stated, "Colombian people are very creative, they come here and they start a business in the street...and the Ecuadorians don't, so they feel that it's as though they are taking their opportunities for jobs or spaces." Other less positive stigmas are attached to Colombian nationality. As one refugee girl explained: "Some people...say that Colombian women are whores and that makes them deny us employment." Another young male refugee noted that, "Here they have the attitude that all Colombians are bad, hit-men, thieves. Plus here they have a system where if I know you, I recommend you for a job, so it would do me no good anyway to have credentials."

Quantitative results do not show an impact on rates of work by registration status. However, UNCHR and other key informants stated that in their experience, documentation matters: "Those without documentation have fewer opportunities for employment," explained Cesar Cherrez, "those with a refugee visa have more, those who have the Amparo[53] visa have more, and those who have the Mercosur visa even more. That's how the cascade goes."

In particular, undocumented refugees and asylum seekers face legal barriers to work. The previous Immigration Law and the Labor Code state that only foreigners with immigrant visas, refugee visas or temporary work visas can work. The new Human Mobility Law is no clearer. Article 51 states that foreigners residing in Ecuador "have the right to work and to access social security," contingent upon their obtaining legal residence and declaring their income. Key informants stated that while asylum seekers and undocumented migrants are generally not punished for working, the risk of hefty fines ($400 - $4000) or prison terms (6 months - 3 years) for employers disincentives hiring.
Key informants and focus group members mentioned that misunderstandings of the law by potential employers also act as a barrier to work, as many believe that refugees must have a work permit as well as a visa, or that they must have an Ecuadorean cédula.

EXPLOITATIVE WORK

Low pay, long work hours and lack of job stability were all reported as important issues by youth in focus groups: "When we first arrived here I went to work at a restaurant and worked and at the end I was not paid." One refugee youth in Lago Agrio described being paid $10 for 12 hours of work of heavy manual labor: "It is true, the pay here is very terrible because if you are not legal here in Ecuador you are paid whatever they want." Data show that hazardous work is an issue in urban environments: 47.2 percent of respondents in Quito, and 15.6 percent in Lago Agrio that had worked during the last year suffered injuries on the job. Jobs in the informal market also expose many refugees, in particular females and Afro-Colombians, to harassment and abuse, for example working to sell goods on the bus or at stoplights.

Quantitative results do not show transactional sex to be a pervasive practice: 2.3 percent of youth

August 1, 2017, http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.1524.ZS.

53 The Amparo visa is given to individuals legally considered to be a dependent of a visa holder.

reported in Quito and 0.7 percent in Lago Agrio. However, Monica Barreno at ASA and others noted that "Girls in sex work is a big problem, and the response of the State is only institutional housing, which is temporary." This suggests that youth in this study were underreporting the incidence of transactional sex. It is also possible that youth involved in sex work were under-represented by the peer-referral sampling strategy.

E. HEALTH

MAIN FINDINGS

- Healthcare was the most positively evaluated area of services for refugees in Ecuador. Despite nationwide challenges in quality and access for public health systems, refugees reported few barriers to access, few instances of discrimination in care, and free service.

- There is a deficit in the availability of psychosocial healthcare services: 29.6 percent of youth in Quito and 57.1 percent in Lago Agrio exhibited results indicating depression.

- Other health issues include a lack of sexual and reproductive health services and treatment for drug dependency, as well as food scarcity.

ACCESS TO HEALTH SYSTEMS

Ecuador's 2008 Constitution guarantees unimpeded access to health care services (with a strong focus on primary care) at no direct cost to individuals. The country's health care system is made up of a public system, free to everyone; a social security system, available to all working-class individuals and their families through a tax that employers pay into the system; and a private system, expensive and used by about 3 percent of Ecuadorians, mostly upper- and middle-class. The public health system has a toll free national telephone booking system for medical appointments.

In Quito, 87 percent of refugees stated that they knew where to go if they have a health problem, compared to 69.7 percent in Lago Agrio. Key informants reported that in Lago Agrio there are fewer clinics and fewer appointments available.

Healthcare was the most positively evaluated area of services by refugees in focus groups. Despite nationwide challenges in quality of services and lack of funds, youth in focus groups described few barriers to access, few instances of discrimination in care, and no cost: "On the topic of healthcare, the level of care that is here is so cool." Refugees are not required to present documentation of migratory status at the point of service or in booking an appointment.

PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH

Refugee youth focused largely on their psychosocial health needs over physical ones. Depression and anxiety are exacerbated by fear, social isolation, trauma, lack of hope and economic insecurity. Focus group respondents explained:

> "We cannot go out alone because we are persecuted and because we are afraid, that is to say we have a lot of insecurity here ... I never go out alone, I go out with my little sister, my mum or my dad, those are the only ones."

> "You leave your family behind and you achieve everything with so much effort just so another can come and take it from you or kick you out of your house or kill your family or beat your parents or your children. So this just feels terrible horrible."

> "I am sad much of the time. I miss my life in Colombia, my family, my friends. Here I haven't socialized with anyone, so, nothing, very sad, but well, normal."

In Quito, 29.6 percent of youth exhibited results on the Mood and Feelings Scale that indicate depression, with older youth faring significantly worse than children under 18 years (48.5 vs 19.9 percent).[54] In Lago Agrio, 57.1 percent overall exhibited results indicating depression, though here younger children (60.3 percent) and girls (65.5 percent) both scored significantly worse than older children and boys.

Another scale, the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS), was used to assess perceptions of social support adequacy among refugee youth from family, friends and a significant other.[55] Roughly three quarters of refugees in Lago Agrio and one third in Quito were categorized as having "high support". Only 2.2 percent in Lago Agrio and 2.4 percent in Quito were categorized with "low support."

The Children's Hope Score was also used to assess youth hopefulness. This measure captures both the pathway and agency thinking components of hope.[56] In Quito, 7.9 percent evinced high levels of hope and 39.0 percent low hope. In Lago Agrio, 3.4 percent evinced high levels of hope and 26.1 percent, low hope. No significant differences were observed by legal status in the city.

OTHER HEALTH ISSUES

Sexual and reproductive health was identified as a priority area for improvement in both cities. These services are provided only through the public health system, though usually only at the request of the young person. Several key informants also stated that drug and alcohol consumption is a pervasive issue among refugee youth, especially those out of school or involved in gang activity. "The consumption of drugs and alcohol by the kids at very young ages...has taken over not only Lago Agrio but the entire country" noted Canton Council member Maria Salinas. Key informants also stated that there are no interventions to prevent or raise awareness about this problem, and no rehabilitation programs available for youth with identified problems through the Ministry of Heath. The nonprofit RET conducts a family-level intervention program to help refugee youth who have drug abuse issues, whose reach is nevertheless limited.

Hunger was also a widely discussed issue in focus groups with refugee youth, exacerbated by issues of economic insecurity. One female in the 15-17 years focus group commented: "I worry a lot about my family, we are going through a very difficult time. I see how my mother and father don't have enough to give us food day to day." Another male in the 18-19 group stated: "All you might have to eat with, you have to invest in rent." When asked if they agreed that they had enough to eat when hungry, 24.9% of youth surveyed in Quito and 18% of those in Lago Agrio said that this was only a little or not at all true.

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54 The Mood and Feelings Questionnaire is a validated scale that assesses depressive symptoms in children and young adults. There is no single cut point that is best for use in all circumstances. However, a total score of 12 or higher may signify that a child is suffering from depression.

55 *See* Gregory D. Zimet et al., "The Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support," Journal of Personality Assessment 52, no. 1 (1988): 30–41; Janie Canty-Mitchell and Gregory D. Zimet, "Psychometric Properties of the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support in Urban Adolescents," American Journal of Community Psychology 28, no. 3 (2000): 391–400.

56 For the CHS Total Score, a score greater than 4.67 is considered to be high, while a score less than 3.0 is considered low. See Leonard Bickman et al., eds., "Children's Hope Scale (CHS)," in *Peabody Treatment Progress Battery* (Nashville: Vanderbilt Univer sity, 2007).

F. SEXUAL VIOLENCE

MAIN FINDINGS

- Existing efforts in Ecuador to tackle sexual and gender-based violence do not take into account the particular vulnerability of refugees. Key informants in the protection system did not discuss sexual violence as a priority area.

- In Quito, 25.4 percent of girls and 9.6 percent of boys reported suffering an incident of sexual abuse during the last year, and in Lago Agrio, 9.8 percent overall reported abuse.

Ecuador's national plan for the eradication of sexual and gender based violence is led by the Directorate on Interfamilial Violence and Gender Equality, within the Ministry of Justice, and implemented through an interdepartmental commission created in 2015. This commission financially and logistically supports five shelters nationally that deliver care to self-identified victims, which are operated through local partners. These efforts have limited reach and include no specific consideration of refugee needs, according to a representative of the Directorate who stated in an interview: "The refugee issue is the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs." No other key informants mentioned sexual and gender based violence as a priority issue for actors in the protection system.

Nevertheless, data show that sexual violence is a widespread problem for urban refugee youth. In Quito, 25.4 percent of girls and 9.6 percent of boys reported suffering any incident of sexual abuse during the last year, with an average of 5.5 instances of abuse. This was defined as forced, pressured or persuaded to have sexual intercourse against their will or touched against their will in a sexual way. In Lago Agrio, 9.8 percent reported experiencing any incident of abuse, with no significant difference by gender, and an average incidence of 5.1 times. While a few youth who reported suffering any incident of sexual violence took advantage of legal assistance in Quito, all youth in Lago Agrio except one received no services at all. When asked if they knew a place to report sexual abuse, 44.1 percent in Quito and 15.4 percent in Lago Agrio responded that they did, with no difference by gender or age.

Several key informants described widespread relationships between young refugee girls and older partners, relationships often characterized by teenage pregnancy and intimate partner violence. Monica Barreno, social worker with ASA, commented that the state generally does not intervene in these cases: "It seems that starting around 12 or 13 years, [Colombian girls] get a boyfriend and come here with a mate who is 9 or 10 years older...but since the girl is already living in a domestic partnership the state thinks they aren't going to separate from this partner."

G. HOUSING AND HOME LIFE

MAIN FINDINGS

- Refugees generally live in marginal areas of the city and have restricted housing market access because of discrimination; scarcity of financial resources; absence of a guarantor; and lack of documents.

- Youth live in small family units (roughly 5 per household) and often spend much of their time in the home. In Quito, 24.4 percent are victims of physical abuse in the home, as well as 20.1 percent in Lago Agrio.

- For some unaccompanied minors, a lack of shelters and absence of independent living options results in homelessness.

ACCESS TO HOUSING

According to qualitative data, access to adequate housing is a problem for many urban refugees, who generally live in low-income and marginal areas of the city, with poor links to public transport and high levels of crime. Restricted access to the housing market is principally the result of discrimination related to nationality; scarcity of financial resources; absence of a guarantor; and lack of documents. As one refugee youth commented: "When we arrived, for so long my father couldn't rent an apartment...they asked 'Where are you from? Ah, Colombian.' Then they would hang up the phone, not say no, just hang up."

HOME LIFE AND ABUSE IN THE HOME

The average household size in Quito is 5.1 persons and Lago Agrio it is 5.4. Focus groups indicated that these small family units are key sources of support for youth, particularly given that the Colombian refugee community is not a cohesive network providing support, information and opportunities. Youth stated that they spend most of their time at home: "Much of the time we don't go out on the street, we stay inside because of fear. Because of the same fear, we discuss our problems only with a few family members." This fear is directed towards affiliates of Colombian armed groups operating across the border, which key informants and refugees reported often seek out individual refugees. As one youth explained: "It scares me to see a face that seems to be one from Colombia, it makes me panic. You run right away... Just three or four months ago they killed a bunch of people who were fleeing across the border."

Home is not always a safe space for refugee youth. In Quito, 24.4 percent reported being victims of physical abuse in the home, 14.2 percent suffered frequent verbal abuse, and 69.1 percent stated that they did not know where to go if they had a problem at home. In Lago Agrio, 20.1 percent of refugee youth reporting being victims of physical abuse, 13.4 percent suffered frequent verbal abuse, and 80.8 percent did not know where to go with a problem at home.

ALTERNATIVE HOUSING

According to Veronica Espinel at the Judiciary Council: "One of the big problems for unaccompanied minors that I know from my experience is that there isn't adequate space for their shelter." The nonprofit ASA runs a shelter in Quito: "The are only a few shelters in Ecuador and not all of them work with adolescents, only with children up to 12 or 15 years old at most, making it extremely difficult to find shelter for a kid of 16 or 17 years old [so] they return them to the streets when the protection system should be intervening." Key informants stated that the lack of alternative accommodation options for vulnerable youth produces homelessness.

A UNHCR representative noted that these refugee adolescents are used to a high degree of independence, so even when successfully placed in shelters, Marco Cujas at the child policy service DINAPEN explained that "they feel that they are being judged... now they are a prisoner, detained, and the result is that they escape and we don't hear from them again." Key informants identified an acute need for increased use of the foster care system as well as semi-independent housing options older adolescent refugees. A good example to replicate was cited as the shelter run by the nonprofit ASA, which nevertheless has a highly limited capacity of only four beds.

H. EXPERIENCES OF PUBLIC SPACE

MAIN FINDINGS

- A large proportion of urban refugee youth, particularly in Quito, do not feel safe in public: 66.3 percent in Quito and 30 percent in Lago Agrio. This is connected to physical and verbal abuse by other Ecuadoreans; low trust in police; and fear of Colombian actors that bring across the border the same violence that refugee youth originally fled.
- Urban refugees have few peer support networks, and the assistance of nonprofits working as UNHCR implementing partners is essential in this area.
- While criminal behavior among refugee youth is not common, some join organized gangs connected to drug trafficking.

SAFETY IN PUBLIC

A large proportion of urban refugee youth in Ecuador do not feel safe in public: 66.3 percent in Quito and 30 percent in Lago Agrio. Physical and verbal abuse in public was reported by 35.2 percent in Quito and 14.6 percent in Lago Agrio.

Focus groups suggest these statistics are reflective of the high levels of crime in the marginal areas where refugees live, but also fear stemming from the presence of other Colombians in Ecuador: "We are very close to Colombia and ... they let anybody cross, so it's frightening that they might be looking to catch you...all we are looking for here is safety." Some refugees mentioned that social media can identify their whereabouts, so they avoid using these sites to connect with friends: "A nonprofit took us out and a friend took photos and tagged me [online] and it had information on the place, date, everything, so they know that I am here and that is why I travel carefully and I try not to go out into the street too much. Social media is dangerous here."

Refugees in both cities demonstrated low trust in law enforcement: 55.7 in Quito and 59 percent in Lago Agrio stated that the police would help them if they had a problem. Notably, in Lago Agrio, 17.4 percent of youth stated that there were no law enforcement officials in the city. One refugee youth in Quito noted: "I don't feel safe because a few times we've had problems and the police acted as if nothing happened, normal. I think they let them do whatever they want to us." Another in Quito noted: "The police bother us terribly. They mistreat us verbally or with beatings. You haven't done anything and they come and stop you and question you because you are Colombian."

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Discrimination against refugee youth in the community was the second most frequently discussed subject in focus groups, after access to education. Youth are verbally harassed and mocked on the street, in their places of work, and in housing complexes. Stereotypes associating Colombians with criminality and violence are widely held in Ecuador and these directly affect youth in public spaces: "Once I heard on the local radio an announcer calling Colombian women whores and accusing the Colombian men of being guerillas...what we want is respect." As another youth commented: "They hear the accent and then everything is against you. Here, they think Colombians are all bad, we steal, we come to kill, we are very bad in practically every aspect... but we are not all the same and people judge without knowing." Youth experience verbal abuse and unwanted touching in particular on public transportation: "On the buses, it's embarrassing, once they hear you speak they know you aren't from here and they start saying things and it's uncomfortable." Several youth mentioned this as a factor in their staying at home.

Both qualitative and quantitative results suggest that social stigma against Colombians is less pronounced in Lago Agrio, where this nationality makes up a greater proportion of the population. As

one youth commented: "Here they don't discriminate as much as other cities, where I've seen people look up strangely whenever a Colombian walks in."

PEER SUPPORT NETWORKS

Refugee youth in focus groups stated that they have few spaces where they can connect with friends. However, particularly in Quito, nonprofits play a key role in providing these spaces: "RET support us very much, they have been like a second home to us here, being an asylum seeker it's like a place to clear the mind, to integrate, it's like a second family." In Quito, 86.5 percent stated they had a space to go and hang out with friends, compared to 54.8 percent in Lago Agrio. Youth in focus groups indicated, "We need more access to recreational as well as educational activities." Lack of documentation was mentioned as a barrier to participating in some of these activities: "I wanted to join the sports federation, I wanted to even represent the province since I now feel a part of it, but the simple fact that I lack documents prevented me."

CRIMINALITY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

"There is not an alarming percentage of Colombian kids or adolescents who are breaking the law," according to Veronica Espinel at the Judiciary Council. "In the year 2014, we had 3 juvenile offenders who were incarcerated, which is normal."

This was contradicted by the information given by other key informants, who indicated that a small but significant percentage of urban refugee youth in Ecuador become involved in organized criminal gangs, particularly in Lago Agrio. For example, Omar Quichimbo at RET noted: "The simple fact that they do not have opportunities for education or work can generate the risk of getting into gangs that are harmful to their future." According to a Marco Cujas, member of the child-specific police unit DINAPEN in Lago Agrio, "Many times, because they are a group with higher vulnerability, organizations that are involved in human trafficking and drug use take advantage of this population and draw them into trafficking drugs: mostly marijuana and cocaine." According to UNHCR in Lago Agrio, recruitment into factions of the Colombian civil conflict is more common in rural border areas north of the city, but there have been examples of urban refugees migrating north for this purpose.

V. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ecuador's approach to urban refugees is a powerful counter-example to current global trends of border securitization and social exclusion of migrant populations. Even as a middle-income country going through a recession, its legal and policy framework for refugees recognizes this population as both a potential resource for the nation's growth, and as a group of individuals with human rights towards which the state has responsibility. Nevertheless, the results of this study demonstrate considerable room for improvement in how this progressive vision is realized in the lives of adolescent refugees in Quito and Lago Agrio. Issues primarily in the implementation of current law and policy, but also with design, are compounded by structural, social and political challenges relevant to this highly vulnerable and hard to reach population.

THE PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR REFUGEE YOUTH IN QUITO AND LAGO AGRIO

GOVERNMENT

Unlike the majority of developed countries, Ecuador grants refugee status to persons fleeing generalized violence and massive violations of human rights as well as to those fleeing well-founded persecution. Ecuador also provides regularization options beyond refugee protections for people whose asylum claims may not be accepted by the state: those with substantial family connections to Ecuador can gain

a dependent visa, and those from the MERCOSUR region can gain a two-year MERCOSUR work visa. Despite these options, 2.3 percent of refugee youth in Quito and 6.8 percent in Lago Agrio remain totally undocumented, unable to access education and exposed to exploitative work. Additionally, 75.9 percent of youth in Quito and 57.9 percent in Lago Agrio reported that they had refugee registration ongoing or under appeal. These youth are left in legal limbo. They are technically unable to work, they are significantly less likely to attend school than those with status (by 15 or more percentage points), and they report increased social stigma because of their provisional status. Results also show refugee youth rarely use alternative visa options. None had dependent visas, despite the fact many are eligible: 28.9 percent of females in Quito had children. Only 1.8 percent in Quito had MERCOSUR visas (none in Lago Agrio).

These results are largely the product of bureaucratic inefficiencies, poor dissemination of information about options, and increasing rejections of asylum claims by the state: in 2015, an estimated 94 percent of refugee applicants were denied before reaching the determination panel.[57] Even for those granted asylum, the associated refugee identity document is incongruent with the national Civil Registry. This is the most significant current flaw in Ecuador's refugee policy, creating barriers to opening a bank account, gaining social security, registering for school, and many other essential activities. The new Human Mobility Law promises to correct this. Increasingly, Ecuador's Refugee Office is hopeful that more Colombians will register for the MERCOSUR work visa but the risks of this new option for those with protection needs are as yet unknown: an "economic solvency" requirement for renewal of the two-year visa may exclude many indigent refugees, leaving them undocumented and vulnerable to deportation.

Ecuador places no constraints on refugees' freedom of movement within the country. The government provides refugee youth with free access to secondary education and to healthcare services. The Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion provides cash transfers to qualifying low-income families and referrals for victims of rights violations. Children under 18 receive protection services through a decentralized system of Cantonal Councils and Boards, which monitor policies and attend to individual cases of abuse. The Public Defender's Office provides legal support and individual complaints can be brought to a human rights Ombudsman.

These services, however, are underutilized and underfunded. They do not constitute a cohesive protection system but instead a set of disjointed services and programs. As a result, the most vulnerable refugee youth with several protection needs receive piecemeal support, if they don't fall through the cracks entirely. Relevant ministries and programs generally have no specific focus on refugees. According to the Refugee Office, "any project that is aimed at the refugee population also has to accommodate the native population because…the refugee in Ecuador has to be just one more child." As a result, public officials and bureaucracies generally do not accommodate refugees' particular vulnerabilities. For example, schools require that children produce a record of past education attainment when applying, without flexibility for refugees who fled without papers. Another result of this approach is that information is not systematically collected and shared on refugees' needs, and the valuable perspectives of nonprofits working with refugee youth are rarely integrated into government policy and practice.

Key informants indicate that the state child protection system, provided by the Canton Councils and Boards, has limited reach and efficacy. Only 15.9 percent of refugees in Quito and 11.4 percent in

57 Previously, the government permitted 80 to 90 percent of asylum seekers to obtain refugee status. *See* Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, "Ecuador 2014 Human Rights Report" (U.S. Department of State, June 25, 2015), https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/236898.pdf.

Lago Agrio knew where to go if they had a complaint with the services they receive: a small fraction of these youth had ever actually used these mechanisms. The scope of the already resource-strapped Canton Protection Boards was recently expanded from children's rights to all human rights abuses. Key informants identified a clear need for protocols for the care of unaccompanied and separated refugee children, and the reintegration of children demobilized from armed groups. These youth currently receive ad hoc and insufficient care, particularly with regards safe housing given the shortage of shelters. The Refugee Office maintains that it does have a protocol for unaccompanied youth: its dissemination and practical use are clearly lacking.

UNHCR AND CIVIL SOCIETY

UNHCR in Ecuador plays an essential role addressing the flaws in this system, despite operating with a significant funding gap (just 7 percent of requested funds were received in 2016), The Office leads multiple macro-level initiatives to coordinate dispersed protection actors. It provides technical expertise and training to government and civil society on refugee issues, and enjoys a generally positive, collaborate relationship with government. UNHCR advocates for improvements in policy and law; it had a key role in the content of the new Human Mobility Law. Finally, it financially supports a network of nonprofits working on the ground to provide short- and long-term care to refugee youth. This civil society network plays an essential role in outreach to vulnerable refugee youth and providing services from legal support, to psychosocial care, to livelihoods training: for example, 91.2 percent of youth in Quito and 58.6 percent in Lago Agrio had benefited from the nonprofit HIAS's services. Key informants had particular praise for UNHCR's Graduation Model that combines cash transfers, savings assistance, mentorship and skills training for the most vulnerable households.

However, there are significant challenges to reach and uptake of these services, particularly in Lago Agrio. When asked, "What do you think is the role of the UNHCR," 26.9 percent of youth in Quito and 45.2 percent in Lago Agrio did not know. One fifth of urban refugee youth in Lago Agrio have never received any services from UNHCR, its implementing nonprofits or the Refugee Office, compared to 3.2 percent in Quito.

Reach and uptake are first limited by funding constraints: UNHCR received just 7 percent of the 19.9 million USD it requested in 2016. Nonprofits need sustained financial and institutional support from the state – for shelters, psychosocial support, livelihoods training and outreach – but as Carolina Rodriguez at the education nonprofit RET explained, "The position of the government is that we don't actually need funds because the refugee issues are just the same as those in the rest of society." Another limiting factor on the reach of the system is that the Colombian refugee community is not a cohesive network, facilitating support, information and opportunities. Living geographically dispersed throughout the city, refugee youth widely reported avoiding other Colombians out of fear of representatives of armed groups or gangs operating in Ecuador. Last, prevalent xenophobia and racism also cause refugees to self-isolate.

OUTCOMES FOR THE REFUGEE YOUTH POPULATION

Study results demonstrate that urban refugee youth in Ecuador are highly resilient but face systemic barriers to social integration and opportunities for education and decent work. These barriers reinforce a cycle of poverty and social marginalization that exposes an unacceptably high proportion to forms of abuse, violence and exploitation.

DIFFERENTIALS BY RACE, GENDER, AGE, CITY, AND DOCUMENTATION

The experiences of urban refugee youth vary along several factors, including gender, race, age, city of residence and documentation status. Youth living in Quito benefit from the relatively stronger and better-resourced protection system. They have greater uptake on services from UNHCR and its partners,

and increased knowledge of where to get health services or file a complaint in case of abuse. There are more opportunities for work when compared to Lago Agrio. However, youth report that xenophobia and racism are more prevalent in the capital, where Colombians make up a small proportion of the population. Quito is difficult and expensive to navigate and public spaces are generally unsafe in the low income neighborhoods where refugees live, all contributing to lower school attendance in comparison to Lago Agrio.

Only a few differences were observed in quantitative results between child refugees aged 15-17 and those over the age of majority, raising questions as to the efficacy of the existing child protection system. Older adolescents in Quito were significantly more likely to exhibit signs of depression, suffer verbal or physical abuse in public, and were less likely to express high levels of hope. Focus groups indicate these factors are related to high levels of school drop-out. Though 3.3 percent of youth in Quito and 7.0 percent in Lago Agrio self-reported as LGBT, quantitative data did not show significant differences in health and wellbeing. Key informants, however, stated that LGBT refugees face multiple layers of discrimination and violence in Ecuador, facing overwhelming stigma attached to these identities.

Gender is a significant indicator for several aspects of refugee health and wellbeing. Female refugees are less likely than males to be working in Ecuador, though they attend school attendance at roughly the same rates. More females have children – 28.9 percent in Quito compared to 13.5 percent of males – and key informants noted that teenage pregnancy among unmarried female refugees cohabiting with much older partners is common in Ecuador, and often associated with intimate partner violence. Girls overall face slightly higher risk of sexual violence. Girls in Lago Agrio were statistically more likely to suffer from depression (by 15 percentage points), and less likely to experience physical abuse at school or to know where to go in event of a problem at home (by 24 percentage points).

COMMON CHALLENGES

Despite these differences, refugee youth share several common challenges in their lives in Ecuador. Discrimination and social stigma impact refugees' ability to find stable housing, stay in school, gain decent work and develop social connections in Ecuador. Colombians are associated with criminality and sex work, and focus groups suggest that racism against Afro-Colombian refugees is particularly pervasive. Ostracization by host communities is compounded by fear of fellow nationals: factions of the Colombian civil conflict continue to pose risk to some refugees living in Ecuador, and youth say that fear of discovery has a significant impact on their lives.

Education access has reportedly improved in recent years, yet many refugee youth drop out of school and almost none go on to the tertiary education that would facilitate their social mobility. Over a quarter of youth in the capital, and 14 percent in Lago Agrio, are not in education and have not finished secondary school. These numbers are considerably higher for those without legal status. Discrimination and violence play an important role in this: 52.8 percent of youth in Quito and 24.7 percent in Lago Agrio reported that they did not feel safe in school. However, the most significant barriers to access and retention are structural: inflexible and onerous registration requirements disadvantage refugees, many are placed in schools far away from home, and students in the asylum process are barred from graduating from secondary school or applying to university on account of their status. Yet demand for tertiary education remains high among this population, and youth expressed a wish for night classes and non-formal education opportunities.

Poor education outcomes combine with other disadvantages to leave refugee youth at the back of the queue when applying to jobs. Underemployment is a serious problem for refugee youth, as it is for many Ecuadorians, limiting their long term opportunities for integration and personal development. This is a particular problem in Lago Agrio, where 21.6 percent of youth in Quito worked for someone outside the

household during the last week, compared to 10.7 percent in Lago Agrio. Results show a large unmet need for skills training.

Refugee youth that do gain employment, find it almost exclusively in the informal market. Many are self-employed, in informal sales on buses or at traffic lights, or working in beauty salons, bar and restaurant businesses. Refugee youth often work in hazardous and exploitative environments, with low wages and long hours. During the last year, 47.2 percent of working youth in Quito and 15.6 percent in Lago Agrio suffered injuries on the job. Youth reporting of transactional sex was low in this study (2.3 percent in Quito and 0.7 in Lago Agrio) yet several key informants named this as a common problem, suggesting underreporting. A small but significant proportion of refugees fall into criminal activities, including trafficking drugs.

Results show that food scarcity is a pressing issue for the most vulnerable refugees, and that current financial support programs to address this problem are not sufficient. Hungry children cannot learn and are often forced into exploitative work: this pressing humanitarian gap must be a priority for the government and UNHCR. Otherwise, urban refugee youth in Ecuador form a healthy demographic, and benefit from state provided primary healthcare services that are generally accessible and free of charge. This research points to a need for increased sexual and reproductive health services, as well as treatment for high levels of drug dependency.

There are clear unmet needs regarding the mental health of these youth as well: 29.6 percent of youth in Quito and 57.1 percent in Lago Agrio exhibited results indicating depression. These psychosocial challenges become more acute for older adolescents, many of whom lose hope in their futures in Ecuador. This is shown in the fact that only 3.4 percent of youth in Lago Agrio and 7.9 percent in Quito exhibited high levels of hope for their own future. Many refugee youth arrive in Ecuador with trauma as a result of their displacement, and this is compounded by their experiences of social isolation, discrimination and boredom in both public and private spheres in Ecuador. Addressing this critical problem requires increased counseling and support services, as well as opportunities for decent work and the education and skills that facilitate that work.
Existing state-level efforts in Ecuador to tackle sexual and gender-based violence do not take into account the particular vulnerability of refugees and key informants in the protection system did not discuss sexual violence as a priority area. However, quantitative results on sexual violence are alarming even while almost certainly underestimating true prevalence: 16 percent of youth in Quito, and 10 percent in Lago Agrio reported suffering sexual abuse during the last year. Other research by the nonprofit Women's Federation of Sucumbios (FMS) in 2011 found eight out of ten women in the province had suffered some type of gender violence.[58] Participants self-reported sexual violence in this survey with the interviewer outside of the room. A reexamination of both the survey instrument and the interview methods with refugee youth are necessary to improve precision of results in future studies.

Study results show that refugee youth live in small and tightly knit family units that are often isolated from broader social networks of support. Particularly in Quito, refugees are widely dispersed throughout the city, with poor access to public transport, and spend much of their time indoors. While family is a bedrock of support for many of these youth, violence in the home is also common. One quarter in Quito and one fifth in Lago Agrio reported experiencing physical abuse in the home, and a great majority did not know where to go in case of a problem at home (69.1 and 80.8 percent respectively). Housing is

58 "En Sucumbíos, Ecuador, 8 de Cada 10 Mujeres Sufren Algún Tipo de Violencia," accessed August 1, 2017, http://www.acnur.org/noticias/noticia/en-sucumbios-ecuador-8-de-cada-10-mujeres-sufren-algun-tipo-de-violencia/.

a particular issue for unaccompanied minors, for whom an acute lack of shelters, particularly in Lago Agrio, and options for independent living can result in homelessness. For these youth with problems at home, public spaces often provide little reprieve. A large proportion of urban refugee youth do not feel safe in public: 66.3 percent in Quito and 30 percent in Lago Agrio. This reinforces the difficulties refugees experience in social integration and personal development.

Urban refugee youth can access information on their rights, available services, and relevant administrative procedures from capable and dedicated civil society groups in Ecuador. However, this assistance is often limited to a specific problem or issue, and many youth do not reach out to nonprofits. The complex web of rules and entitlements detailed in this report has not to date been consolidated in accessible form. This suggests a need for a document that makes the protection "system" clear to those that need it the most, urban refugee youth, who would assist in both design and dissemination of the document.

NOTES ON STUDY METHODS

The questionnaire used during this project was requested by UNHCR and originally designed for a camp-based study in Uganda. This instrument did not fully target the issues relevant to urban refugee youth in Ecuador. There are several issues that remain to be understood about this population. Additional information on how race and sexual orientation impacts access to services and social integration for refugee youth is needed. The experiences of the growing population of non-Colombian refugees require deeper investigation. Qualitative results also suggest need for further information on the issues of homelessness, drug abuse and gang participation. Several incongruences between information reported in qualitative research and quantitative results, such as prevalence of transactional sex and sexual violence, indicate that underreporting is a challenge even with privately entered data entry on tablets.

This study set out to obtain a statistically representative sample of the hidden population of refugee youth in Quito and Lago Agrio by using Respondent Driven Sampling, an approach never before used with urban adolescent refugees. During a formative research trip, key informants understood this population to have low levels of trust and social connectedness, but assessed it to have sufficient connections to proceed with RDS. Data collection confirmed this assessment. However, the slow pace of referrals was not anticipated. This was a particular issue in Lago Agrio, where high rates of internal migration (especially during the Christmas and New Year period) further disturbed social networks. Funding and time constraints on data collection meant that the required number of referral waves was not reached in Lago Agrio. The research team added additional seeds to reach the target, which introduced additional bias into the sample. This suggests that future attempts to use RDS in refugee contexts should account for slow referrals with sufficiently wide data collection windows.

The fact that key variables stabilized during data collection in the Quito sample implies that adding additional waves of respondents to the survey would not have significantly changed our prevalence estimates, and the data, weighted with RDS-A software, can be considered representative of all refugee youth in Quito. But this mathematical extrapolation should be treated with a degree of caution. For example, the Quito sample is skewed towards youth aged 15-17 (66.1 percent) over those age 18-19 (33.9 percent). This bias could mean, as suggested by refugees in formative research, that older youth more often stay in Colombia while those younger migrate with their families. However, it could also mean that older adolescents are systematically underrepresented in the sample across waves of recruits because they are less socially connected – they don't attend school with each other, or they take less advantage of available services where they might meet other refugee youth.

Similarly, the sample is biased towards males in Quito, who made up 59.4 percent of the sample. This could be an accurate representation, if for example fewer females travel south to the capital, and stay in

Lago Agrio or other border areas. Or it could mean females are systematically underrepresented in the sample: less likely to leave home due to security concerns or social pressure, or busy with household work or childcare.

This finding further underscores the considerable challenges in studying this hidden population and need for caution in demanding statistical clarity from complex social realities. While striving for more innovative and rigorous quantitative methods, researchers and policymakers must also value the qualitative data gathered from refugees themselves and those who work every day to serve them. In this regard, the focus group discussions provided vivid insights and the key informant interviews proved invaluable in providing context and seasoned views from senior staff and officials.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The following recommendations are based on information gleaned from interview participants and focus groups, as well as from our studied assessment of evident gaps in service provision.

PROTECTION SYSTEM

1. UNHCR should develop, in collaboration with refugee youth, a document that consolidates relevant, practical information on the protection system for use by youth themselves: legal rights, available services and administrative procedures (for education/health). Involve youth, nonprofits and community networks in a dissemination plan, both online and through peer-referrals, and create mechanisms for regular updating.
2. Government should integrate information on refugee entitlements and experiences into standardized training for public officials in relevant state ministries, in particular Education and MIES, which do not depend on one-off UNHCR initiatives
3. Relevant government departments (e.g. MIES) should include refugees in existing data collection efforts on service provision, and in the design of future policies. This is particularly important for national efforts to address SGBV, which currently do not address the particular needs of refugee youth.
4. Utilize existing cross-stakeholder groups to improve sharing of data on refugee youth populations and on specific cases of vulnerable youth across civil society, government and UNHCR.
5. Expand community-based protection mechanisms for urban refugees by linking UNHCR implementing partners with local Ecuadorian organizations, Casa Somos (community development centers) in Quito, and schools to create wider protection networks. These should have a specific focus on anti-xenophobia programming and campaigning.
6. Government should establish and widely disseminate protocols for the care of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), and reintegration of demobilized children.

DOCUMENTATION

1. Civil Registry, Refugee Office and UNHCR should ensure that procedures for offering a national ID number to holders of refugee visas are quickly implemented, logistically accessible and designed to reach all vulnerable refugees.
2. Refugee Office, with support of UNHCR, should take steps to reduce the backlog of asylum applicants and appeals through increased investment in status determination infrastructure.
3. Protocols should be developed to ensure that birth certificates are issued to the children of refugees.
4. Government and the implementing regulations for the Human Mobility Law should allow asylum-seekers work permission and clarify this status, as well as provide guidelines for the "economic solvency" requirement for the MERCOSUR visa, taking steps to ensure that this does not exclude the most vulnerable Colombian refugees from renewal.
5. Government should ensure that UASC are assigned a guardian during the refugee status determination process, potentially from the Public Defender's Office.

SERVICE PROVISION

1. Increase the number of government scholarships available for refugees for private tertiary education and consider affirmative action steps for admissions to public institutions.
2. Government and UNHCR should coordinate to increase food assistance for most vulnerable refugee youth.
3. Government should integrate refugees into expanded livelihoods and skill training programs, engaging the private sector and other Ecuadorean NGOs working on these issues.
4. Government and UNHCR should support and expand community-based anti-discrimination campaigns for social integration of refugee youth.
5. UNHCR, civil society and government should invest in sexual and reproductive health programs targeted towards refugee youth, as well as rehabilitation for drug dependency.
6. Refugee Office and MIES should support independent living options for unaccompanied along the model of ASA's program and expand availability of shelters.
7. Civil society and UNHCR should support sports, culture and arts programming for refugee youth.

In the long term, UNHCR must ensure that any process of responsible disengagement in Ecuador includes a clear plan to fill the enormous gap in services that will inevitably result. The current position of the government is that refugees do not need specialized or targeted services, but the results from this study show that this position is not supported by the facts. The refugees appear to be in dire need of a number of specialized services and targeted protection. Regularization of status, integration, and access to education, health, including mental health, and skills training are only part of the necessary protection system for refugee youth. Existing government agencies and civil society actors must have an articulated focus on the particular needs of this sub-population, and targeted protection services must be available for the most vulnerable and exploited refugee youth.

VI. APPENDIX A

	Refugees in Quito (n=150)		Refugees in Lago Agrio (n=149)	
	Overall	*Disaggregated*	*Overall*	*Disaggregated*
	% (95% CI)		% (95% CI)	
Demographics				
Age (years)	16.8 (16.5, 17.1)		16.2	
Age (groups) 15-17 18-19	 66.1% (57.1, 74.1) 33.9% (25.9, 42.9)		 85.4% (78.6, 90.4) 14.6% (9.6, 21.4)	
Gender Female Male Other	 40.6% (32.3, 49.4) 59.4% (50.6, 67.7) 0%		 (45.0, 61.3) (38.2, 54.6) (0.1, 4.6)	
Birth Country Colombia Others	 97.7% (94.5, 99.1) 2.3% (0.9, 5.5)		 100%	
Length of residence in Ecuador (Months)	22.9 (17.5, 28.3)	p-value by age 0.07 by gender 0.65	56.0 (48.4, 63.7)	p-value by age 0.72 by gender 0.02* Gender Avg. Female 63.3 Male 45.8
Current marital status Single In a relationship Married	 71.9% (62.2, 79.9) 27.2% (19.3, 36.8) 0.9% (0.1, 6.2)	p-value by gender 0.63 % (In a relationship) Female 28.0% Male 26.6%	 95.3% (90.6, 97.7) 4.7% (2.3, 9.4) 0%	p-value by gender 0.13 % (In a relationship) Female 7.4% Male 1.5%
Single Parent Single mom Single dad	 8.4% (4.4, 15.5) 2.8% (0.9, 8.0)		 3.5% (1.5, 8.0) 0.7% (0.1, 4.6)	

Have living biological children	19.8% (12.9, 29.0)	p-value by age <0.001* by gender 0.03* Age % 15-17 8.8% 18-19 41.1% Gender % Female 28.9% Male 13.5% Marital status % Single 9.0% In a relationship 49.0% Married 0%	4.9% (2.4,9.7)	p-value by age 0.30 by gender 0.12 Age % 15-17 4.0% 18-19 9.7% Gender % Female 7.6% Male 1.5%	
Biological Mother living Yes No	 96.8% (90.2, 99.0) 3.2% (1.0, 9.8)		 (88.4, 97.0) (3.0, 11.6)		
Biological Father living Yes No Don't Know	 77.5% (69.1, 84.2) 17.2% (11.2, 25.5) 5.3% (2.4, 11.3)		 79.5% (72.1, 85.3) 12.2% (8.0, 18.6) 8.3% (4.5, 14.0)		
Orphan	0%		n=1		Care by Grandparents and Aunt/Uncle
Separated minors Who is directly responsible for your care? Aunt/Uncle Grandparents	2.4% (0.9, 6.6) n=4 n=4 n=1		2.3% (0.8, 6.7) n=3 n=3 n=1		
Sex Orientation Lesbian, gay, or bisexual Straight or heterosexual Something else Don't know No Response	 3.3% (1.5, 7.2) 62.0% (52.5, 70.6) 0% 8.3% 26.4% (4.2, 15.6) (18.6, 35.1)		 7.0% (3.9, 12.3) 65.2% (57.0, 72.6) 0.7% 2.7% (0.1, 4.6) 24.4% (1.0, 7.0) (18.4, 33.0)		
Disability	1.2% (0.4, 3.7)	Myopic Astigmatism Cognitive Lack of memory	0.7% (0.0, 5.5)		Left eye deviation

	Refugees in Quito (n=150)				Refugees in Lago Agrio (n=149)			
	Overall		*Disaggregated*		*Overall*		*Disaggregated*	
	%	(95% CI)			%	(95% CI)		(p-value)
Refugee Status								
Have own individual refugee card								
Yes	80.2%	(72.5,			70.1%	(62.7,		
No	18.5%	86.1)			26.5%	76.6)		
Don't Know	1.3%	(12.7,			3.4%	(20.3,		
No Response	n=0	26.1)			n=1	34.0)		
		(0.4, 4.3)				(1.4, 7.9)		
Current Registration Status			Avg. age	Avg. time in Ecuador				Avg. age
Registered Refugee	20.0%	(13.9,	16.8	52.8	35.1%	(27.9,		16.9
Refugee registration on going or under appeal	75.9%	27.9)	16.8	13.8	57.9%	43.2)		16.1
		(67.8,				(49.6,		
Dependent visa	0%	82.5)	--	--	0%	65.8)		--
MERCOSUR visa	1.8%		17.7	77.5	0%			--
None	2.3%		17.8	16.6	6.8%			16.8
Don't Know	n=3	(0.5, 5.9)			n=4			
		(0.8, 6.4)				(3.6, 12.5)		
Intend to return to country of origin	n=1				n=8			
Yes	n=8				n=20			
Yes, under certain conditions	n=91				n=103			
No	n=50				n=18			
Missing(no response)								

	Refugees in Quito (n=150)			Refugees in Lago Agrio (n=149)		
	Overall		*Disaggregated*	*Overall*		*Disaggregated*
	%	(95% CI)	(p-value)	%	(95% CI)	(p-value)
Protection System in Ecuador						
What do you think is the role of the UNHCR?						
Raise awareness on child rights	0.9%	(0.1, 6.2)		14.0%	(9.2, 20.8)	
Monitor child protection	2.4%	(0.9, 6.7)		13.1%	(8.5, 19.7)	
Give advice to children, parents, and other community members	0.6%	(0.0, 4.2)		13.1%	(8.5, 19.7)	
Refer cases to social workers	0%			8.8%	(5.2, 14.6)	
Protect children from violence and abuse	2.7%	(0.9, 8.2)		14.1%	(9.4, 20.6)	
Teach children good behavior	0.9%	(0.1, 6.2)		8.9%	(5.2, 14.8)	
Resettlement	27.7%	(20.5, 36.4)		23.3%	(17.7, 30.0)	
Other	61.3%			13.1%		
Don't know	26.9%	(51.4, 70.3)		45.2%	(8.7, 19.1)	
No Response	n=1	(18.9, 36.7)		n=10	(37.2, 53.4)	
Have you ever heard about the following organizations?						
ASA	12.9%	(8.1, 20.1)		1.4%	(0.3, 5.3)	
FUDELA	25.0%			2.7%	(1.0, 6.9)	
Fundación Casa de Refugio Matilde	9.6%	(18.0, 33.7)		3.4%	(1.4, 8.0)	
Dirección de Refugio Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana	72.3%	(5.6, 16.0)		32.3%	(25.3, 40.3)	
HIAS	96.4%	(62.6, 80.3)		73.4%		
RET	53.1%			55.5%	(65.6, 79.9)	
SJR	17.1%			40.5%		
Misión Scalabriniana	52.4%			64.3%	(47.2, 63.5)	
OXFAM Italy	0.9%	(91.6, 98.5)		17.5%		
Federación de Mujeres de Sucumbios	0.3%	(43.2, 62.8)		28.8%	(32.6, 48.9)	
Codesarrollo	0%			8.7%	(56.7, 71.1)	
Asylum Access	35.5%	(11.5, 24.7)		12.8%	(12.3, 24.4)	
None	0.6%	(43.4, 61.2)		12.0%	(22.2, 36.5)	
		(1.3, 6.2)				
		(0.0, 2.2)			(5.2, 14.3)	
					(8.6, 18.7)	
					(7.6, 18.5)	
		(27.0, 45.1)				
		(0.0, 4.2)				

Have you ever had any help from any of these organizations?					
ASA	9.6%	(5.4, 16.6)		--	
FUDELA	10.3%	(6.0, 17.0)		--	
FAS	5.1%	(2.1, 12.0)		--	
Fundación Casa de Refugio Matilde	2.0%	(0.7, 5.9)		--	
Fundación Esperanza	3.4%	(1.5, 7.5)		4.8%	(2.3, 9.8)
Dirección de Refugio Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Movilidad Humana	43.6%	(34.7, 53.1)		18.5%	(12.9, 25.7)
UNHCR	42.8%	(33.7, 52.5)		58.6%	(50.6, 66.2)
HIAS	91.2%	(85.4, 94.8)			(41.5, 56.8)
RET	31.0%	(22.6, 40.9)			(32.3, 48.2)
SJR	4.2%	(2.1, 8.4)			(13.3, 25.8)
Misión Scalabriniana	25.2%	(17.9, 34.3)			(3.4, 11.9)
OXFAM	--	(0.0, 3.2)			(3.0,10.8)
Federación de Mujeres de Sucumbios	--	(19.7, 36.0)			(0.4, 5.3)
Codesarrollo	27.1%	(1.2, 7.9)			(1.4, 7.8)
Asylum Access	3.2%				
None					
If you have a complaint with the services you receive as a refugee are you aware of a place where you can go?			% of complaint by knowledge of the role of UNHCR:		% of complaint by knowledge of the role of UNHCR:
Yes	15.9%	(10.2, 23.9)	Know 16.4%	11.4%	(7.1, 17.8)	Know 18.7%
No	84.1%	(76.1, 89.8)	Don't know 13.2%	88.6%	(82.2, 92.9)	Don't know 4.3%%
No Response	n=2		p-value 0.93	n=6		p-value 0.01*
Of those answered "Yes" above: Have you ever made a complaint?	n=23		% of complaint by had help from UNHCR:	n=16		% of complaint by had help from UNHCR:
Yes	8.2%		Receive help 19.3%	14.3%		Receive help 18.0%
No	91.8%	(2.5, 23.8)	Not 13.2%	85.7%	(4.6, 36.3)	Not 8.1%
Of those answered "Yes" above: Did you receive feedback after making your complaint?	n=3	(76.2, 97.5)	p-value 0.41	n=2	(63.7, 95.4)	p-value 0.01*
Yes	n=1		% of complaint by had help from government:	n=0		% of complaint by had help from government:
No	n=2		Receive help 21.5%	n=2		Receive help 14.3%
			Not 11.6%			Not 11.2%
			p-value 0.17			p-value 0.80

	Refugees in Quito (n=150)			Refugees in Lago Agrio (n=149)		
	Overall		*Disaggregated*	*Overall*		*Disaggregated*
	%	(95% CI)		%	(95% CI)	
Education						
Have you ever attended school? Yes No	94.5% 5.5%	(87.8, 97.6) (2.4, 12.2)	by age by gender by time in Ecuador	98.5% 1.5%	(94.3, 99.6) (0.4, 5.7)	p-value by age 0.32 by gender 0.96
School Attendance during last year among school age children (15-18)	65.6%	(55.2, 74.6)	p-value by age 0.02* by gender 0.32 Age % 15-17 70.3% 18 39.8%	84.3%	(77.3, 89.4)	p-value by age 0.19 by gender 0.60 Age % 15-17 85.9% 18 72.9%
School Attendance during last year among all children (15-19)	52.8%	(43.4, 62.0)	p-value by age <0.001* by gender 0.26 by registration 0.01* Age % 15-17 70.3% 18-19 18.7% Registration status: Registered 75.9% Not 47.1%	80.5%	(73.4, 86.1)	p-value by age <0.001* by gender 0.28 by registration 0.04* Age % 15-17 85.9% 18-19 50.0% Registration status: Registered 89.7% None 74.2%
What is the highest level of school you have completed? Never Attended School Some Primary All Primary Some Secondary All Secondary Other	 5.5% 3.8% 1.3% 72.6% 16.8% 0%	 (2.4, 12.2) (1.3, 10.4) (0.4,4.2) (63.9, 79.9) (11.3, 24.1)		 1.5% 0% 4.3% 87.6% 5.4% 1.2%	 (0.4, 5.7) (2.0, 9.0) (81.3, 92.0) (2.7, 10.3) (0.2, 3.7)	
Will you complete tertiary education / university? Yes No Don't Know	n=143 83.4% 3.4% 13.2%	 (75.2, 89.3) (1.5, 7.4) (7.9, 21.4)		n=147 74.5% 10.0% 15.5%	 (68.9, 79.3) (6.0, 16.2) (10.3, 21.0)	

Have you wanted to participate in any non-formal education in the city, for example, after-school activities?			by age by gender				p-value by age 0.29 by gender 0.04*	
Yes	75.7%	(66.9,			29.0%	(22.1,	Gender	% (Yes)
No	24.3%	82.8)			71.0%	37.1)	Female	22.0%
No Response	n=3	(17.2, 33.1)			n=7	(62.9, 77.9)	Male	38.1%
Of those answered "Yes" above:	n=112				n=41			
Have you participated in any non-formal education?			by age by gender				p-value by age 0.05* by gender 0.77	
Yes	22.3%	(14.8,			26.7%	(15.5,		
No	77.7%	32.1)			73.3%	41.9)		
		(67.9, 85.2)				(58.1, 84.5)		
Have you wanted to participate in any vocational skills training?			p-value by age 0.007* by gender 0.63				p-value by age 0.72 by gender 0.26	
Yes	67.8%	(58.3,			30.5%	(23.6,		
No	32.2%	76.1)			69.5%	38.4)		
No Response	n=2	(23.9, 41.7)	Age 15-17 18-19	% (Yes) 60.3% 82.8%	n=6	(61.6, 76.4)		
Of those answered "Yes" above:	n=103				n=44			
Have you participated in any vocational skills training in the past year?			by age by gender				p-value by age 0.81 by gender 0.34	
Yes	24.8%	(16.6,			20.4%	(11.0,		
No	75.2%	35.3)			79.6%	34.6)		
		(64.7, 83.4)				(65.4, 89.0)		

	Refugees in Quito (n=150)			Refugees in Lago Agrio (n=149)		
	Overall		*Disaggregated*	*Overall*		*Disaggregated*
	%	(95% CI)		%	(95% CI)	
Safety in School	n=76 in Quito			n=120 in Lago Agrio		
Feel unsafe in school[1]	52.8%	(40.2, 65.0)	p-value by age 0.28 by gender 0.85 by LGBT 0.88 by registration 0.27	24.7%	(17.9, 33.0)	p-value by age 0.80 by gender 0.42 by LGBT 0.84 by registration 0.09 Registration status: Registered 18.4% Not 29.3%

During the past term, on how many days did you not go to school because you felt you would be unsafe at school or on your way to or from school? 0 days 1 day 2-3 days 4-5 days 6 or more days No Response	 57.2% 3.3% 11.7% 8.7% 19.1% n=5	 (44.7, 68.8) (1.0, 10.9) (5.9, 21.9) (3.8, 18.8) (10.8, 31.5)		 81.3% 5.3% 6.2% 2.7% 4.5% n=7	 (72.5, 87.3) (2.4, 11.3) (3.0, 12.5) (0.9, 8.0) (1.9, 10.4)			
Victim of physical abuse in school[2]	27.1%	(16.6, 41.0)	by age by gender	9.3%	(5.3, 15.7)	by age by gender Gender Female Male	p-value 0.37 0.05* % 4.6% 16.2%		
During the past 12 months, has a teacher ever punished you by hitting or beating you? Yes No No Response	 3.2% 96.8% n=4	 (0.9, 10.8) (89.2, 99.1)		 0.9% 99.1% n=4	 (0.1, 5.9) (94.1, 99.9)				
During the past term, were you hit, pushed, kicked or shoved on school property? Yes No No Response Of those answered yes above: By a teacher	 27.2% 72.8% n=4 n=20 9.2%	 (16.0, 42.4) (57.6, 84.0) (2.0, 33.4)	by age by gender	 9.7% 90.3% n=5 n=11 9.1%	 (5.6, 16.4) (83.6, 94.4) (1.3,43.9)	by age by gender Gender Female Male	p-value 0.48 0.05* % (Yes) 5.2% 17.2%		
Victim of verbal abuse in school[3]	37.8%	(25.9, 51.5)	by age by gender by LGBT	10.9%	(6.4, 17.9)	by age by gender	p-value 0.06 0.79		
During the past 12 months, have you been screamed or yelled at very loudly or aggressively at school? Yes No No Response Of those answered yes above: By a teacher	 36.9% 63.1% n=3 n=30 45.7%	 (24.0, 52.1) (47.9, 76.0) (26.2, 66.6)	by age by gender by LGBT	 9.7% 90.3% n=6 n=11 18.2%	 (5.4, 16.6) (83.4, 94.6) (4.6, 50.7)	by age by gender	p-value 0.33 0.62		

During the past 12 months, have you felt discriminated against or ostracized at school?			p-value			p-value
Yes	36.2%	(23.5, 51.2)	by age 0.53	15.1%	(9.6,	by age 0.72
No	63.8%	(48.8, 76.5)	by gender 0.17	84.9%	23.0)	by gender 0.38
No Response	n=4		by LGBT 0.61	n=6	(77.0,	by
			by		90.4)	registration 0.43
Of those felt discriminated above:	n=32		registration 0.83	n=17		
Who discriminated against you or made you feel ostracized?						
Student	61.0%	(41.8, 77.3)		82.4%	(57.3,	
Teacher	24.9%	(12.4, 43.6)		17.6%	94.2)	
Other	14.1%	(10.3, 14.6)		0%	(5.8,	
					42.7)	
Of those felt discriminated above:	n=32			n=17		
For what reason did this person discriminate against you?						
Nationality	77.1%	(59.1, 88.8)		64.7%	(40.4,	
Refugee Status	15.7%	(6.6, 33.1)		11.8%	83.2)	
Sex Orientation	3.1%	(0.4, 19.2)		0%	(3.0,	
Other	6.3%	(1.6, 22.0)		5.9%	36.8)	
Don't Know	22.5%	(11.1, 40.4)		29.4%		
					(0.8,	
					32.0)	
					(12.8,	
					54.2)	
Do you know where to go if you have a problem at school?			p-value			p-value
Yes	55.6%	(43.3, 67.2)	by	23.3%	(16.5,	by
No	21.4%	(13.2, 32.7)	registration 0.11	67.2%	32.9)	registration 0.31
Not applicable	23.0%	(15.2, 33.3)		9.5%	(57.7,	
No Response	n=2			n=8	75.4)	
					(5.2,	
					16.6)	

	Refugees in Quito (n=150)			Refugees in Lago Agrio (n=149)		
	Overall		*Disaggregated*	*Overall*		*Disaggregated*
	%	(95% CI)		%	(95% CI)	
Livelihoods						
During the past week, did you do any kind of work for someone who is not a member of your household?			p-value			p-value
Yes	21.6%	(15.3, 29.8)	by age 0.02*	10.7%	(6.5, 17.1)	by age 0.57
No	78.4%	(70.2, 84.7)	by gender 0.05*	89.3%	(82.9,	by gender 0.09
No Response	n=2		by	n=5	93.5)	by
			registration 0.68			registration 0.55
			Age % (Yes)			Age % (Yes)
			15-17 14.9%			15-17 10.0%
			18-19 35.2%			18-19 14.8%
			Gender % (Yes)			Gender % (Yes)
			Female 12.3%			Female 6.7%
			Male 27.9%			Male 15.5%

Of those had worked for someone outside household:	n=32					n=15			
Did your employer formally register your work?									
Yes	4.2%	(0.6, 24.7)				16.7%	(4.2, 47.7)		
No	95.8%	(75.3, 99.4)				83.3%	(52.3,		
Don't Know	n=1					n=1	95.8)		
No Response	n=0					n=3			
Of those had worked for someone outside household:	n=32					n=15			
In the past week, about how many hours did you do this work for someone who is not a member of the household?	23.9	(15.5, 32.2)		p-value		15.9	(1.9, 30.0)		p-value
			by age	0.01*				by age	0.15
			by gender	0.93				by gender	0.09
			Age	Mean					
			15-17	14.6					
			18-19	31.6					
Are there adequate work opportunities for you outside of the household in Ecuador?				p-value					p-value
			by age	0.10				by age	0.003*
			by gender	0.60				by gender	0.005*
Yes	51.5%	(42.3, 60.6)	by registration	0.95		19.7%	(13.7,	by registration	0.34
No	48.5%	(39.4, 57.7)				80.3%	27.4)		
No Response	n=7		Age	% (No)		n=9	(72.6,	Age	% (No)
			15-17	57.2%			86.3)	15-17	84.2%
			18-19	40.7%				18-19	56.8%
								Gender	% (No)
								Female	88.2%
								Male	72.1%
Of those answered "No" above:	n=70					n=113			
Why not?									
Discrimination	48.3%	(36.1, 60.8)				6.9%	(3.3, 14.0)		
Registration Status	38.4%	(27.2, 50.9)				71.2%	(61.7,		
Lack of Jobs	13.8%	(8.3, 25.7)				10.1%	79.1)		
Lack of skills/training	8.0%	(2.6, 22.3)				71.4%	(5.4, 17.9)		
Other	27.1%	(16.5, 41.3)				2.9%	(62.0,		
No Response	n=5					n=8	79.2)		
							(0.9, 8.7)		
During the past week, did you do any paid or unpaid work in a family business or selling goods on the street or in the market?				p-value					p-value
			by age	<0.001*				by age	0.19
			by gender	0.32				by gender	0.99
Yes	14.3%	(9.2, 21.7)	by registration	0.09		11.0%	(6.8, 17.3)	by registration	0.47
No	85.7%	(78.3, 90.8)				89.0%	(82.7,		
No Response	n=2		Age	% (Yes)		n=5	93.2)		
			15-17	6.8%					
			18-19	29.1%					
Of those had worked in family business or selling goods:	n=25					n=17			
During the past week, about how many hours did you do this work?	25.2	(17.5, 32.9)		p-value		14.9	(7.5, 22.2)		p-value
			by age	<0.001*				by age	0.34
			by gender	0.74				by gender	0.009*
			Age	Avg.				Gender	Avg.
			15-17	5.0				Female	9.1
			18-19	34.4				Male	20.8

During the past week, did you help with household chores such as shopping, cleaning, washing clothes, cooking, or caring for children, old or sick people? Yes No No Response	96.2% 3.8% n=2	(91.7, 98.3) (1.7, 8.3)	by age by gender by registration	p-value 0.15 0.87 0.98	91.0% 9.0% n=5	(85.2, 94.7) (5.3, 14.8)	by age by gender by registration	p-value 0.98 0.59 0.42
Of those had helped with household chores:	n=141				n=131			
During the past week, about how many hours did you do this work?	15.9	(13.0, 18.8)	by age by gender Gender Female Male	p-value 0.30 0.005* Avg. 20.4 12.8	5.2	(3.7,6.6)	by age by gender	p-value 0.93 0.20
In the past year, have you worked or done any business that brought in money to help your family? Yes No No Response	43.6% 56.4% n=2	(34.8, 52.8) (47.2, 65.2)	by age by gender by school attendance last year by registration Age 15-17 18-19 Gender Female Male attendance Yes No	p-value <0.001* 0.02* <0.001* 0.53 % (Yes) 27.8% 74.5% % (Yes) 30.0% 52.8% % (Yes) 27.8% 61.3%	17.2% 82.8% n=5	(11.9, 24.1) (75.9, 88.1)	by age by gender by school	p-value 0.004* 0.05* 0.008* 0.52 % (Yes) 13.0% 46.9% % (Yes) 11.5% 24.7% % (Yes) 13.4% 34.3%

Did you have any of the following in the past 12 months because of your work? *Superficial injuries or open wounds; Dislocations, sprains; Fracture; Burns, scalds, or acid burns; Breathing problems; Skin problems; Fever; Extreme fatigue; Other* Yes No No Response	n=145 47.2% 52.8% n=53	(36.8, 57.9) (42.1, 63.2)	by age by gender Age 15-17 18-19	p-value 0.001* 0.61 % (Yes) 29.6% 65.2%	n=138 15.6% 84.4% n=28	(9.9, 23.7) (76.3, 90.1)	by age by gender	p-value 0.73 0.17
In the past year, someone has offered money, gifts, food, services, or shelter to have sex	8.3%	(4.7, 14.4)	by age by gender	p-value 0.26 0.32	0.7%	(0.1, 4.6)	n=1 Male 19 years old	

In the past year, have had sexual intercourse with someone in hopes of receiving money, gifts, food, services or shelter	2.3%	(0.8, 6.3)	p-value by age 0.34 by gender 0.40	0.7%	(0.1, 4.6)	n=1 Male 16 years old

	Refugees in Quito (n=150)			Refugees in Lago Agrio (n=149)		
	Overall		*Disaggregated*	*Overall*		*Disaggregated*
	%	(95% CI)		%	(95% CI)	
Health						
Do you know where to go if you have a health problem? Yes No No Response	87.0% 13.0% n=2	(81.0, 91.3) (8.7, 19.0)	p-value by age 0.47 by gender 0.30 by registration 0.18	69.7% 30.3% n=5	(61.5, 76.8) (23.2, 38.5)	p-value by age 0.90 by gender 0.26 by registration 0.15
If you are hungry, there is enough to eat. Does this describe you? A lot Somewhat A little Not at all	32.0% 43.1% 23.0% 1.9%	(24.2, 41.0) (34.5, 52.3) (16.2, 31.8) (0.7, 4.8)	A lot and somewhat vs. A little and not at all: p-value by age 0.05* by gender 0.11	13.8% 68,2% 18.0% 0%	(8.9, 20.8) (60.1, 75.4) (12.7, 25.1)	A lot and somewhat vs. A little and not at all: p-value by age 0.10 by gender 0.09
Evidence of depression[4]	29.6%	(22.5, 37.8)	p-value by age <0.001* by gender 0.19 by LGBT 0.29 by registration 0.59 Age % 15-17 19.9% 18-19 48.5% Social Support* % Low 100% Moderate 32.0% High 18.2%	57.1%	(48.5, 65.2)	p-value by age 0.04* by gender 0.05* by LGBT 0.31 by registration 0.91 Age % 15-17 60.3% 18-19 32.0% Gender % Female 65.5% Male 50.3% Social Support % Low 100% Moderate 40.3% High 59.1%

Evidence of high levels of hope[5]	7.9%	(3.8, 15.5)		p-value	3.4%	(1.4, 8.0)		p-value
			by age	0.05*			by age	0.13
			by gender	<0.001*			by gender	0.15
			by registration	0.19			by registration	0.50
			Age	%				
			15-17	8.9%				
			18-19	2.9%				
			Gender	%				
			Female	4.9%				
			Male	8.1%				
Evidence of low levels of hope[6]	39.0%	(30.1, 48.7)		p-value	26.1%	(20.2, 33.0)		p-value
			by age	0.83			by age	0.57
			by gender	0.34			by gender	0.08
			by registration	0.42			by registration	0.07
			Gender	%			Gender	%
			Female	44.3%			Female	20.7%
			Male	35.4%			Male	33.7%
							Status	%
								18.4%
								30.3%
Subjectively Assessed Social Support[7]			High vs other:	p-value			High vs other:	p-value
			by registration	0.30			by registration	0.99
Low Support	2.4%	(1.0, 5.8)			2.2%	(0.7, 6.4)		
Moderate Support	64.4%	(55.1, 72.7)			22.2%	(16.2,		
High Support	33.2%	(25.0,			75.6%	29.5)		
Missing	n=3	42.5)			n=5	(68.7, 81.4)		

	Refugees in Quito (n=150)			Refugees in Lago Agrio (n=149)		
	Overall		*Disaggregated*	*Overall*		*Disaggregated*
	%	(95% CI)		%	(95% CI)	
Housing and Home Life						
Household size	5.1	(4.7, 5.6)	p-value	5.4	(4.9, 5.9)	p-value
			by age 0.85			by age 0.32
			by gender 0.40			by gender 0.44

Do you know where to go if you have a problem at home? Yes No No Response	30.9% 69.1% n=5	(23.0, 40.1) (59.9, 77.0)	p-value by age 0.23 by gender 0.47 by registration 0.87	19.2% 80.8% n=10	(13.2, 27.0) (73.0, 86.8)	p-value by age 0.03* by gender 0.001* by registration 0.82 Age % (Yes) 15-17 16.0% 18-19 35.6% Gender % (Yes) Female 8.4% Male 32.1%
Living in a home where frequent abuse occurs (not directed at respondent)[8]	11.3	(6.5, 19.1)	p-value by age 0.006* by gender 0.14 by bio-dad alive/not <0.001* Age % 15-17 10.4% 18-19 11.4% Bio-dad % Alive 10.0% Not 12.9%	4.1%	(1.8, 8.9)	p-value by age 0.21 by gender 0.82 by bio-dad alive/not 0.44
Victim of frequent verbal abuse in the home[9]	14.2%	(9.3,21.0)	p-value by age 0.80 by gender 0.43 by bio-dad alive/not 0.07 by registration 0.81	13.4%	(8.8, 19.9)	p-value by age 0.44 by gender 0.97 by bio-dad alive/not 0.25 by registration 0.24
Victim of physical abuse in the home[10]	24.4%	(17.3, 33.3)	p-value by age 0.32 by gender 0.81 by bio-dad alive/not 0.74 by registration 0.61	20.1%	(14.3, 27.4)	p-value by age 0.83 by gender 0.79 by bio-dad alive/not 0.04 by registration 0.92 Bio-dad % Alive 16.9% Not 31.4%

	Refugees in Quito (n=150)			Refugees in Lago Agrio (n=149)		
	Overall		*Disaggregated*	*Overall*		*Disaggregated*
	%	(95% CI)	(p-value)	%	(95% CI)	
Sexual Violence						

Have suffered ANY incident of sexual abuse in the last year[1]1	16.0%	(10.3, 23.9)		p-value	9.8%	(5.9, 15.7)		p-value
			by age	0.98			by age	0.40
			by gender	0.02*			by gender	0.15
			by time in Ecuador	0.62			by time in Ecuador	0.69
			by registration	0.84			by registration	0.26
			Gender	%				
			Female	25.4%				
			Male	9.6%				
In the past year, was there a time when you were physically forced to have sexual intercourse against your will?				p-value				p-value
			by age	0.54			by age	<0.001*
			by gender	0.04*			by gender	<0.001*
			by time in Ecuador	0.51			by time in Ecuador	0.86
Yes	6.8%	(3.2, 13.8)			3.5%	(1.2, 10.9)		
No	93.2%	(86.2, 96.8)			96.5%	(89.1, 98.8)		
No Response	n=5		Gender	% (Yes)	n=5		Gender	% (Yes)
			Female	13.4%			Female	2.7%
			Male	3.4%			Male	5.0%
							Age	% (Yes)
							15-17	4.1%
							18-19	0%
Of those answered "Yes" above:	n=9				n=5			
What services did you receive because of this most recent incident?								
Legal Assistance	n=2				n=0			
Psychosocial counseling	n=1				n=0			
Medical Assistance	n=1				n=0			
Material Assistance	n=0				n=1			
Individual Case Management	n=2				n=0			
	n=0				n=0			
Safety and Security Support	n=4				n=3			
	n=1				n=1			
No services								
No Response								
In the past year, was there a time when you were persuaded or pressured to have sexual intercourse against your will?				p-value				p-value
			by age	0.93			by age	<0.001*
			by gender	0.13			by gender	<0.001*
			by time in Ecuador	0.70			by time in Ecuador	0.73
Yes	4.9%	(2.3, 10.0)			6.0%	(1.7, 10.6)		
No	95.1%	(90.0, 97.7)				(89.4, 97.3)		
No Response	n=6						Gender	% (Yes)
							Female	10.5%
							Male	0%
							Age	% (Yes)
							15-17	6.6%
							18-19	0%

Of those answered "Yes" above: What services did you receive because of this most recent incident? Legal Assistance Psychosocial counseling Medical Assistance Individual Case Management Safety and Security Support No services No Response	n=8 n=2 n=1 n=0 n=0 n=0 n=4 n=1				n=8 n=0 n=0 n=0 n=0 n=0 n=7 n=1			
In the past year, was there a time when you were touched against your will in a sexual way, including oral sex Yes No No Response Of those answered "Yes" above: What services did they receive because of this most recent incident? Legal Assistance Material Assistance Psychosocial counseling Medical Assistance Individual Case Management Safety and Security Support No services No Response	 12.7% 87.3% n=3 n=18 n=3 n=0 n=1 n=0 n=1 n=0 n=12 n=2	 (7.8, 20.5) (79.5, 92.4)	p-value by age 0.09 by gender 0.009* by time in Ecuador 0.40 Gender % (Yes) Female 22.2% Male 6.0%		 5.3% 94.7% n=5 n=9 n=0 n=0 n=0 n=0 n=0 n=0 n=8 n=1	 (2.7, 10.2) (89.8, 97.3)	p-value by age 0.81 by gender 0.14 by time in Ecuador 0.42	
Of those that suffered ANY KIND of sexual abuse, how many times in the past year?	5.5	(1.8, 9.1)	p-value by age 0.72 by gender 0.31 by time in Ecuador 0.21		5.1	(1.7, 8.5)	p-value by age <0.001* by gender 0.19 by time in Ecuador 0.96 Age Mean 15-17 5.1 18-19 0	
Do you know of a place to go to if you have experienced violence or abuse? Yes No No Response	 44.1% 55.9% n=1	 (34.7, 53.8) (46.2, 65.3)	p-value by age 0.59 by gender 0.60		 15.4% 84.6% n=6	 (10.3, 22.2) (77.8, 89.7)	p-value by age 0.62 by gender 0.08	

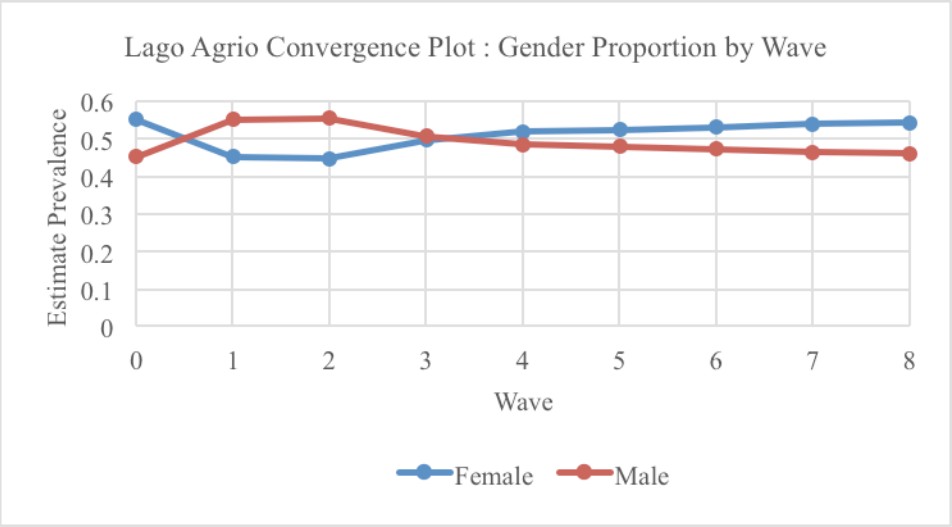
	Refugees in Quito (n=150)				Refugees in Lago Agrio (n=149)			
	Overall		*Disaggregated*		*Overall*		*Disaggregated*	
	%	(95% CI)			%	(95% CI)		
Experiences of Public Space								
If you have a problem, would the police help you?								
Yes	55.7%	(46.1, 65.0)			59.0%	(50.8, 66.6)		
No	22.6%	(16.3, 30.3)			5.6%	(2.8, 10.6)		
Don't Know	20.9%	(14.7, 28.8)			18.0%	(12.6, 25.1)		
No police in the city	0.8%	(0.2,3.3)			17.4%	(12.1, 24.5)		
No Response	n=1				n=5			
Feel unsafe in public spaces[1]2	66.3%	(56.9, 74.6)		p-value	30.0%	(22.8, 38.3)		p-value
			by age	0.03*			by age	0.42
			by gender	0.88			by gender	0.23
			by time in Ecuador	0.11			by time in Ecuador	0.15
			by registration	0.58			by registration	0.85
			Age	%				
			15-17	59.5%				
			18-19	79.6%				
Victim of physical/verbal abuse in public space[1]3	35.2%	(26.4, 45.2)		p-value	14.6%	(9.9, 21.1)		p-value
			by age	0.001*			by age	0.24
			by gender	0.26			by gender	0.11
			by time in Ecuador	0.13			by time in Ecuador	0.95
			Age	%				
			15-17	25.2%				
			18-19	54.8%				

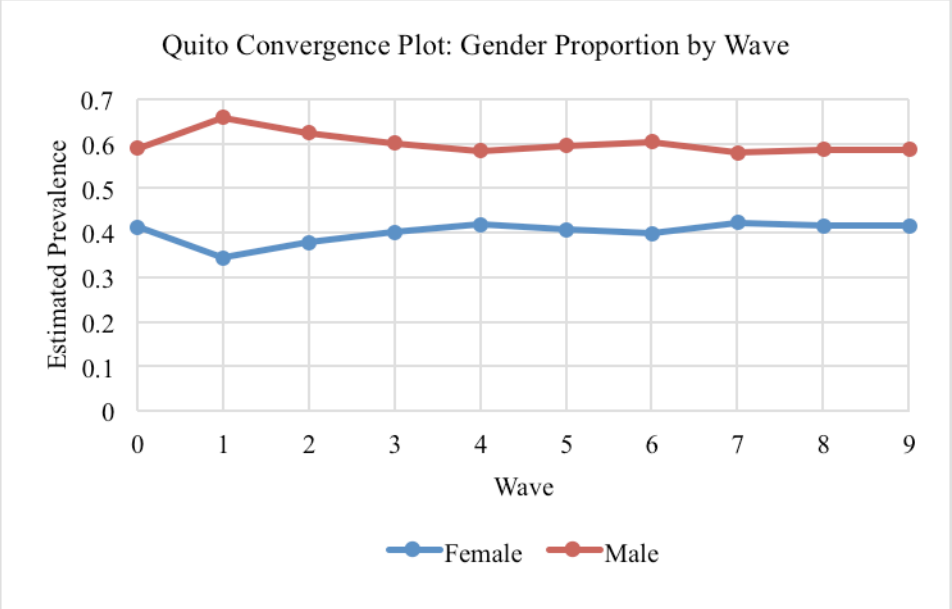
Have you ever wanted to take part in a structured recreation activity in the city?				p-value				p-value
			by age	0.42			by age	0.32
			by gender	0.67			by gender	0.49
Yes	82.3%	(74.5, 88.0)			39.2%	(31.2, 47.8)		
No	17.7%				60.8%			
No Response	n=2	(12.0, 25.5)			n=7	(52.2, 68.8)		
Of those answered "Yes" above:	n=120				n=54			
Have you ever participated in structured recreation activities in the city?				p-value				p-value
			by age	0.05*			by age	0.02*
			by gender	0.66			by gender	0.02*
Yes	42.2%	(32.8, 52.2)			55.5%	(41.6, 68.6)		
No	57.8%	(47.8, 67.2)	Age	% (Yes)	44.5%	(31.4, 58.4)	Age	% (Yes)
			15-17	49.1%			15-17	47.8%
			18-19	29.2%			18-19	89.4%
							Gender	% (Yes)
							Female	42.2%
							Male	72.4%
Are there places in this city that you can go to hang out with your friends?				p-value				p-value
			by age	0.18			by age	0.23
			by gender	0.99			by gender	0.09
Yes	86.5%	(79.5, 91.4)			54.8%	(46.2, 63.0)		
No	13.5%				45.2%			
No Response	n=11	(8.6, 20.5)			n=5	(37.0, 53.8)		
Have you wanted to participate in a club or committee specifically for children or adolescents?				p-value				p-value
			by age	0.16			by age	0.81
			by gender	0.59			by gender	0.93
Yes	61.9%	(51.8, 71.1)			43.3%	(35.1, 51.8)		
No	38.1%				56.7%			
No Response	n=3	(28.9, 48.2)			n=6	(48.2, 64.9)		
Of those answered "Yes" above:	n=94				n=59			
Have you participated in a club or committee specifically for children or adolescents in the past year?				p-value				p-value
			by age	0.59			by age	0.73
			by gender	0.22			by gender	0.69
Yes	44.1%	(34.3, 54.5)			47.2%	(34.5, 60.3)		
No	55.9%	(45.5, 65.7)			52.8%	(39.7, 65.5)		

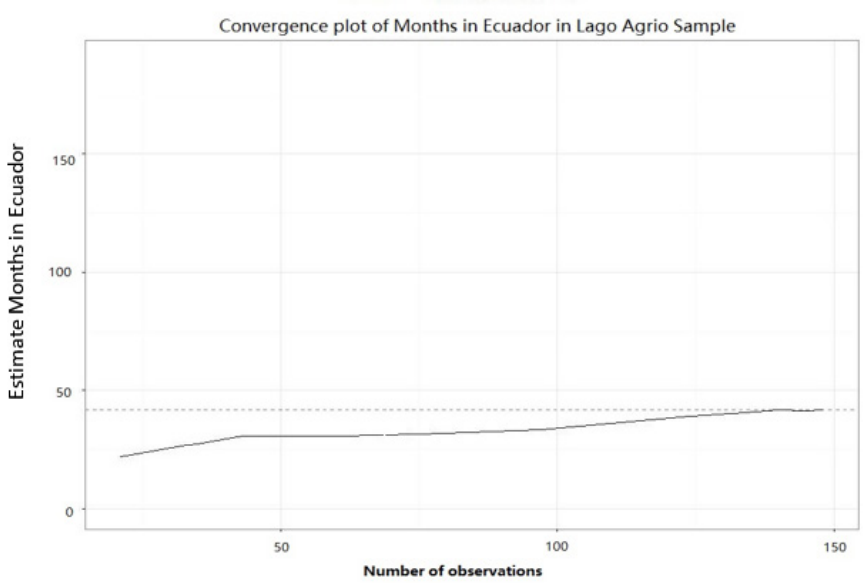
VII. APPENDIX B

LIST OF KEY INFORMANTS

Laura Romero	Refugee Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Guido Mosquera	Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES)
Marco Cujas	National Directorate of Specialized Police for Children and Adolescents (DINAPEN)
Veronica Espinel	National Directorate on Access to Justice, Judicial Council
Nelly Jacomé	National Directorate on Domestic Violence and Gender, Ministry of Justice
Maria Salinas	Cantonal Protection Board
Cesar Cherrez	UNHCR
Paola Botta	UNHCR
Francisco Carrion	UNHCR
Marta Gutierrez	UNICEF
Alex Leguizamo	Oxfam Italia
Maria Gutierrez	Asylum Access
Carolina Rodriguez	RET Quito
Omar Quichimbo	RET Lago Agrio
Monica Barreno	Association for Solidarity and Action (ASA)


Lago Agrio Convergence Plot : Gender Proportion by Wave
Estimate Prevalence
0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Wave
Female
Male


Quito Convergence Plot: Gender Proportion by Wave
Estimated Prevalence
0.7
0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Wave
Female
Male



Results from different methods
Original: raw percentage (mean) calculated from data
With weight and cluster: geeglm() function in R with clustering in seed and weights(degree=visibility)
With cluster: geeglm() function in R with clustering in seed

Lago Agrio
N= 149

Variable	Original		With weight and cluster		With cluster	
Gender Female Male Other	53.7% 45.6% 0.7%	(45.7, 61.7) (37.6,53.6) (0.0, 2.0)	52.0% 45.9% 2.1%	(43.4, 60.5) (37.3, 54.7) (0.3, 13.0)	53.1% 46.2% 0.7%	(45.0, 61.3) (38,2, 54.6) (0.0, 4.6)
Age(continuous)	16.2	(16.0, 16.4)	16.2	(16.0, 16.4)	16.2	(16.0,16.4)
Age group Minors Adults	85.2% 14.8%	(79.5, 90.9) (9.1, 20.5)	85.9% 14.1%	(78.1, 91.3) (8.7, 21.9)	85.4% 14.6%	(78.6, 90.4) (9.6, 21.4)
Bio-mom alive Yes No Don't Know	95.3% 4.7%	(91.9, 98.7) (1.3, 8.1)	95.4% 4.6%	(90.7, 97.8) (2.2, 9.3)	94.0% 6.0%	(88.4, 97.0) (3.0, 11.6)
Family Size	5.4	(4.9, 5.8)	5.3	(4.8, 5.9)	5.4	(4.9, 5.9)
Time in Ecuador	55.6	(48.0,63.2)	58.2	(49.4, 66.9)	56.0	(48.5, 63.7)
Marital Status Single Inrelationship	95.3% 4.7%	(91.9, 98.7) (1.3, 8.1)	96.2% 3.8%	(92.2, 98.2) (1.8, 7.8)	95.3% 4.7%	(90.6, 97.7) (2.3, 9.4)

School Attendance during last year among school age children (15-18)	84.5%	(78.7, 90.3)	85.1%	(78.0, 90.2)	84.3%	(77.3, 89.4)
School Attendance during last year among all children	80.4	(74.0, 86.8)	81.7%	(74.4, 87.2)	80.5%	(73.4, 86.1)

Quito:
N= 150

Variable	Original		With weight and cluster		With cluster	
Gender Female Male	41.3% 58.7%	(33.4, 49.2) (50.8, 66.6)	40.6% 59.4%	(32.3, 49.4) (50.6, 67.7)	41.4% 58.6%	(34.5, 48.5) (51.5, 65.4)
Age(continuous)	17.0	(16.8, 17.2)	16.8	(16.5, 17.1)	16.9	(16.6, 17.2)
Age group Minors Adults	60.7% 39.3%	(52.9, 68.5) (31.5, 47.1)	66.1% 33.9%	(57.1, 74.1) (25.9, 42.9)	63.1% 36.9%	(51.0, 73.7) (26.3, 49.0)
Bio-mom alive Yes No Don't Know	97.3% 2.7%	(94.7,99.9) (0.1, 5.3)	96.8% 3.2%	(90.2, 99.0) (1.0, 9.8)	97.3% 2.7%	(93.3, 98.9) (1.1, 6.7)
Family Size	5.2	(4.7, 5.7)	5.1	(4.7, 5.6)	5.3	(4.6, 5.9)
Time in Ecuador	22.1	(17.3, 26.9)	22.9	(17.5, 28.3)	23.0	(17.3, 30.8)
Marital Status Single In relationship Married	71.3% 28.0% 0.7%	(64.1, 78.5) (20.8, 35.2) (0.0, 2.0)	71.9% 27.2% 0.9%	(62.2, 79.9) (19.3, 36.8) (0.1, 6.2)	74.5% 24.9% 0.6%	(63.6, 83.0) (16.4, 36.0) (0.1, 4.1)
School Attendance during last year among school age children (15-18)	64.3%	(55.4, 73.2)	65.6%	(55.2, 74.6)	66.1%	(54.9, 75.8)
School Attendance during last year among all children	50.7	(42.7, 58.7)	52.8%	(43.4, 62.0)	55.2%	(45.3, 66.4)

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