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# ECUADOR FACT SHEET

## OVERVIEW

The United States Agency for International Development and the Ecuadorian people have worked together as partners in development since 1961. Through this long standing partnership, USAID has advanced Ecuador's economic and social development, conserved its unparalleled biodiversity, and strengthened civil society and citizen engagement. In November 2020, USAID reestablished its presence in Ecuador following a six-year absence, providing new opportunities for bilateral cooperation and programming. Today, USAID's development priorities address democracy, governance, environment, sustainable economic growth, and citizen security.

## PRIORITIES

### DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

USAID partners with local governments across the country to strengthen core democratic institutions and increase community participation in decision making, facilitating citizen access to important public services, such as equitable water and sanitation. By promoting spending efficiency through the improvement of financial systems and public procurement mechanisms, USAID supports Ecuador in

addressing corruption and reinforcing transparency.

## ECONOMIC INCLUSION

USAID engages with the private sector to generate sustainable and inclusive economic opportunities for small-scale farmers working in remote and marginalized communities by establishing and formalizing direct relationships between the buyer and supplier. USAID is also leading efforts toward the socioeconomic integration of Venezuelan migrants in Ecuador by advancing the jobs, health, education, and welfare of long-term migrants and refugees, while working to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable Venezuelan migrants and host communities.

## ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

To mitigate the impacts of climate change, USAID works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by strengthening the capacity and increasing the participation of local communities in the sustainable management of their natural resources and protection of forest areas, while assisting the Government of Ecuador and energy regulators to boost private sector investment, improve energy efficiency, and increase access to clean and renewable energy.

To combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, including threatened sharks and rays, USAID promotes participatory governance and transparency in the fishing sector by formalizing and strengthening fisher organizations, leveraging market demand for legal and sustainable seafood, and improving regulations and compliance for fisheries.

## CITIZEN SECURITY

Through small grants and interventions coordinated with multiple levels of government and civil society, USAID promotes a citizen-centric approach to addressing crime and violence in Ecuador. Assistance to local governments enables them to develop security plans that focus on community engagement, social investment, and institutional coordination, while bolstering the role of civil society and promoting citizen oversight in the development of security policies.

## KEY RESULTS

- USAID has provided anti-corruption training to over **2,300 public officials, civil society representatives, and young leaders.**
- Due to USAID support for increased oversight in infrastructure, telecommunications, and extractive industries, Ecuador's Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Economy and Finance, and National Public Procurement Service have improved their financial and public procurement processes, complying with **international transparency standards developed and monitored by the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the Infrastructure Transparency Initiative.**

- USAID has supported **47 national and local TV, press, radio, and online private media outlets** through Ecuador Verifica, a coalition to combat disinformation and develop digital citizenship.
- USAID has supported **over 109,000 Ecuadorians and Venezuelans** in gaining access to formal financial services through the opening of a savings account and/or obtaining a credit product from finance entities, strengthened **more than 2,500 entrepreneurs**, and secured access to employment for **at least 25,000 people**.
- USAID is working with Empresa Pública Metropolitana de Transporte de Pasajeros de Quito to support the decarbonization of public transport and improve accessibility for people with disabilities. As a result, Quito will have approximately **50 new electric trolleybuses and 20 new electric buses, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by more than 6,000 tons per year and improving accessibility for the citizens of Quito**.
- USAID helps protect more than **4.4 million hectares of Amazon forest** and provide sustainable economic alternatives to illegal resource extraction.
- USAID supported the Attorney General's Office to establish a new Environmental Crimes Unit that is increasing **prosecutions of wildlife, forestry, fisheries, and other environment-related crimes**.
- By facilitating connections to mahi-mahi retailers, USAID has provided direct commercialization opportunities to nearly **300 artisanal fishers in coastal areas**.