



CONFERENCE

18TH – 19TH JUNE 2019

BERLIN



DAFI PROGRAMME IN ECUADOR

Implementation of the DAFI Programme in Ecuador

AT A GLANCE

- UNHCR and HIAS implemented the programme in 2004 with 24 scholars. So far, the programme has supported 77 young refugees, 28 have graduated successfully and 18 continue studying.
- The programme has mainly supported young refugees from Colombia, who arrive in Ecuador fleeing more than 50 years of armed conflict.
- The Ecuadorian legal framework guarantees universal and free access to higher education, nonetheless, obtaining a place in public universities entails long processes, including a very complex admission exam.
- Private universities are expensive, students cannot afford tuition with part time jobs.
- DAFI in Ecuador supports the most deserving young refugees covering tuition and subsistence expenses while providing individual psychosocial support that enables a good academic performance.
- Through UNHCR-HIAS' comprehensive work strategy, scholars and their families receive support for their social and economic integration.
- This year the programme will support young Venezuelan scholars, regardless of their legal status, prioritizing those willing to pursue technological degrees.

CORE OBJECTIVES

1. Promote young refugees' economic and social self-reliance by providing them with a professional qualification.
2. Develop qualified human resources and build the capacity of talented refugees, so they can contribute to the development of their host communities or to the process of reintegration in the home country upon repatriation.
3. Provide a role model for other refugee students, particularly for girls, to advance in their education by demonstrating the benefits of education.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- The DAFI programme in Ecuador provides scholars and their families with comprehensive support that promotes their emotional well-being and their social and economic integration.
- On average, 74 % of graduate scholars access wage employment and 26% start their own business.
- This year 13 new scholars will be supported, prioritizing young Venezuelan refugees.
- In Ecuador, on average 66% of the scholars supported are women. The selection process of scholars prioritizes vulnerable cases.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. Providing comprehensive support to the scholars' families, gives scholars the opportunity to focus on their studies.
2. Conducting annual meetings with active and former scholars promotes the development of friendship and support networks.
3. Social networks are effective communication channels that enable contact among scholars.

FURTHER INFO



Learn more about the DAFI programme in Ecuador

