CHILD PROTECTION

19.4 K 🎒 🔹 \$1.64 M

9.7%

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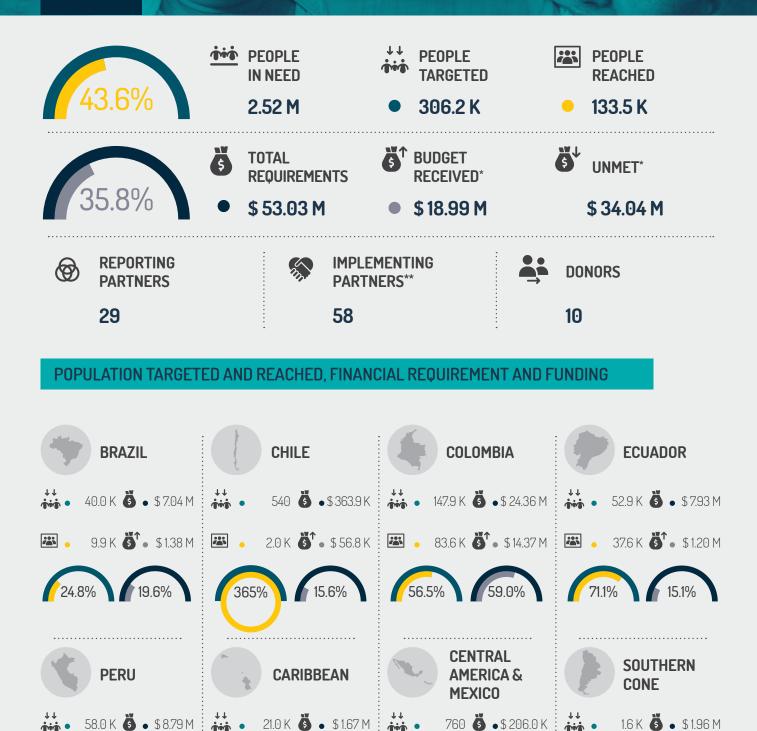
33.5%

Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela

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5.2 K 🛐 🛛

334.9%



* Funding information as reported to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). This may not accurately represent all funds actually attribuded 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. For more information about the funding of the RMRP 2022, please refer to this dashboard.

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901.8%

2.0 K 5 • \$ 345.3 K

20.7%

6.9 K 5

SITUATION

In 2022, refugee and migrant children and adolescents from Venezuela continued to lack access to protection services, regularization and documentation mechanisms and basic services, such as food, education and healthcare. As presented in the RMNA, refugee and migrant children (particularly those in-transit as well as those in an irregular situation) were more vulnerable to psychological, physical and sexual violence as well as acts of xenophobia and discrimination. An overall decrease in income among Venezuelan families led to increased child labour, marriage or early unions, voluntary separation from parents and caregivers when they left the country, transit of adolescents through unsafe routes and pressures of recruitment by irregular armed groups. Children and adolescents crossing borders at irregular points of entry and/or without documentation were often prevented from accessing services. R4V partners prioritized efforts with host governments to identify and support unaccompanied and/or separated children (UASC).

RESPONSE

In 2022, Child Protection Sub-sector partners reached 133,503 people with assistance, including 102,016 children (53,001 girls and 49,015 boys) and 31,487 adults (20,567 women and 10,920 men). Forms of support included staffing to strengthen national child protection systems' workforces, as well as partners' provision of MHPSS, counselling, legal support and orientation to children and their families, with interventions to prevent and respond to violence, support family reunification processes, provide documentation, registration and transitory care for UASC. A total of 29 appealing partners and 58 implementing partners carried out 4,244 reported activities across 14 countries.

For example, in the Dominican Republic, partners advocated for documentation of children born to Venezuelan parents through the country's Normalization Plan. In Brazil, the National R4V Platform supported the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONANDA) in the process of adopting a <u>resolution</u> on foreign UASC.

Meanwhile, increased irregular movements northward via Colombia through Central America and Mexico implied additional challenges for refugee and migrant children in-transit, and led R4V partners to respond to greater numbers of children in need than anticipated in this sub-region, reaching more than nine times the target population (or some 6,900 children, adolescents and caretakers) in Central America and Mexico with child protection services and activities, including child friendly spaces and case management. In Colombia, 34,700 refugee and migrant children were supported by R4V partners through protection assistance and specialized services.

In addition to these and other achievements at the country level, the Regional Child Protection Sub-sector provided training to strengthen partners' capacities, such as the virtual course "Technical <u>tools</u> for the analysis of needs, monitoring and response in the protection of children in humanitarian action" which reached 250 participants from 17 countries. Additionally, together with the Humanitarian Transportation Sector, the Sub-sector developed <u>guidance</u> and key messages for providers of humanitarian transportation regarding potential protection risks.

The Regional Child Protection Sub-sector contributed to the "Analysis of the situation of Venezuelan refugee and migrant children and child labour" in partnership with the Human Trafficking and Smuggling Sub-sector (to be published), as well as the report on "*Risks due to the Dual Impact of Displacement and Organized Crime on Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela*" with the Protection Sector. The Sub-sector also coordinated with the Quito Process to approve and promote the *Operational Guide for Transnational Cooperation in the Specialized Protection of Children in Processes of Human Mobility.*

Finally, the Sub-sector carried out a regional social media *campaign* to raise awareness on protection risks for UASC and promote changes for their care, with engagement by 7,291,461 accounts between May and September 2022.

LESSONS LEARNED

Limited funding resulted in limitations in the ability to provide child protection services for refugee and migrant children in the region, which are needed to strengthen public policies and specialized child protection services, such as family reunification and regularization of children and their families. Support for UASC continues to be a priority, and greater investment is needed to identify UASC and provide them with child protection services, including by negotiating and creating mechanisms for identification and referral between countries.