

ECUADOR

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GRADUATION IN PROGRESS



The Graduation Model Pilot, initiated in 2015 in the city of Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas (192 km from the capital, Quito) targeted 200 families—both refugees and nationals. UNHCR and partner HIAS with technical support from BRAC and Trickle Up implemented this methodology which, emphasizes the importance that these households reach dignified and sustainable livelihoods. The Graduation Model is a time bound, gradual, comprehensive programme geared towards the most vulnerable households with the potential to generate income.

This pilot is part of UNHCR's multiannual strategy and the Comprehensive Solutions Initiative firmly anchored in the defense of human rights with a multidimensional perspective (economic, social and legal), the pilot uses innovative tools to allow for a better understanding of the socioeconomic situation

and integration challenges that the refugee population faces in Ecuador.

Innovative Tools



Baseline



Market Assessment



Biweekly visits



Online Data Collection



The family is the unit of intervention

Graduation Model Pilot, step by step

1. Identification of the participants (Targeting):

From October 2014 to January 2015, 140 refugee and 60 Ecuadorian households (representing approximately 739 people) were selected to participate in the Graduation Model Pilot. These families live in the same poor, urban neighbourhoods and communities of Santo Domingo.



2. Consumption support:

From June 2015 to December 2015. With the objective of helping families reach a minimal consumption support capacity that ensures access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, families received food vouchers from the World Food Program for 6 months. Families were also provided with courses on healthy eating and urban gardening.

3. Savings and financial training:



Families in the pilot are oriented towards a culture of savings by CRISFE- an Ecuadorian Foundation. Beginning in July 2015 until now, families are receiving structured financial training which includes: household budgets, savings and proper use of credit. After training, families open savings accounts in different banks and credit unions, such as one of the largest private banks in Ecuador- Banco de Pichincha.

4. Vocational skills training:



From August 2015 until now, families are receiving certified vocational training in Baking, Poultry & Guinea Pig Breeding, Food safety, Urban Dressmaking, Hairdressing and Basic Accounting

5. Job placement:



From October 2015 until now, through the job placement service that HIAS offers, individuals have the opportunity to match their skills and training with opportunities in the market. UNHCR and HIAS conduct advocacy with companies at various levels (small, medium and large companies) in order to facilitate access to employment for participants.



6. Assets transfer:

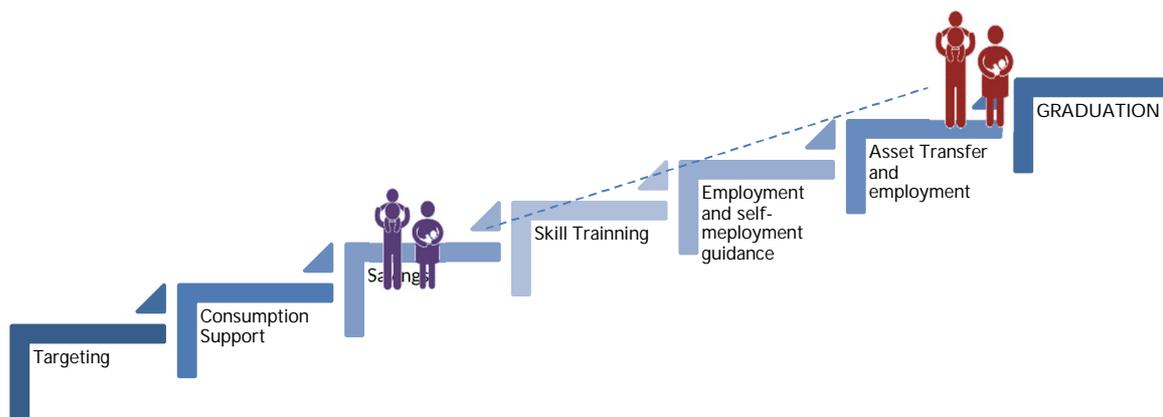


From October 2015 until now, for those families with the potential for entrepreneurship, UNHCR provides seed capital to grow the business. Families receive technical support from small business consultants in HIAS in order to better manage their own livelihoods projects.

7. Periodic mentoring:

From January 2015 until now, with the aim of supporting and guiding the households, a mentor conducts biweekly visits to the families. During each visit, the mentor guides the participants towards their graduation goals.

Were we are now? Graduation Model Pilot, step by step



1. Members of the household (HH) eat three times a day.
2. The household has diversified sources of income.
3. The household receives at least the basic salary (82USD per capita).
4. At least one person in the family (head of household) has a savings account.
5. The household is able to save at least 10% of their income.
6. The household participates in community spaces, they have support networks.

Each family participating in the Graduation Model Pilot has different dynamics, abilities, opportunities, and vulnerability levels. Thus families have made progress at different levels. Based on a recent midline evaluation, we can divide the families into three groups:

	25% Still struggling	36% can graduate by the end of 2016	39% can graduate within the next 3 months
Members of the HH eat three times a day.	1-2 times	2-3 times	3 times
The HH has diversified sources of income	Currently in vocational training	One source of income	One or two income sources
The HH receives at least the basic salary (82USD per capita)	Household not earning \$82 per capita	Household earning per capita some of the time	Household earning per capita consistently
At least one person in the family (head of HH) has a savings account	Household does not have a savings account	Household with savings account	Household with savings account
The HH is able to save at least 10% of their income.	Families without the capacity to save consistently	Families saving less than 10% consistently	Families saving 10% consistently
The HH participates in community spaces, they have support networks	Families without community participation	Some members of the household participate in the community	Most members of household participate in the community
Overcrowding * not a requirement for graduation	Families facing overcrowding	Few families facing overcrowding	No families facing overcrowded
Child education * not a requirement for graduation	Children attending school	Children attending school	Children attending school

Variable	Baseline	Midline	Difference
Members of the HH eat three times a day.	60%	77%	17%
The HH has diversified sources of income	49%	57.5%	8.0%
The HH receives at least the basic salary (82USD per capita)	66.31%	78.88%	16.6%
The HH is able to save	1%	61%	60%

For the 25% of families still struggling, HIAS will continue with biweekly visits with an increased focus on linking to existing mechanisms and community groups. For the remaining families, visits will occur monthly or even every other month through the end of the year.