



# Creating a safe, secure environment in which migrant women can flourish at home, in the community, and at work

## ● Gender Issues

The recent phenomenon of Venezuelan migration to Ecuador presents a number of significant issues related to gender and, more specifically, the protection of women's rights. At 56.6 percent, male migrants have tended to predominate in the initial wave of migration from Venezuela. However, the number of women and girls has increased as these early migrants brought family members to join them. Female migrants and refugees from Venezuela are highly educated, with many having completed tertiary education. Yet, as with their male counterparts, many lack official legal status and therefore struggle to enter the formal labor market. Migrant girls and adolescent women are at particular risk at school. One of the barriers to resolving gender discrimination is a perception of a lack of interest or knowledge on the part of public officials. This is especially felt by migrant and refugee women, who are often reticent to approach state institutions due to their irregular migratory status.

## ● Health issues and risks

The Ecuadorian government offers a variety of health facilities and services for women. These are freely available to all residents in the country, whether from the host or migrant communities. Budgetary pressures resulting from Ecuador's economic downturn are putting pressure on these services, thus complicating access. Women in Ecuador, migrants, refugees or not, face several specific health challenges. The first relate to physical and psychological abuse. Ecuadorian women tend to be more at risk at home and in the wider community. Migrant and refugee girls and adolescents, meanwhile, are disproportionately vulnerable in school. The second challenge is connected with teenage pregnancy rates and sexually transmitted diseases, both of which are considerably above average for the region.



## ● Discrimination at Work

The workplace in Ecuador presents a range of gender-linked hurdles and risks for women. In the formal sector, female Ecuadorian and migrant employees frequently receive lower pay and experience more barriers to career progression than their male colleagues. Sexual harassment is an issue in the formal and the informal sector. Indeed, working informally, as is commonplace for migrant and refugee women in Ecuador, increases the likelihood of women's labor rights being contravened. Some migrant and refugee women are prevented from entering the labor force due to childcare responsibilities. This problem is exacerbated by the difficulties of subscribing their children into school at times other than the start of the academic year.

## ● Recommendations

Measures to reduce unfair gender practices will benefit Ecuadorian and migrant and refugee women alike. Priorities here include:

- Sensitizing public officials to principles of non-discrimination
- Strengthening the care and service provision route for victims of gender-based violence
- Providing effective mechanisms to reduce sexual harassment
- Encouraging employers to promote a positive workplace culture for women
- Promoting sexual and reproductive health information and services

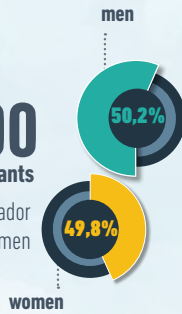
Venezuelan women in mobility in Ecuador confront specific issues that are not generic to society at large and that require targeted countermeasures, such as:

- Regularizing migrant and refugee women's residency status to enable them to work
- Facilitating the registration of migrant and refugee women's professional qualifications
- Permitting Venezuelan children to enter school at any stage during the year
- Ensuring schools are safe for migrant and refugee girls and adolescent women

# Challenges and opportunities of Venezuelan migration in Ecuador

## Demographics

Half of the **400 000** Venezuelan migrants to have settled in Ecuador since 2015 are men



... with about **4 in 10** recent migrants and refugee



saying that they **plan to bring their relatives** to Ecuador within the **next two years**.

Over half of **Venezuelan women settle** in Ecuador in order to be with their immediate **families**, while a far smaller minority



## Experience of Education

Almost **half** of Venezuelan women have **completed tertiary education**;



**more than three times** the proportion of their Ecuadorian peers.



**53,3%** of **female Venezuelan migrants and refugees of school age** are **not enrolled** in the **education system**.

Lack of documentation

18,5%

are among the **primary reasons** for **girls and adolescent women** not to attend school or to **drop out**.

The need to work

26,1%

## Labor conditions

Venezuelan women in Ecuador work per week on average,



which is **less than Venezuelan males in mobility**



but **more than** Ecuadorian women



**Female Venezuelans** in mobility earn per month the least of **196.6**



their **Ecuadorian peers**.

and than **Venezuelan males in mobility**



**Venezuelan women** are more likely to work in the **informal sector**



than **male migrants and refugees**



**Informal employment** is also a **common reality** for **Ecuadorian women**.

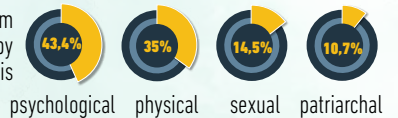


## Violence and Discrimination

**76%** **6 in 10** Ecuadorian women

have **facd** some form of **gender-related violence** in the course of their lifetime, usually at the **hands** of their **partner or ex-partner**.

The most **common** form of **abuse** experienced by **women** is



In 2018, the **cases of femicide** in Ecuador were.

**448**

**+ 2/5**

**43,4%** of female **Venezuelan migrant and refugee** report having been **discriminated** against in the **recent past**

**95,1%** **almost always because** of their **nationality**.

## Health Provision & Risks



**60,6%** **Venezuelan migrant and refugee women** are **generally healthy**, saying that they have had **no need to visit a doctor** in the last year



in **comparison with Ecuadorian women**



**1 in 4** of **women** who are **unable to access health services** fail to do so because of **difficulties** in obtaining an **appointment**;



**Ecuadorian women** cite this reason.

**1,7%**

Teenage pregnancy rates among:

Venezuelan

**8,8%**

**5,3%**

Ecuadorian