

ISLE OF MAN DONOR REPORT JULY 2016 – ECUADOR EMERGENCY



On 16th April 2016, Ecuador was hit by a devastating earthquake, 7.8 in magnitude. As many as 663 people were killed and another 18,000 injured. The northwestern coastal area was largely destroyed, affecting some 2 million people. 350,000 people needed immediate humanitarian assistance, including 17,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, who had mainly fled Colombia.

Over the following three weeks, these already traumatized communities suffered 1,600 aftershocks – two over 6.7 in magnitude – causing further damage and distress, as well as a new wave of displacement. Over 73,000 people were displaced by the earthquake, and over 15,000 lost their identity documents, making it difficult for them to access basic services such as medical care.

UNHCR responded immediately to the call and were the first agency to airlift vital, life-saving aid to Ecuador, following an urgent request from the Ecuadorian government for support and assistance. Our main priority was to supply tents, sleeping mats and kitchenware so that families who'd lost their homes would have some form of shelter in the immediate aftermath of this disaster.

The first airlift reached Ecuador on 20 April and carried 900 tents, 3,000 plastic sheets, 175 plastic rolls, 15,000 sleeping mats, 1,000 kits of kitchenware and 18,000 mosquito nets



We concentrated on the worst-affected areas in the west of the country, including areas around Manabí, Santo Domingo, Esmeraldas and Guayaquil.

A second airlift arrived in Ecuador on 1 May, carrying 35,000 sleeping mats, 6,100 solar lamps, 4,250 plastic sheets, 5,950 kitchen kits, and 7,000 jerry cans.

With the generous support of the Isle of Man Development committee, UNHCR was able to react quickly to the needs on the ground and become fully operational and provide basic supplies straight away. We focused on providing shelter and emergency relief for 40,000 of the most vulnerable people hit by the earthquake, including refugees, asylum-seekers and local Ecuadorian families. It is often for these life-saving early stages that we especially rely on donors to respond quickly and help us protect people made vulnerable by such an emergency.

In the weeks and months since this terrible earthquake, we have been continuing to support the communities affected with ongoing supplies and longer-term recovery plans.

"Kero is part of our family, how could we abandon him?" Karina Renginfo said after she posed for a portrait next to Justin, Aida, Maite and Kero. Her family was left homeless after the earthquake destroyed 90% of the houses in Chamanga, but she returned to her house to get her, her puppy who was still chained to the house. Karina and her daughters now live in one of the tents provided by UNHCR.





UNHCR

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2nd August 2016

Dear Mr. Gawne,

I am writing on behalf of the UN Refugee Agency, (UNHCR), to thank you and the Isle of Man International Development Committee for your generous donation of £25,000 towards the Ecuador earthquake.

Following the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake on 16 April 2016 in Ecuador, as many as 663 people were killed and another 350,000 people needed immediate humanitarian assistance, including refugees and asylum-seekers who had mainly fled Colombia. Over the following three weeks, these already traumatized communities suffered 1,600 aftershocks – two over 6.7 in magnitude – causing further damage and distress.

With the support of the Isle of Man IDC however, UNHCR responded immediately to the emergency and were the first to air-lift vital, life-saving aid to Ecuador. Our main priority was to supply tents, sleeping mats and kitchenware to families who had lost their homes and possessions in the aftermath of the earthquake.

The first airlift arrived on 20th April carrying 900 tents, 3,000 tarpaulins, 15,000 sleeping mats as well as 18,000 mosquito nets to prevent against the deadly Zika virus. We concentrated on the worst-affected areas in the west of the country, including areas around Manabí, Santo Domingo, Esmeraldas and Guayaquil. It is often for these time-critical early stages that we rely on donors to respond quickly and help us save lives.

On behalf of UNHCR, the refugees we protect, and all persons of concern around the world, thank you.

Sincerely,


Gonzalo Vargas Llosa

UNHCR Representative to the United Kingdom

