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# Internal displacement of the Venezuelan population in Ecuador

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**Abstract**--In order to determine the main theories and explanations of international migration on the migratory human flow of the Venezuelan population to Ecuador, who are forced to move to other countries in the world. The phenomenon of emigration is very old as the very existence of the human being, the flow of various people who go to Ecuador in recent years has increased; It is necessary to carry out a deep analysis, a detailed and supported study that is permissible to understand the national and international migratory reality, the consequences that the Ecuadorian government implies to attend this human wave with the productive, legal apparatus, based on internal regulations, treaties and international conventions. The objective is to identify the reasons and consequences of the Venezuelan individual and their internal displacement in the country, the documentary-bibliographical review was applied to know the different causes of migration, in addition to the quantitative and qualitative method that helped to assess the causes of This to be clear about the complexity of the issue and the migration structure, the result was the study of the causes and consequences of the displacement of Venezuelan migrants to the country and it was proposed that the sectional and national governments to promote reception plans, aimed at this population especially.

**Keywords**--internal displacement, Venezuelan population, international migration, legal apparatus.

## Introduction

Ecuador has faced in the last 10 years an exodus of Venezuelan emigrants on an unprecedented scale, induced by the political, social, economic and institutional instability that the country is going through, slowing down from 2014, this collapse has been the main motor that a part of the Venezuelan population migrates to various countries including Ecuador, causing the intervention of the Ecuadorian state as well as international states, a fact that has become a more complex humanitarian crisis in recent decades. Currently in the 21st century, globalization has caused important changes in our days, as well as an economic acceleration and deceleration in some Latin American countries, such as Venezuela in this case; emigration and immigration of people with

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cultural diversity makes this human displacement seek better life opportunities and therefore work, which has led to the purpose of studying this type of decision by a certain group of the vulnerable Venezuelan population and Why not say the impact that this refers to for the Ecuadorian state and society (R4V, RMRP 2020 FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS FROM VENEZUELA, 2020).

This migratory phenomenon can be distinguished into three main components depending on whether the subject goes to a place of destination or leaves it: The first can be linked to migration when the individual leaves his place of origin, the second while when he arrives at the place destination is considered as an immigrant and the third component is when the emigrant returns to his place of origin after spending some time, they are called returnees. The result of this investigation during the period 2019 to 2022, is to identify the reasons and consequences of the Venezuelan individual and their internal displacement in Ecuador, evidencing the situation of the rights of refugees and migrants of any type of gender and their incidence. in the social and economic field, factors contrasted and supported by the Ecuadorian reality and human rights, emphasizing the precariousness in which many migrants live, especially the undocumented, in relation to access to labor, political and social rights, which leads to situate migratory human mobility as a problem and/or consequences of this global phenomenon, where there are many stigmas and prejudices, which is why many see or experience inhumane treatment, prostitution, crime, violence and violation of rights, which has repercussions on a legal and social problem that affects ordinary citizens, both Venezuelans and Ecuadorians.

In this way, the analysis will focus on the intrinsic relationship of the United Nations-UN Organization as a sovereign power that member states have to control and/or regulate migratory flows, admissions and stay of foreigners in Ecuadorian territory, migration controls, deportations and expulsions. Ecuador, like many Latin American and Caribbean countries, has been part of the international migration process, considering international protection and the search for permanent solutions to the problem of migrants with strategic objectives so that migrants, like citizens in general, can be included in a productive society. Human beings have been in constant transit throughout their lives, be it in search of job offers and new life opportunities, there are cases that emigrate to escape conflicts and persecutions or human rights abuses, as well as limiting the change climate of certain parts and cities of the world, natural disasters or other environmental factors.

Migration is the change of residence of a person which implies the transfer of some geographical limit, be it internal or external; If the border that is crossed is of an international nature (border between countries), the migration is renamed "international migration". If the border that is crossed corresponds to some type of duly recognized demarcation within a country (between administrative divisions, between urban and rural areas, etc.), the migration is called "internal migration" (Unidas, 2022). The number of members of the United Nations-UN Organization is 193 current member states, who are each a member of the General Assembly, each state that wants to be admitted as a Member of the United Nations is by a decision of the General Assembly, the same ones that are based on the recommendation of the Security Council, among which are Venezuela and Ecuador, as we well know that the UN Agency for Refugees in its acronym UNHCR has been working bindingly with the governments of the countries of reception and with strategic partners, particularly with the International Organization for Migrants-IOM, who have been globally coordinating the needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the various host countries, collecting data with the purpose of understanding the specific needs of Venezuelans.

UNHCR has strengthened its presence along major borders to limit risks where possible, particularly with access to territory, trafficking and exploitation, and to identify people in need of specific protection. , such as pregnant women and children, coordinates actions at the regional level for the creation of Support Spaces where refugees and migrants can

receive updated and reliable information, as well as a minimum package of services in strategic areas in the region (UNHCR, 2023). The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has stated that "Respect for human rights constitutes a limit to state activity, which is valid for any body or official that is in a situation of power, due to its official nature, with respect to other people.s" (p. 38-book Héctor Faundez Ledesma); The function of Human Rights Law is to regulate the exercise of public power in its relations with the individual; Consequently, any form or circumstance of a public nature that harms or impairs such rights recognized in the constitutions of each state that has exceeded the limits of its own competence in violation of internal law, and universal fundamental rights would be understood as non-observance of the duty of respect enshrined in the Human Rights Convention.

The representatives of the Governments of the Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Republic of Ecuador, the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, The United Mexican States, the Republic of Panama, the Republic of Paraguay, the Republic of Peru, the Dominican Republic and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, participated in the VIII Meeting-Brasilia Chapter of the Quito-Los Process June 30 and July 1, 2022, in order to follow up on the Declarations of Quito, Buenos Aires, Bogotá, Santiago, Lima and the Action Plan signed on November 23, 2018; as well as the Roadmap of the Buenos Aires Chapter, of July 5, 2019, agree: "...2. To reiterate the concern regarding the continuous human mobility of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, whose flow, to date, has exceeded 6 million people, of which more than 5 million are in transit and destination countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to a report by the Response for Venezuelans (R4V), Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), June 2022.

As a consequence of the law and universal human rights and the particular experience and reality of each state, it has led to the development of important standards for the protection of each vulnerable group of Venezuelan migrants who are in transit or who remain as migrants from legally or undocumented in the Ecuadorian state. Now, with respect to the social sphere, from the same argumentative line of democracy, freedom of expression, the right to work, the right to a dignified life, the right to education, are necessary conditions for the adequate exercise of other rights. such as non-discrimination, the right to petition, rights of an economic, social and cultural nature, etc., in such a way that the state is obligated in relation to these rights and the other fundamental rights to protect human dignity, due to international pacts, conventions, international human rights treaties and in this case the rights of Venezuelan migrants that must be generated and guaranteed conditions to mitigate the risks that migrants are exposed to upon arrival with adequate control of public policies and initiatives aimed at making the exercise of these rights viable through the migratory regularization of this group of the population of Venezuelan nationality, the objective is to identify the reasons and consequences of the Venezuelan individual and their internal displacement in the country.

## **Method**

The research was based on a positivist and comparative methodology, with a quantitative approach, which originates descriptive data from data collection. Supported by documentary-bibliographical research, which allowed obtaining detailed information on the subject investigated. The use of these methods made it possible to analyze doctrine, regulatory bodies, legal documents, bibliography, which after the pertinent analysis, allowed criteria and contributions to be generated for a better development of legal analysis).

## Discussion

The tendencies of Venezuelan migrants to prefer Latin American countries temporarily or in transit, as well as to settle or settle, corresponds mainly because these Latin American countries are in the border area with Venezuela, either because of their language, which is Spanish, to be able to communicate, this human displacement that goes in search of better life opportunities, since the internal policies of the Venezuelan state, both social and economic, are going through a general crisis, which has impoverished the living conditions of its inhabitants, as a consequence of the economic recession without leaving Not to mention security, the constant violations of the rights of its inhabitants, the result of which is the mismanagement of public policies by its rulers, has led to a massive wave of Venezuelan emigrants to various Latin American countries.

The Regional Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (RMRP) was launched for the first time in 2019 in response to large-scale population movements registered in Latin America and the Caribbean due to the social, economic and precarious situation of the rights of the Venezuelan population. As of October 2019, more than 4.5 million people, including Venezuelan refugees and migrants, are outside their country of origin and 3.7 million of these people are in the region alone. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have shown continuous solidarity and generosity towards the Venezuelan population, and many of them maintain a policy of open borders. By 2020, it is estimated that at least 5.2 million Venezuelan citizens have left their country, 60% of them have chosen the countries of the Andean region: Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The unusual migratory flow of Venezuelan citizens to Ecuador, in its most critical period, in July 2019, registered more than 7,000 entries in one day. The country registers a historical income of more than 1,850,000 million Venezuelans who have transited through its territory and it is estimated that approximately 417,285 people remain in the country according to the estimate of the R4V Platform (Ecuador Chapter) as of June 30, 2020.

The Ecuadorian government committed to human mobility policies and, which attends to the Venezuelan migratory flow, added to it, a multiple economic crisis generated by the fall in oil prices; a high level of indebtedness (38% of GDP in 2019); a significant drop in economic activity (according to the forecast of the Central Bank of Ecuador: -7.3% to -9.6% in 2020); and the health crisis caused by COVID-19. An increase in poverty levels in the country is expected from 25.7% in 2019 to 31.9% in 2020, according to ECLAC (ECLAC, 2020). To all this, the trends of Venezuelan migrants can be pointed out, Figure 1 shows their behavior in the first quarter of 2022.

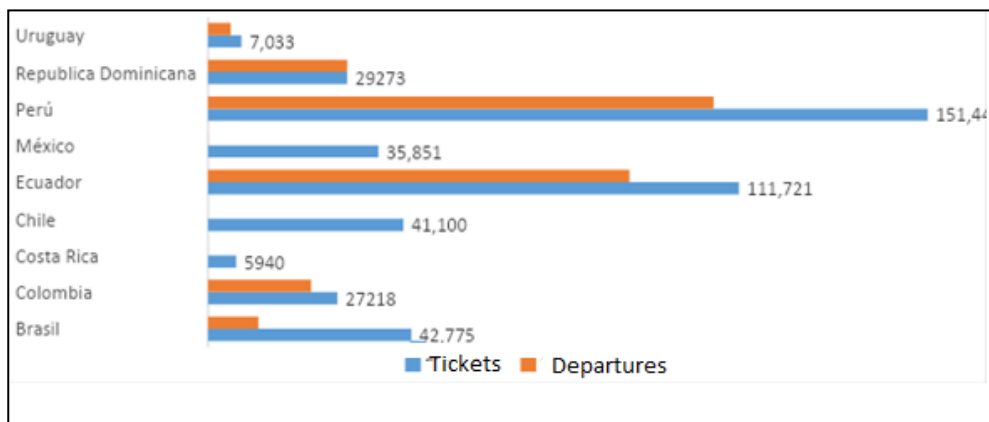


Figure 1. Report of movements, entries and exits from January to March 2022  
Source: (R4V, Report on Movements: First Quarter 2022, 2022)

These regional trend figures, such as Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, are seasonal movements of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, characterized by an increase in pendulum movements to and from Venezuela, as we can see in figure 1, there is an increase in movements between Ecuador and Colombia and a decrease to Peru, apart from the previously mentioned seasonal pendulum movements, there is no significant trend in relation to the increase in returns to Venezuela observed in the crossings with Colombia to Brazil in the first three months of 2022, in Neighboring countries such as Chile felt the effects of the new Migration Law that was applied on February 12, which resulted in the reduction or immediate removal of thousands of Venezuelans trying to cross into Chile from Bolivia and Peru, finally the new requirements of visa for Venezuelans entering Mexico since January 21 had the effect of rapidly decreasing the regular air entry of Venezuelans, and was associated with an increase in irregular land transit of Venezuelans, exposing refugees and migrants to greater protection risks (R4V, Report on Movements: First Quarter 2022, 2022).

### **Current trend and the repercussion of the migratory flow of the Venezuelan population in Ecuador**

Irregular migration and migration flow to decent work is a priority issue that must be addressed based on a shared vision among States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, migrant organizations, human rights of migrants, international cooperation. The lack of legal, regular and safe channels to migrate causes people to resort to clandestine channels of irregular migration, through risky land and sea routes to enter through blind spots. This situation places people in a greater situation of vulnerability, especially children and adolescents, women, indigenous people, among others, and prevents States from having reliable statistics, implementing public policies related to the care of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, as well as the identification of people who require international protection or have special protection needs.

Migration is a reality that paints the convulsive present of the planet with dramatic colors, which invades nearby geographies, Latin America like Ecuador is not exempt, confronting dramatic testimonies, with terrible images, with evidence of hunger, persecution, poverty and inequality. International migration has had a constant presence throughout its history in the region, being the scene of large migratory movements motivated by various reasons, which have left a determining mark on the Ecuadorian territory and society that have influenced the ethnic and cultural conformation, social modernization and economy, the demographic transition of the internal displacement of the population and its patterns of territorial distribution, the adoption of principles of legal order and democratic institutions.

The dynamics of migration goes hand in hand with the state in policies, consensus, agreements on equality and development of this common global humanitarian problem, which consists of reducing inequality and reducing asymmetries in the globalized world, development of migratory policies, reduction of the transfer costs of remittances, reduction of social conflict, having to consider the human resource that emigrates and especially those qualified as a process of circulation of human capital that contributes to the sustainable and sustainable development of the country's economy. In Ecuador, the Ministry of the Interior through the Ecuadorian Migration System (SIMIEC), which exchanges updated information in real time with the General Directorate of Civil Registry, Identity Documentation and Identification, the Judicial Police and airlines, allows for verified and updated information on the migratory flow in which travelers register their movement at the time of entering or leaving the country in the different Immigration Headquarters that carry out migratory control, whether these are entries, exits, by any means of transport, immigration Control Posts , place of destination, place of origin, purpose of travel, Andean Migration Card.

### Points Ecuadorian border

The geographical coverage is national, the 29 Immigration Control posts administered by the Migration Directorate-Ministry of the Interior, established for entry and exit from the Country, which are made up of: 9 Airports, 8 Land Border Control Units, 7 seaports and 3 fluvial ports according to what is observed in table 1.

Table 1  
The 29 Migration Control posts administered by the Migration Directorate-Ministry of the Interior

<b>No.</b>	<b>Immigration Control Posts</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Canton</b>
1	Mariscal Sucre International Airport	pichincha	Quito
2	Migration Control Unit Puerto Marítimo Bolívar	Gold	Machala
3	Migration Control Unit Puerto Marítimo Esmeraldas	emeralds	emeralds
4	Guayaquil Maritime Port Migration Control Unit	Guayas	Guayaquil
5	Manta Maritime Port Migration Control Unit	manabí	Forget
6	Immigration Control Unit Puerto Marítimo La Libertad	st. Helen	Salinas
7	Immigration Control Unit Puerto Marítimo Ayora	Galapagos	Puerto Ayora
8	Migration Control Unit Baquerizo Moreno Maritime Port	Galapagos	Puerto Baquerizo Moreno
9	Huaquillas Binational Border Assistance Center	Machala	Huaquillas - The Best of Huaquillas
10	San Miguel Binational Border Assistance Center	Sucumbíos	Sucumbíos
11	Rumichaca National Border Assistance Center	Cargo	tulcan
12	José Joaquín de Olmedo International Airport	Guayas	Guayaquil
13	Mariscal Lamar Airport	Azuay	Basin
14	Coronel Carlos Concha Torres Cross Border Airport	emeralds	emeralds
15	Eloy Alfaro International Airport	manabí	Forget
16	Cotopaxi International Airport	Cotopaxi	Latacunga
17	Immigration Control Unit River Port San Lorenzo	emeralds	San Lorenzo
18	Macara Land Border Migration Control Unit	His	macara
19	Lalamor Land Border Migration Control Unit	Store	zapotillo
20	Jimbura Land Border Migration Control Unit	Store	Spindola
21	Tufiño Land Border Migration Control Unit	Cargo	tulcan
22	Immigration Control Unit Fluvial Port Puerto El Carmen	Sucumbíos	Puerto el Carmen del Putumayo
23	El Carmelo Land Border Migration Control Unit	Cargo	tulcan
24	Migration Control Unit Fluvial Port Nuevo Rocafuerte	orellana	Aquarium
25	La Balsa Land Border Migration Control Unit	Zamora Chinchipe	chinchipe
26	Colonel Edmundo Carvajal Airport	Morona Santiago	Apples
27	Baltra Seymour Airport	Galapagos	Puerto

28	Seymour Maritime Port Immigration Control Unit	Galapagos	Ayora Puerto Ayora
29	Jumandy Airport	Napa	Really

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Source: (Government Ministry, 2023)

The records of international entries and exits by air and sea cover all migratory movements. However, in movements by land and river whose migration headquarters concern the jurisdiction on the border with Peru and Colombia, decision 501, article a, literal e) of the Andean Community of Nations-CAN of free border transit governs. between Ecuador, Colombia and Peru "Official Gazette No. 888 of the Cartagena Agreement on the delimitation of Border Integration Zones" (Decision 501. Andean Community of Nations, 2001). The records of international entries and exits by air and sea cover all migratory movements. However, in movements by land and river whose migration headquarters concern the jurisdiction on the border with Peru and Colombia, decision 501, article a, literal e) of the Andean Community of Nations-CAN of free border transit governs. between Ecuador, Colombia and Peru "Official Gazette No. 888 of the Cartagena Agreement on the delimitation of Border Integration Zones" (Decision 501. Andean Community of Nations, 2001).

The migratory condition is the status of resident or temporary visitor that the State grants to foreigners in Ecuador in accordance with the fact that motivates their presence in the country (RO.938 Organic Law of Human Mobility, 2017). The migratory flow of migrants who move or are authorized to move from or to a country to have access to employment or settle for a determined period of time (OIM, 2006). According to figures from the Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V Platform), as of October 2021, approximately 5,914,519 Venezuelans have left their country. This figure includes refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. Of the total, 4,868,246 are in Latin America and the Caribbean, with Colombia, Peru and Chile being the main destination countries. According to the figures of the R4V Platform as well as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ecuador hosts more than 400,000 refugees and migrants from Venezuela, a number that has been increasing every year.

Looking ahead to the global pact for a safe, regular and orderly migration, bearing in mind the existing stimuli, Ecuador must prepare much more to organize its most pressing migration priorities in the management of migration and the protection of people migrants, the emerging aspects of the migratory flow cannot be omitted, especially those who emigrate from Venezuela who come to Ecuador and who see it as an option to solve the humanitarian crisis. In a dollarized economy such as Ecuador, as we see in figure 2, by reason of nationality at the entrances and exits of Ecuadorian airports there are various migratory flows of different nationalities that transit through the Ecuadorian state in 2019 and 2020 (Ecuador G. d ., 2023).

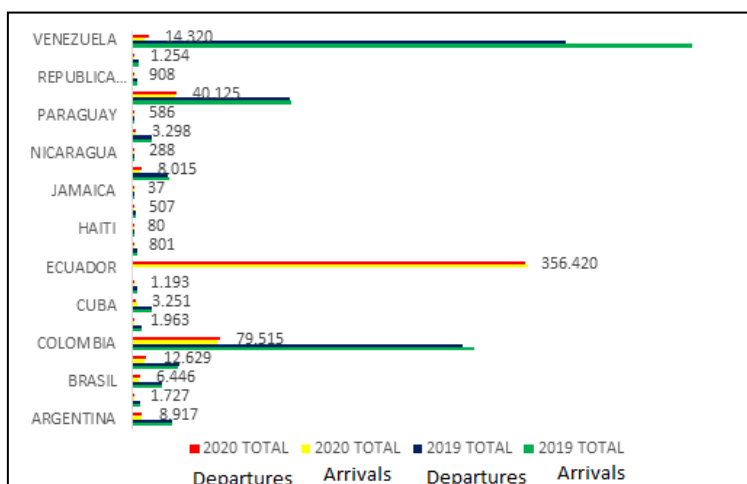


Figure 2. Migration in Latin America year 2019-2020  
Source: (Ecuador G. d., 2023)

These figures only reflect the diversity and the constant changes in the migratory flows of various countries, as we can realize that one of the indexes that has the greatest impact received by immigrants of other nationalities is Ecuador with 356,420 people who have had their income registered at the country at airports; Another of the host countries is Colombia with 79,515 people who have entered, followed by Peru with 40,125 registered people, highlighting that one of the reasons why citizens of other nationalities choose Ecuador since, under the principle of solidarity and the open door policy, Ecuador is currently one of the main countries with the greatest reception.

Ecuador has made efforts to attend to this vulnerable population group, this serious exodus of migrants has caused crises at the social level, such as the increase in organized crime, prostitution, child malnutrition, informal and child labor, trafficking of people and trafficking of migrants, etc., this problem according to the SNAI report (2022-2025), it is indicated that the number of foreign detainees from Venezuela is 1,381 people, database provided on November 17, 2021 (National-SNAI, 2022). According to the R4V Ecuador 2022 Situation Report, it indicates that 2,246 unaccompanied or separated children have been identified, a trend that has increased, many of the children are in the care of other family members or friends, at risk of child labor, of suffering physical violence, in early unions and pregnant adolescents and mothers, also indicates that gender-based violence (VBG) / trafficking & Trafficking, reported 1,103 people who accessed specialized services for GBV survivors. (R4V, Situation Report, Ecuador 2022, 2022); This humanitarian problem produces negative effects on Ecuadorian society and uncertainties, since apart from dealing with the lack of eradication of this type of violence and social conditions typical of Ecuadorians and the responsibility of the state, this group of vulnerable migrants who arrive at a unknown country, since in the first instance many of them do not have family residing in this territory, they are forced to seek alternative solutions such as informal work in the streets, the same that affects their environment is not safe.

The GTRM border monitoring and flow characterization system registered, since the end of March 2022, a significant change in the trend of flows, reporting more exits from Ecuador than entries into the country, with a significant flow to the north. This trend was maintained for five months (April to August), with a peak of departures in July (estimated 50K departures per month) and August (estimated 47K departures per month); which would be related to the intention reported by refugees and migrants to continue heading north towards the United States and/or Venezuela; flow that was reported both in Colombia and Panama and Central American countries. In the month of September, the

number of entries into Ecuador exceeded an increase in north-south flows. The United States government announced, on October 12, the "Process for Venezuelans"; In this context, several refugees and migrants in transit through Ecuador and with the intention of reaching the United States were left without a travel plan, some decided to stay in Ecuador and others will return to the south (R4V, GTRM Ecuador: Situation Report - October 2022, 2022).

### **Immigration control of the Venezuelan population in Ecuadorian territory and international cooperation**

The objectives of migration policies go hand in hand with respect for human rights and the guarantee of the same of every person, the entry, stay or departure of Venezuelan migrants within Ecuadorian territory. Article 22 of the American Convention recognizes the right of movement and residence. Number 6 of said article states "A foreigner who is legally in the territory of a State party to this Convention may only be expelled from it in compliance with a decision adopted in accordance with the law." (Organization of American States, 1969). The dynamics of the population in human mobility has generated an obstacle at the micro and macro social level, evidencing limited economic resources in the Venezuelan migrant population, however, the regulations since 2019 for the Venezuelan population such as various ministerial decrees that deal with the processes of regularization by establishing visa and permanence requirements and the reform of the Organic Law of Human Mobility have been questioned because it allows criminalizing the migratory condition and promotes measures that endorse deportation.

### **Internal displacement of Venezuelan migrants**

In Huaquillas, the Venezuelan exodus has caused that, progressively since 2018, the countries of the region have been imposing requirements for the Venezuelan population to enter their territories, since mid-2020, border closures were decreed to prevent the spread of COVID -19. The city of Huaquillas is the main land border crossing between Ecuador and Peru, the presence of refugees and migrants, both in transit and with a vocation to stay, has had significant growth in the town since 2019, despite the restrictions associated with the pandemic and mobility restrictions of a state and regional nature, such as official border closures, the flow of people has been increasing in the city during the first half of 2021, the border monitoring system and characterization of group flows of work for refugees and migrants (GTRM) nationally registered that 112,663 transited through the province of El Oro, 23.2 pp of which would have done so through the Huaquillas canton.

The monitoring of the displacement of Venezuelan migrants included in the provinces of Manabí, Santa Elena, Guayas, Los Ríos and El Oro, is 65%. In Guayaquil, the Venezuelan population is distributed throughout the city, tends to concentrate in the most affordable sectors, especially when they are newcomers and have economic limitations. In Manabí since 2019 there has been a significant increase in the refugee and migrant population, where between 5% and 12% of the Colombian and Venezuelan population of the country are located. UNHCR estimates that there are around 501,000 persons of interest in Ecuador (UNHCR, 2021b), on the coast it is estimated that there could be between 175,000 and 225,000 persons of interest, the main settlement provinces are Guayas, Manabí and El Oro, of which will take the total percentage of the population of interest by province with respect to the national total, shown in Figure 3.

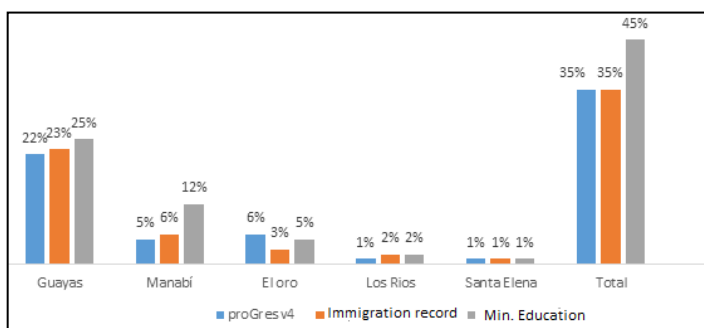


Figure 3. Distribution of the Population of Interest  
Source: (UNHCR, 2022)

As can be seen in figure 3, the highest incidence of displacement in the registry of Venezuelan migrants is the Province of Guayaquil, with 23%, followed by Manabí with 6%, Los Ríos with 2% and Santa Elena with 1. %, this internal displacement, the main means of transport used for the trip is by bus, with 61% nationally and 60% for the coast and other means have arrived walking or hitchhiking, it is slightly higher for the coastal region. Thus, 20% arrived on foot (compared to 17%) and 17% hitchhiking (compared to 12%) (UNHCR, 2022). Within this migratory flow, Ecuador has faced this problem with strategies, such as providing border-to-border transportation for refugees and migrants from Venezuela who transit to third countries and who have obtained the necessary visas, buses were provided for this specific purpose; Provision of transportation vouchers for refugees and migrants from Venezuela to their final destination city within Ecuador, as well as to people who currently reside in Ecuador and who could have chosen to continue their journey to a third country. In this case, bus tickets were made available to travel to the southern border (RMRP 2020, 2020).

### **Social and Economic Effects of the wave of Venezuelan migrants in Ecuador**

As has been seen in the last 10 years, the human mobility of a part of the Venezuelan population is complex, however, it is interesting to address the social and economic elements that configure relevant variables in various factors that have significant impacts. Ecuador makes considerable fiscal efforts to achieve the integration of Venezuelan migrants, it has several coordination platforms at the national and regional level that work to face the Venezuelan crisis, at the international level there is the working group on Refugees and Migrants (GTRM), composed of by agencies of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and various non-governmental organizations and other cooperation agencies; At the regional level, the government of Ecuador has organized two regional meetings and has promoted the adoption of a Declaration and an Action Plan to address issues such as access to territory, border management, documentation, and access to migratory alternatives, among others. (World Bank Group, 2020).

The UNHCR-IOM Regional Inter-agency Platform: aims to address the protection, assistance and integration needs of refugees and migrants. This task is accomplished by accompanying, complementing, and strengthening the national and regional responses of governments, international organizations, and civil society that are consistent with the principles outlined in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. Working Group for the Response to the Situation of Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (GTRM):<sup>73</sup> this group was created by UNHCR and IOM to coordinate the response to Venezuelan migration between humanitarian agencies, the UN, and national and international NGOs. international. The objective of the GTRM is to develop a multisectoral analysis, a strategic plan, and coordinate an operational response to support and complement the Ecuadorian

state in responding to the protection and assistance needs of migrants and refugees, in order to develop their rights. fundamental.

**The GTRM Response Plan is organized around four objectives**

1. Emergency: identify and respond, in an efficient and timely manner, to immediate needs considered a priority for the target population. This objective also includes generating and facilitating access to information on rights, goods and services that save lives with a gender and intergenerational approach.
2. Protection: Strengthen access to asylum, immigration regularity and documentation, and support the identification and referral of cases with specific protection needs and access to services.
3. Inclusion: strengthen access to health services, education and decent housing and habitat; generate decent work opportunities, productive resources and livelihoods, and promote social cohesion, peaceful coexistence and non-discrimination in host communities.
4. Support for the Government: strengthen the capacities of the Government for border management, with emphasis on access to social services, the regularization process and access to asylum; strengthen information management and coordination for decision-making at the national and local level, and strengthen the capacities of institutions at the national and local level in comprehensive protection and integration (World Bank Group, 2020).

The economic growth of a country influences the international economic variables, these exert positively or negatively the increase or not of the demands such as the value per barrel of oil and its sale, the exports of the different Ecuadorian products, the imports, internal and external remittances from migrants and immigrants, Figure 4 shows the GDP for the years 2019-2021.

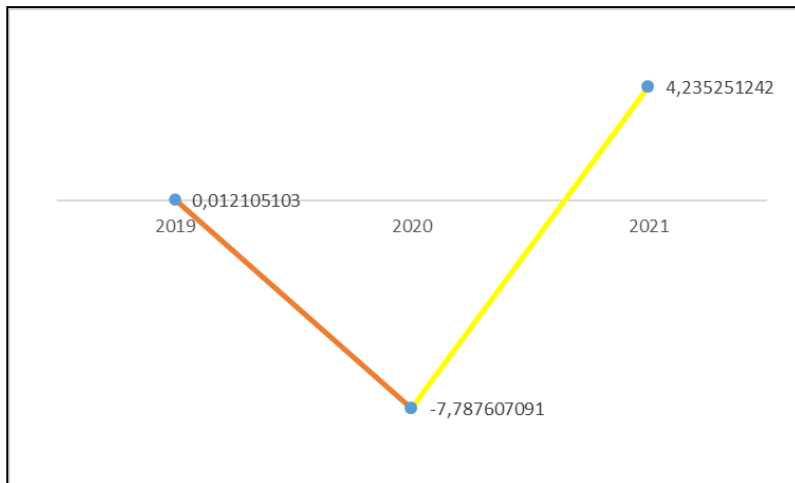


Figure 4. GDP 2019-2021  
Source: (World Bank, 2023)

As can be seen according to figure 4, the statistics of the Central Bank of Ecuador, in fiscal year 2019 it had a GDP of 0.12105103, year 2020 had a deceleration of -7.787607091, year 2021 had a growth of 4.235251242 and in the year 2022. Figure 5 shows the GDP in the year 2022.

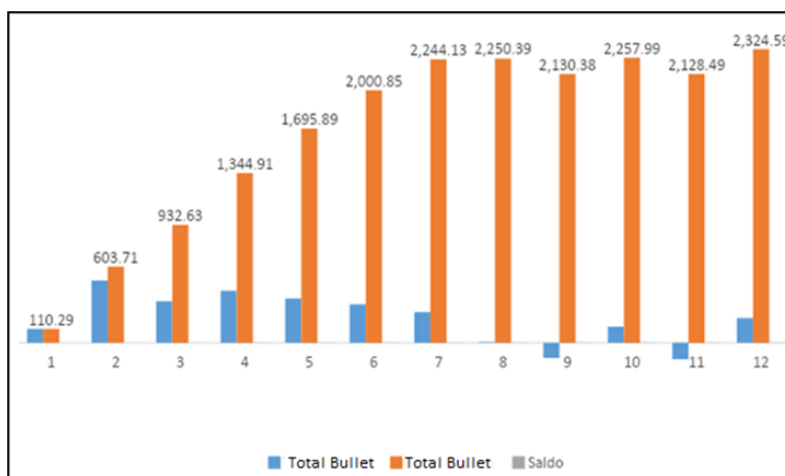


Figure 5. GDP, 2022

Source: (Central Bank of Ecuador, 2023)

In Figure 5, as can be seen, there was a deceleration in growth of 3.42% less, existing variations that had repercussions the same as those caused by the stoppages that occurred in June/2022, which caused it to have a lower index in all exports. and the economic distrust at the national and international level to invest, the fall of the barrel of oil being in the year 2021 (\$75.33 dollars) and for the year 2022 (\$73.57 dollars), the lack of employment generated by so many formal merchants and informal, of which we can speak of a part of the Venezuelan citizens who maintain an economy well below the unified basic salary and that affects them to be able to send money by remittances to their families settled in their native country of Venezuela.

The job and life precariousness of a part of Venezuelans in Ecuador is a reality since many of them work with salaries well below the unified basic remuneration, the lack of confidence in hiring Venezuelan citizens, added to this lack of legalization of their papers and stay in Ecuadorian territory, one of the problems in society is xenophobia and discrimination in the country fueled by the information that circulates through the media and social networks. The narrative, both from prison, radio and television, is directed towards the construction of stereotypes and negative opinions, to the point, for example, the perception of citizens about insecurity is closely related to the presence of the Venezuelan population. At the same time, this has built a matrix of opinion on the issues that are addressed on a daily basis, that is, the central issues focus on humanitarian crises, attacks or fights, migration on foot, historical records of migration, Venezuelan generators of violence, labor opportunism, migrant invasion.

### **Ecuadorian Regulatory Framework for migration**

International migration is a complex phenomenon that involves two or more States between countries of origin, transit and destination, both for migrants and for asylum seekers, refugees and other subjects in need of international protection. Ecuador has historically been a country of origin, transit, destination and return of migrants. Ecuador is also the country that has recognized the largest number of refugees in Latin America. Migrants are generally in a situation of vulnerability as subjects of human rights, in an individual condition of absence or difference of power with respect to non-migrants (nationals or residents). This condition of vulnerability has an ideological dimension and occurs in a historical context that is different for each State, and is maintained by de jure situations (inequalities between nationals and foreigners in the laws) and de facto

(structural inequalities). This situation leads to the establishment of differences in the access of both to the public resources administered by the State.

The current constitution establishes a series of rights, obligations and principles related to migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and others in a situation of human mobility. Added to this is the institutionality that the constitution itself created to guarantee the exercise of these rights. In recent years, the country has become a transit and destination for Venezuelan migrants who, for the most part, have been forced to leave their country and migrate to Ecuador and other countries in the region as a survival strategy to preserve their rights to life, integrity, personal liberty, health, among others. In terms of the International Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the migration of Venezuelans occurs as a consequence of serious violence against their human rights, the food and health crisis, violence, as well as persecution for political opinions.

Between 2016 and mid-2019, Ecuador maintained an open door policy that had allowed more than 1.7 million refugees and migrants from Venezuela to enter the country on a regular basis. Regular entry was possible through the creation of an identity document issued by the country of origin, as stipulated in the Organic Law of Human Mobility. However, through Interministerial Agreement No. 000001 of January 21, 2019. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and the Ministry of the Interior required Venezuelans who wish to enter Ecuador to present their passport or identity card with an apostilled certificate of validity, as well as a criminal record certificate from the country of origin or the country of residence during the last five years duly apostilled or legalized; Through Interministerial Agreement No. 002/2019, the Ecuadorian authorities regulated other situations excepted from said requirements: 1) people who maintain family ties up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity with Ecuadorians residing in the country; 2) people who have a valid and current residence visa in Ecuador, 3) people who need to enter transit through Ecuador and prove they have a visa or immigration permit from the country of destination.

The issuance of Executive Decree No. 826 of July 26, 2019 and the subsequent Ministerial Resolution 000103/2019 triggered a significant policy change that will influence the operational context in 2020, by establishing a requirement for the Venezuelan population to obtain a visa entry to enter Ecuador. Since the decree went into effect, there has been a significant reduction in daily regular entries recorded during the month of September, compared to an average of more than 2,000 for the entire year of 2019. This measure is anticipated to take effect in 2020, and a low number of regular admissions will continue to be observed (RMRP, 2020). In judgment No. 639-19-JP/20 and accumulated, the Constitutional Court of Ecuador recognized that the departure, transfer and arrival of Venezuelan migrants occurs in precarious and insecure conditions with limited access to transportation, adequate food, water and sanitation, as well as access to health services, which puts their safety, life and integrity at greater risk (Acción de Protección, 2019).

The increase in migratory movements of Venezuelans to Ecuador, as a country of transit or destination, necessarily requires addressing migration policies, laws, and practices from a human rights perspective. The adoption of migration practices, laws and policies that promote the criminalization of migration, the closure, the securitization of borders, the outsourcing of migration control, as well as the reduction of international protection spaces and regular channels to migrate, have an impact on the rights of migrants. The recognition of the power of the State to establish measures and requirements to regulate the entry, stay and expulsion of non-nationals is limited by the respect and guarantees of the rights of migrants. This is also directly related to the express recognition of the right to migrate in article 40, which represents a paradigm shift in the legal treatment of human mobility; a perspective that considers migrants as an object of control was left behind, and a perspective is promoted in which migrants are recognized as subjects of rights, regardless of their country of origin or their migratory status; the right to asylum and

refuge (art. 41), the right to receive protection and humanitarian assistance (art. 42) and enshrines universal citizenship and free mobility of people. However, the regulations since 2019 for the Venezuelan population, various ministerial decrees hinder the regularization processes, by establishing visa and permanence requirements. In the same way, recent reforms to the Organic Law of Human Mobility have been questioned because they make it possible to criminalize the migratory condition and promote measures that endorse deportation. This has also been limited by international agendas, since safe, orderly and regular migration is made explicit and motivated.

In addition to the regulations initiated, the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, in the Second Chapter, International Treaties and Instruments determined in its article 417, refers to the international treaties ratified by Ecuador, which will be subject to the provisions of the Constitution, in the cases of treaties and other international human rights instruments, the pro-human principles will be applied; Article 425 of the Magna Carta establishes the hierarchical order of application of the norms: "The Constitution; international treaties and conventions; organic laws; ordinary laws; regional standards and district ordinances; decrees and regulations; the ordinances; agreements and resolutions; and the other acts and decisions of the public authorities"; In this sense, we can point out that any act ratified by the Ecuadorian state at the international level will be a binding part of the actions taken within the collective society of law and rights.

### **Conclusion**

Considering the scenario of the migratory flow of a part of the Venezuelan population, the reasons and consequences of the Venezuelan individual and their internal displacement in the country, which they have faced and currently face precarious conditions while transiting through the region or after, were identified. to reach your destination country. They should be sensitized sectional and national governments to promote reception plans, aimed at this population especially, because although it is true that there are shelters, even supported by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), plans are required that allow these houses, really guarantee Human Rights to this group of migrants; promote campaigns that propose to the authorities of the Ecuadorian State, offer sources of decent work, so that Venezuelan migrants can bring the proper support to their relatives, thus being able to solve their needs a little and promote the guarantee of Human Rights to this population as it corresponds.

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