Terms of Reference

Internship

Protection, Field Unit Manta, Ecuador

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, offers a full-time internship in the Protection Section at the Field Unit Manta.

Established in December 1950, UNHCR is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for asylum seekers, refugees, returnees, internally displaced communities and stateless people. Every year, millions of men, women and children are forced to flee their homes to escape conflict and persecution. UNHCR currently operates in over 130 countries, using its long expertise to protect and care for millions.

**Title**: Protection Intern - Field Unit Manta

**Duty Station**: Manta

**Duration**: 6 months

**Contract** **Type**: **Internship**

**Closing** **date for application**:

**Earliest Hire Date**: July 2024

**Target End date:** January 2024

Organizational context

Ecuador is a country of transit and destination for people who need international protection. In the last two decades, Ecuador hosted more than 68,708 recognized refugees (mainly Colombian) and has become one of the leading countries of transit and destination for refugees and migrants Venezuelans. Ecuador receives the second highest number of Venezuelans after Colombia. Since 2016, more than 4.7 million Venezuelans have left their country, making it the biggest exodus in the history of Latin America. Of these, 2.2 million have entered Ecuador, of which 400,000 Venezuelans have been established in the country.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees works in Ecuador supporting Ecuadorian government to protect refugees. The operation aims to support the Government of Ecuador to: (i) the development of mechanisms of protection, (ii) strengthening nation-al asylum system, (iii) and identification of durable solutions for refugees. Since 2000, UN-HCR, the UN Refugee Agency, works in Ecuador to protect and assist the largest population of recognized refugees (mainly Colombians) in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since 2016, more than five million Venezuelans have left their country. Of these, 2.2 million have entered Ecuador, of which 400 000 Venezuelans have established in the country.

The operation of UNHCR in Ecuador has a multiyear Protection Strategy and Solutions for the period 2023-2025, which encompasses the dimensions of the legal, economic, and social protection of refugees in Ecuador and which have a decisive role the approaches to gender, ethnicity, and age and other diversities.

Because of this, UNHCR operation in Ecuador is fundamentally driven to deliver protection and solutions to a variety of persons of UNHCR’s concern such as asylum-seekers, refugees, persons in need of international protection in mixed migration and persons at risk of statelessness in partnership and close collaboration with national authorities as well as non-governmental organizations and communities. Particular attention and specific multi-faceted protection and assistance is often provided within short timeframes and at times little resources in demanding operational environment. The wide palette of activities is principally coordinated at national level by the country office in Quito. In addition, UNHCR has Sub-Offices in Quito (Solanda), Guayaquil and Ibarra with the Field Offices and Field Units reporting to them. It is estimated that, as of January 2023, 515,006 Venezuelans reside in different parts of Ecuador. The provinces with the largest presence of Venezuelan population are Pichincha, Guayas and Manabí.

The latter has become a destination for mixed migratory flows of people with the intention of staying. According to the national migration registry, Manabí is the province with the third largest number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Ecuador. To date, 36.101 Venezuelans are estimated to be registered in this province, 65% of them are residing in Manta and 12% in Portoviejo respectively, being the places with the highest reception in the mentioned province. Different UNC agencies are based in Manta, including IOM, UNICEF and WFP. UNHCR is currently ensuring the implementation of its protection and solution strategy through multiple partners (World Vision, HIAS, AVSI, NRC, Defensoria Publica de Ecuador). The economic crisis, as a consequence of the pandemic, strongly impacted Manabí Province, not only for refugees and migrant women but also for the host community. This resulted in layoffs, reduced labour supply, lower wages and income deprivation, increasing GBV risks, especially domestic violence.

In order to achieve these actions, UNHCR opened its Field Unit in Manta in 2021, covering the province of Manabí, prioritizing the protection strategy and solutions in the cities of Manta and Portoviejo, being their main objective to provide protection and promote the socio-economic inclusion of "Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally-displaced persons (IDPs), [refugee and/or IDP] returnees, and stateless persons", as well as host communities.

The work in the UNHCR Field Unit Manta, will allow the applicant to learn about the local context of the Venezuelan exodus and the integration of "Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally-displaced persons (IDPs), [refugee and/or IDP] returnees, and stateless persons", in addition to entering into a multicultural environment that will allow him/her to practice the Spanish language and gain experience in protection and humanitarian assistance.

The position

The Protection intern will be under the supervision of the Head of the UNHCR Field Unit in Manta. The incumbent provides functional support in the protection unit in the attention and management of cases, identification of specific protection needs, and articulation with local protection schemes for the response and follow-up to identified needs.

Supports the implementation of the comprehensive protection strategy to provide quality, timely and effective protection responses to refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and other persons in situation of human mobility in vulnerable conditions, following the guidance of the supervisor.

The Protection intern also facilitates the participation of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs in decision-making that affects them, whether in accessing their rights or in identifying durable solutions to their needs. To achieve this, the incumbent will need to create and maintain direct articulation with host communities, local authorities and UNHCR's implementing partners and strategic allies.

Duties and responsibilities

* Assists the protection team in the follow-up and management of cases in coordination with the implementing partners of the Manta field unit.
* Under supervision, provides guidance and advice on access to services and rights of refugees and migrants.
* Supports the field unit in various activities related to the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and the violation of the rights of separated and unaccompanied children and adolescents.
* Under supervision, participates in the identification of specific protection needs and proposes solutions from a comprehensive approach to age, gender and diversity.
* Support in protection workshops in the framework of community protection and strengthening of local protection systems.
* Support in the mapping of opportunities for strategic alliances with different actors.
* Support in the systematization of information, data collection, compilation of statistics, translation of documents, and reports required by the supervisor.
* Support in conducting workshops at the community level for the prevention of gender-based violence, child protection, reduction of discrimination and xenophobia, and educational inclusion.
* Participates in field missions in the area of responsibility of the Manta field unit.

Minimum qualifications required

In order to be considered for an internship, candidates must meet the following eligibility criteria:

* Be either a recent graduate (having completed their studies within two years of applying) or a current student in a graduate/undergraduate school programme from a university or higher education facility accredited by [IAU/UNESCO](https://whed.net/home.php); and
* Have completed at **least two years of undergraduate studies** in a field relevant or of interest to the work of UNHCR.

**NOTE:** An individual whose father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister is a staff member of UNHCR, including a Temporary Appointment holder or a member of the Affiliate Workforce, is not eligible for an internship.

Desirable qualifications and skills

* First Required Language is English at B2 level
* Knowledge of Spanish is desirable.
* Previous experience as a volunteer and/or experience of another culture, (i.e. studies, volunteer work, internship) would be highly regarded.
* Ability to work within an international and multicultural environment.
* Ability to work with individuals in vulnerable situations.
* Availability to mobilize at the community level.
* Computer skills: Word, Excel, internet, PowerPoint, Kobo.
* Adaptability and Flexibility.
* Respect for Diversity.

Conditions

It is a full-time role with working hours starting from 8.30am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday (40 hours per week). The successful candidate will be assigned to support the team in ***Manta / Manabí***.

**Allowance:** Interns who do not receive financial support from an outside party will receive an allowance to partially help to cover the cost of food, local transportation and living expenses.

How to apply

Interested applicants should submit their application through [www.unhcr.org/careers.html](http://www.unhcr.org/careers.html) click on vacancies and search for **JR \_\_\_\_\_\_**.

The UNHCR workforce consists of many diverse nationalities, cultures, languages and opinions. UNHCR seeks to sustain and strengthen this diversity to ensure equal opportunities as well as an inclusive working environment for its entire workforce. Applications are encouraged from all qualified candidates without distinction on grounds of race, colour, sex, national origin, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity.

UNHCR does not charge a fee at any stage of its recruitment process (application, interview, meeting, travelling, processing or training.

We welcome applications from candidates with a refugee or stateless background.