



HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SMUGGLING



Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela

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PEOPLE IN NEED
1.46 M

PEOPLE TARGETED
42.2 K

PEOPLE REACHED
3.3 K



TOTAL REQUIREMENTS
\$ 13.62 M

BUDGET RECEIVED*
\$ 2.11 M

UNMET*
\$ 11.51 M



REPORTING PARTNERS

9



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

6



DONORS

3

POPULATION TARGETED AND REACHED, FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND FUNDING



BRAZIL

7.3 K \$ 625.0 K

547 \$ 44.9 K



CHILE

240 \$ 455.0 K

- \$ 12.6 K



COLOMBIA

34.3 K \$ 4.38 M

2.7 K \$ 1.44 M



ECUADOR

258 \$ 933.1 K

222 \$ 484.5 K



PERU

170 \$ 2.89 M

50 \$ 61.0 K



CARIBBEAN

772 \$ 1.63 M

21 -



CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO

- \$ 85.0 K

- \$ 9.8 K



SOUTHERN CONE

290 \$ 693.5 K

4 \$ 50.6 K



* Funding information as reported to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). This may not accurately represent all funds actually attributed to each sector or country of the RMRP response, as unarmarked funds from donors may not be reported to FTS with a sector or country designation at the time of receipt by RMRP partners. More information about the RMRP 2022 funding [here](#).

** This includes RMRP appealing partners that are also implementing activities, as well as implementing partners that are not appealing partners. For this reason, it is recommended to quote partner figures separately and not sum the number of partners, as this would double-count implementing partners that are also reporting activities.

SITUATION

Human trafficking and smuggling continued to be a major concern for refugees and migrants from Venezuela across the region, with Venezuelans identified as victims of trafficking (VoTs) in almost all 17 RMRP countries, the majority of whom were women and girls. According to findings presented in the [RMNA](#), Venezuelans were trafficked for both sexual and labour exploitation, with differentiated risks by gender (for example, in Brazil, men were more likely to be victims of forced labour, while women were more likely to be victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation). Venezuelans at greater risk of human trafficking include those in-transit and in an irregular situation, especially women, unaccompanied and/or separated children and adolescents (UASC), indigenous peoples and people of African descent, people with disabilities, sex workers, and LGBTQI+ persons, especially transgender persons.

Throughout 2022, new movement dynamics of refugees and migrants emerged and intensified; smuggling and trafficking of refugees and migrants followed these patterns. For example, in December 2022 alone 48,204 irregular crossings were recorded through the notorious Darien Gap, 62 per cent of whom were Venezuelans: some had transited from countries as far south as Bolivia, Peru and Chile with a view to reaching the southern U.S. border, with various criminal groups controlling smuggling routes posing a variety of risks. In the context of [changing U.S. policies](#) concerning the ability of refugees and migrants to access the country, by the end of 2022 an increased number of Venezuelans found themselves in transit countries with unclear prospects for reaching their final destinations, an estimated 51 per cent of whom were women and girls (RMRP, 2023-2024).

According to a [study](#) carried out by the Sub-sector on the impact of organized crime on refugees and migrants from Venezuela, the criminal groups engaged in human trafficking of refugees and migrants include transnational networks that originated in countries such as Colombia, Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela, as well as local organizations with transnational ties, with a reach that extends across the region.

RESPONSE

In 2022, the Human Trafficking and Smuggling Sub-sector provided 3,344 refugees and migrants from Venezuela and host community members with assistance, representing 7.9 per cent of its target population. The greatest number of people reached were in Colombia (2,717 persons or 7.9 per cent of the national target) while

partners in Ecuador reached the greatest percentage of their target population (86 per cent or 222 people total).

In terms of assistance provided and activities undertaken, Human Trafficking and Smuggling partners supported institutional mechanisms for the prevention, identification, protection, assistance and integration of victims and/or the prosecution of human trafficking. In Brazil, R4V partners supported the authorities in charge of combatting human trafficking by providing trainings and response [protocols](#) to strengthen protection networks across the country. In the Caribbean Sub-region, partners strengthened risk identification mechanisms and engaged in capacity-building with the authorities; provided MHPSS to victims of trafficking (VoTs); and prevented and responded to related protection issues through legal counselling and advocacy for disproportionately affected Venezuelans. In Colombia, over 2,700 refugee and migrant victim/at risk of human trafficking and smuggling received related assistance and protection services, while in Peru, R4V partners provided vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela with thematic trainings and workshops on human trafficking to identify risk factors and help prevent victimization.

At the regional level, the Sub-sector focused its efforts on the development of a joint proposal with UN agencies on a regional coordination mechanism with host governments to improve the judicial response to transnational human trafficking cases. The Sub-sector provided technical support on a study on the dual impact of organized crime on refugees and migrants from Venezuela, including a [technical report](#) and a [key messages factsheet](#) covering seven countries in the region. The Sub-sector also developed and promoted the [guidelines on the identification of human trafficking](#), in coordination with the protection cluster in Venezuela.

LESSONS LEARNED

Lack of funding remains a significant challenge for the Sub-sector, which received only 15.5 per cent of funds required for the RMRP 2022. Underfunding limited partners' capacity to support essential prevention and protection activities and strengthen longer-term planning.

In 2023, the Human Trafficking and Smuggling Sub-sector will coordinate prevention and response activities in a cross-cutting and holistic manner, strengthening its work with other sectors such as the Humanitarian Transportation and Integration Sectors and the GBV and Child Protection Sub-sectors, as well as with the AAP/CwC and PSEA Working Groups.