



American Citizen Services

U.S. Embassy • Quito, Ecuador

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ECUADOR BY THE NUMBERS:

- Population: 15,007,350
- 0-14 years: 32%
- 15-64 years: 62%
- 65 years and over: 5.2%
- Population density: 47.7 people per sq. km (one of the highest in South America)
- Population growth rate: 0.935%
- Birth rate: 21.54 births/1,000 population
- Death rate: 4.21 deaths/1,000 population

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USAID Celebrates 50 Years of Service in Ecuador

This year, the United States Agency for International Development, USAID, celebrated 50 years of supporting local projects in Ecuador. On Tuesday, November 22 the organization held a commemorative event at the Convent of San Francisco with hundreds of beneficiaries, authorities and officials of USAID and the U.S. Embassy in Quito.

Since 1961, USAID has worked with developing countries to improve the lives of their citizens. USAID approaches and priorities for cooperation have changed significantly in the past five decades, but its purpose remains linked to the needs of the people and the goals outlined by national governments.

During the last ten years, the work of USAID in Ecuador has focused on five priority areas: biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction, development of the northern border, southern



USAID has helped to conserve millions of hectares of indigenous territory.

border integration, and democracy and governance. Since 2001, the amount invested in these areas exceeds \$230 mil-

lion. The results include the generation of nearly 25,000 jobs, more than 750 infrastructure improvements and millions of beneficiaries. Over the last 50 years, USAID has assisted the people of Ecuador by working with public and private organizations, indigenous institutions, universities, communities, local NGOs and international organizations.

USAID coordinates with the Ecuadorian government to adapt to local conditions and priorities of the country, promoting sustainable development as its main objective. In the 50 years of cooperation, USAID has invested \$793 million in total.

For more information on USAID programs in Ecuador, visit: [http://](http://www.usaid.gov/locations/latin_america_caribbean/country/ecuador/)



A young boy receiving access to clean drinking water near Calderon.

www.usaid.gov/locations/latin_america_caribbean/country/ecuador/

Ecuadorian College Students Wanted for U.S. Study: The U.S. Embassy is looking for Ecuadorian university students who have demonstrated leadership, have top grades and are from low income families for a six-week study program in the U.S. in the summer of 2012. The deadline is January 17, 2012. Email contactocultural@state.gov for an application.

Embassy Outreach Meetings Coming in January

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is planning at least two outreach meetings for U.S. citizens in the Pichincha Province at the beginning of 2012. Times and dates have not yet been confirmed.

Outreach meetings provide an opportunity for Embassy staff to meet with U.S. citizens in Ecuador



2011 Warden Conference at the U.S. Embassy in Quito

and talk about the routine and emergency services the

Embassy provides to U.S. citizens.

If you would like to assist with the planning of these outreach meetings, or would like to host a meeting in your area, please contact us at

ACSQuito@state.gov with your contact information.

For more information on next year's presidential election, visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program at: <http://www.fvap.gov/>

Presidential Primaries Planned for Voters in NH, SC, FL, MO, AZ and MI

From the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP):

The states of New Hampshire, South Carolina, Florida, Missouri, Arizona and Michigan will allow you to submit your ballot request now so that you receive your state ballot and return it in time to be counted for the upcoming presidential primaries.

However, to ensure you are eligible to vote in other 2012 elections, including the general presidential election, you must submit a ballot request again in January of 2012.

All citizens residing outside the U.S., members of the Armed Services and their family members who are residents from these states should submit a ballot request for these elections by going to FVAP.gov or by following the instructions in the Voting Assistance Guide: www.fvap.gov/vao/guide.html

Be sure you include a phone number, fax number and an email address on your absentee ballot application in case your local election officials need to contact you.

Presidential Primary Elections:

New Hampshire:

January 10, 2012

South Carolina:

January 21, 2012

Florida:

January 31, 2012

Missouri:

February 7, 2012

Arizona:

February 28, 2012

Michigan:

February 28, 2012

Another point to remember is that many states allow you to submit your form electronically, and deliver your ballot electronically or provide online ballot access. Go to FVAP.gov or your state's election website to see how you can return your

form. You can find your State's website at: www.fvap.gov/reference/links.html.

To find out the status of your registration/absentee ballot request, contact your local election office or visit the Secretary of State website for your respective state.

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is a backup ballot. If 30 days before the election you think you will not receive your state ballot in time to vote and return it, you may use the FWAB.

Check your state's election website for specific information on candidates, elections, contact information and links to your local election offices. Find your State's website at: www.fvap.gov/reference/links.html.

Consul General's Corner - From CG Jennifer Savage

In November, the Embassy held a Crisis Management exercise to look theoretically at the actions we would take in the face of a crisis. This exercise complimented a consular exercise the following day, and an evacuation drill held last August. I hope I never have to prove my point, but after watching my colleagues and my team in action – we are ready.

I know that we are ready from experience. I traveled to Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake and assisted with the military-supported evacuation of tens of thousands of U.S. citizens. Sadly, we repatriated the remains of several U.S. citizens who were killed, and we helped hundreds of others find medical care. But there were so many more people who we could not help. In those early days, we

did not have sufficient food and water, we could not assist all of the Haitian family members of U.S. citizens, we were not equipped to provide medical care, and we couldn't help students who needed visas to get back to university in the U.S. The requests for assistance were limitless in both number and scope.

With that in mind, it's very important that you know where our assistance begins and ends so that you can be prepared to help yourself. U.S. citizens are helped first, Legal Permanent Residents may be eligible for limited assistance if accompanying a citizen, and citizens of other countries should turn to their own governments for support.

So what do we do? First, we provide information on areas to avoid, and

where supplies and medical treatment might be available. Second, we facilitate communication and can confirm to your loved ones whether you are safe or missing. If it does come to a full-scale evacuation, that can come over land, by sea, by air, or in any combination. It may include only injured or affected U.S. citizens, or all citizens. It can be done with military support or only with the resources of the Embassy. The nature of the evacuation will vary with the disaster. However, it's important to understand that evacuations, when it does come to that step, take time to coordinate.

I hope we are never in a situation to prove to you just how prepared we are to support you in a crisis, but should that eventuality come, we are here, and we are ready.

Where Will You Go for Crisis Information?

In a November crisis exercise, Embassy employees were asked to react to a theoretical earthquake hitting Ecuador. The exercise allowed Embassy personnel to discuss what they would do in emergency situation and what services would be available to U.S. citizens in Ecuador.

As was seen earlier this year after the Japan earthquake and with other disasters, one of the most important components in the aftermath of a crisis



will be the sharing of information such as the location of health care services,

clean water and food, or an evacuation point.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito and Consulate General in Guayaquil both have accounts in Facebook, Twitter and Youtube that are updated frequently. Do you subscribe to them? In the event of an emergency, this may be the quickest way to disseminate information important to U.S. citizens. To follow us please visit us at the social networking sites listed below.

Bureau of Consular Affairs: "Secure Borders, Open Doors" - Contact Us:

Telephone number: **(011 593-2) 398-5000.**

Public call-in hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and Friday 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

For after-hours emergencies, call **(011 593-2) 398-5200.**

Address: Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro

Email: ACSQuito@state.gov

Embassy website: <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov>



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