



SECURITY WELCOME BRIEF FOR ECUADOR

Background Ecuador

What is now Ecuador formed part of the northern Inca Empire until the Spanish conquest in 1533. Quito became a seat of Spanish colonial government in 1563 and part of the Viceroyalty of New Granada in 1717. The territories of the Viceroyalty - New Granada (Colombia), Venezuela, and Quito - gained their independence between 1819 and 1822 and formed a federation known as Gran Colombia. When Quito withdrew in 1830, the traditional name was changed in favor of the "Republic of the Equator." Between 1904 and 1942, Ecuador lost territories in a series of conflicts with its neighbors. A border war with Peru that flared in 1995 was resolved in 1999. Although Ecuador marked 30 years of civilian governance in 2004, the period was marred by political instability. Protests in Quito contributed to the mid-term ouster of three of Ecuador's last four democratically elected presidents. In late 2008, voters approved a new constitution, Ecuador's 20th since gaining independence. General elections were held in February 2013, and voters reelected President Rafael CORREA.

Since May 2017 Lenín Moreno is the President of Ecuador. He was Vice President from 2007 to 2013, serving under the former President Rafael Correa.

The combination of low oil prices (50% of Ecuador's export and 30% of Fiscal revenue) and a high US\$ (Ecuador's currency since 2000) drove the economy into recession and prospects for the next years remain modest.

The RCRC Movement in Ecuador

ICRC

The presence of the ICRC in Ecuador is mainly due to the spillover of the Colombian armed conflict. Over the past year or so the border area remained rather quiet. This has largely been attributed to the Colombian peace process that initiated in September 2012. The rejection of the peace deal by Colombian voters on 2 October 2016 however creates uncertainty.

Nowadays, ICRC is also involved in the Venezuelan population movement, mainly in the north borders but also along the route to the southern border with Peru.

IFRC

The presence of an IFRC delegation in Ecuador is due to the earthquake occurred in April 2016 and its aftershocks in May. The main Operation is taking place in the coastal area of Manabí and Esmeraldas provinces, around 180 kms far from Quito (6-8 hours by car). The appeal was extended until end of 2018. In 2019, the called Country Plan is focused on the phase out of the earthquake operation, looking forward the sustainability of all the implemented actions between 2016 and 2018.

Spanish RC has a permanent delegation in Ecuador since 1995. Its main focus is on Livelihoods and Disaster Risk Reduction. Nowadays, working also in shelter within the Earthquake response in close cooperation with IFRC and ERC.

Office Hours at the IFRC Office are:

Monday through Friday 0800 to 1730 HRS



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Weekends: Mission Dependent. Normally not working.

Holidays: Mission Dependent. Normally not working.

IFRC Office Address:

IFRC Office located within Ecuadorian RC HQ Office, Between Av. Antonio Elizalde E4-31 and Av. Gran Colombia, Edificio Cruz Roja Ecuatoriana, Ecuador, Quito.

Ecuadorian Red Cross

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is providing service under its mandate for 106 years now, serving the community according to the Seven Fundamental Principles of the RCRC Movement. In Ecuador, close to 8,000 youth people compose the Volunteering across the 24 provinces in the country, with the following goals:

- Strengthen the management of the NS and the resource mobilization
- Consolidate a harmonic and sustainable development of the volunteering and branches network.
- To contribute to a sustainable community development

Practical information

Security

Security Phase: WHITE

Although Quito is a relatively safe city compared to other urban centers in Latin-America, theft, hold-ups, express kidnapping and the like do occur. The following are some practical rules that aim to avoid mishaps.

A. Moving around in Quito

- Do not carry important documents with you unless indispensable (you can leave them at the hotel safe). Similarly you can carry a photocopy of your passport instead of the original (probably not the first day when registering).
- Avoid wearing jewelry or other expensive luxury articles
- Avoid speak by mobile phone in the streets if alone.
- Avoid walking in empty streets at night.
- Avoid using ATM's at night
- **Use the three taxi services we contracted during Habitat III (details in useful phone numbers)**

B. If you are victim of an (armed) robbery or an express kidnapping (forced to retrieve money from an ATM)

- Do not resist and comply with orders
- Remain calm

C. Illegal drugs

- The use of illegal drugs (which includes Cannabis, Cocaine, and similar substances) are prohibited, let alone the selling of such items. The 2015 criminal code imposes sanctions of up to 3 years in prison for the possession of minor quantities.

D. Civil unrest/demonstrations



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- This being a pre-electoral year, demonstrations against or in favor of the current government can occur – and there can be both at the same time. In some instances such demonstrations have turned violent. It is thus advised to avoid these kind of events.

E. Kidnappings and Terrorist Groups in the Ecuatorian Border

- Recent kidnappings and murders of the three Ecuatorian journalists, at the hands of Oliver Sinisterra Front (led by FARC, the [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia](#)), have heightened the need for stricter security of any RCRC personnel visiting the area. ANYONE planning to visit the northern border areas between Ecuador and Colombia are required to have prior authorization and justification by/to the Operations Manager, the HoCC and the Regional Security Coordinator.

F. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions

- In case of an earthquake, move away from buildings, walls, electricity poles and cables. If you are inside a building, move away from windows and balconies; do not use elevators; take shelter under door frame poles, a table, or a desk. Follow instructions of the local authorities and inform IFRC EQ Ops Manager (+593 (0)99 74 334 53) or IFRC Head of country cluster (+51 997 555 639) of your situation.
- Quito does not lie directly in the path of projected lava and lahar streams of nearby volcanos. Hence, although a number of volcanoes currently are in a state of eruption (Cotopaxi, Reventador, Tungurahua) it is unlikely that the city of Quito will be seriously affected (although it can be exposed to volcanic ashes).

G. Medical Situations:

First Aid kits

ALL RC/RC personnel lodging, residences, offices and vehicles are to be equipped with a first aid kit. The contents are to be adapted to the local risks especially, taking field movement into consideration. The IFRC Office First Aid Kit is located in the Country Representatives Office.

PEP Kits:

Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits (for exposure to HIV/AIDS, rabies or a post-rape situation), are currently on hand at the Operations Manager Office Office. For any additional kits, the Operations Manager has coordinated with the national society for the use of their PEP kits should the need arise.

Altitude and weather

Quito height is 2.800 meters above sea level; you might feel tired upon arrival. Daytime temperatures may vary between 12 and 22 degrees Celsius. It is recommended to carry an umbrella and dress in layers.

In case of serious medical emergencies in Quito

- **Hospital Metropolitano** - <http://hospitalmetropolitano.org/en/index.php>



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Address: Av. Mariana de Jesús s/n y Nicolás Arteta

<https://goo.gl/maps/BxkPMG59FW52>

Telf: +593 (0) 2 399-8000 - al (0) only if calling from mobile phone.

Free toll - 1-800 463876

- **Hospital de Los Valles** – <http://www.hospitaldelosvalles.com/>
Address: Av. Interoceánica km 12.5 y Av. Florencia, Quito -
<https://goo.gl/maps/56sW7tXeTxL2>
servicioalcliente@hospitaldelosvalles.com
Telf. (+593) (0) 2 2977900 – dial (0) only if calling from mobile phone.
- **Hospital Vozandes** – <http://www.hospitalvozandes.org/>
Address: Villalengua Oe2-37 y Av. 10 de Agosto, Quito -
<http://www.hospitalvozandes.org/>
Emergency phone - (+593) (0) 2 397 1000 - Ext. 3051, 3052 ó 3152

Teléfonos de interés

- Número de emergencia por todo el país **911**
- **Emergencias CR Ecuatoriana por todo el país 131**
 - CLARO: +593 (0) 990 95 6044
 - MOVISTAR: +593 (0) 989 24 8261
- **IFRC Satellite:** +87 077 221 1050
- Policía: 101
- Taxis que han trabajado con el equipo FICR en diversas ocasiones. Se manejan en ingles.
 - Edwin Haro +593 (0) 99 441 3064
 - Milton Jaramillo +593 (0) 997288187

Direcciones de interés

Oficina de la CRE

Antonio Elizalde E4-31 and Av. Gran Colombia

Phone numbers: +593 2 2956004

Oficina CICR:

Avda. Coruña E12-148 and Valladolid (La Floresta neighborhood).

Phone numbers +593 2 3230.134 / 3230.152

Instituto Superior Tecnológico de la CR Ecuatoriana – recepción de bienvenida el Lunes 18:30

Rumipamba Oe3-19 y Antonio de Ulloa,

Electricity

Electrical power is at 110 volts, 60 cycles. Two flat prongs (see photo).



Currency

Ecuador's currency is the US dollar. Bills over 20 dollars are hard to change. Euros may be changed for dollars at banks, hotels and money exchange offices.



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Local Time

GMT/UCT minus 5 hours

Official language

Spanish