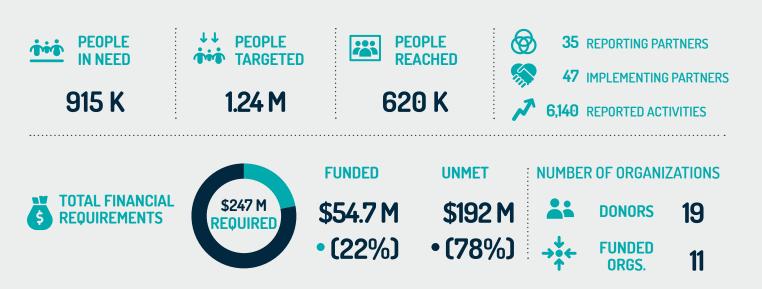
END OF YEAR 2021 KEY FIGURES

Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migraphs from Venezuela

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MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE



SITUATION

During 2021, Venezuelan refugees and migrants faced reduced *income* and *livelihoods* due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and their overrepresentation in the informal sector and low rates of inclusion in government-led social protection mechanisms. Lack of income among refugee and migrant households continued to hinder access to basic goods and services, including food, shelter, and healthcare. It is also associated with protection-related risks, including gender-based violence (GBV), evictions, and negative coping mechanisms. In 2021, some host countries introduced mechanisms to support Venezuelans' socioeconomic integration with impacts on cash and voucher assistance (CVA). For example, Colombia initiated its Temporary Protection Status (TPS) that is expected to facilitate access to formal employment, public services, and social protection, including social cash transfers.

RESPONSE

In 2021, CVA accounted for 42% of all people reached by the R4V response: a total of approximately 1.3 million refugees, migrants and members of affected host communities received cash and voucher assistance across 17 countries through 53 organizations. Colombia had the largest number of people reached, followed by Peru and Ecuador. Cash transfers, in particular multipurpose cash (MPC), were identified by refugees and migrants as a preferred modality of assistance, including in the Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) conducted in Colombia. CVA was also recognized as one of the most flexible/adaptable assistance modalities throughout the pandemic.

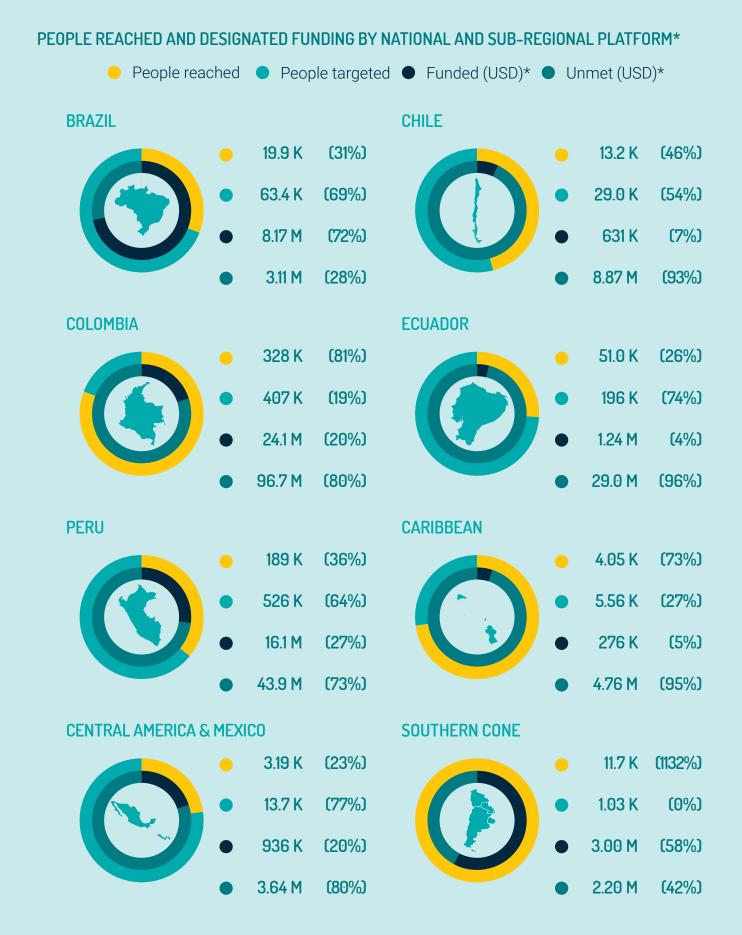
Roughly half of the CVA (49%) distributed in 2021 corresponded to MPC, while the other half (51%) was distributed as sectoral CVA. Food Security was the predominant sector using CVA as an assistance modality, with over 50% of the sector's assistance cash-based. Other sectors using cash transfers

included Integration, Shelter and Protection, and to a lesser extent Health, WASH, Education and Humanitarian Transportation.

The Regional Cash Working Group (RCWG) held regular coordination and technical discussion meetings; engaged with and supported national and sub-regional CWGs; worked with regional sector leads to support cash activities; and collaborated closely with the R4V Regional Platform (including to improve the <u>CVA dashboard</u>). It also promoted cross-fertilization and learning on regional priorities, such as by organizing an <u>event on the linkages</u> <u>between CVA and social protection</u> and supporting the <u>dissemination of relevant information</u> on Venezuelans and cash transfers. In September 2021 the RCWG held <u>elections to renew its leadership</u>.

LESSONS LEARNED

One of the main challenges during 2021 related to the intersection between humanitarian activities and longer-term integration, which grows in importance over time for the Venezuela response. This created a more prominent need for national CWGs to coordinate with the authorities regarding linkages between CVA and government-led social protection programmes. Another challenge was the insufficient funding received for multipurpose cash (MPC), which was just 18% of the request. Lastly, CVA also faced challenges regarding providing unaccompanied minors with financial assistance. To address these issues, the RCWG will coordinate with regional partners, national CWGs, sectors and the R4V Platform in capacity-building, support and advocacy.



* Funding information as reported to the <u>Financial Tracking Service (FTS)</u>. This may not accurately represent all funds actually applied to each sector or country of the RMRP response, as unearmarked funds from donors may not be reported to FTS with a sector or country designation at the time of receipt by RMRP partners.



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