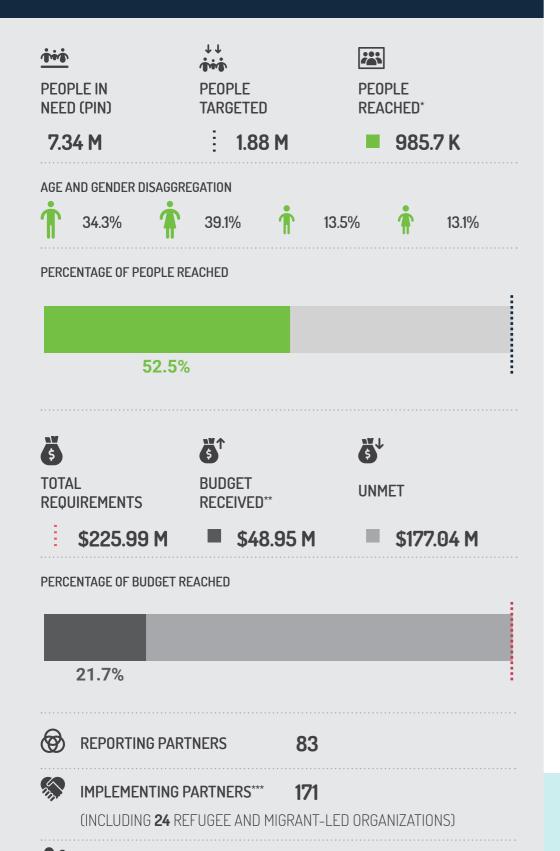


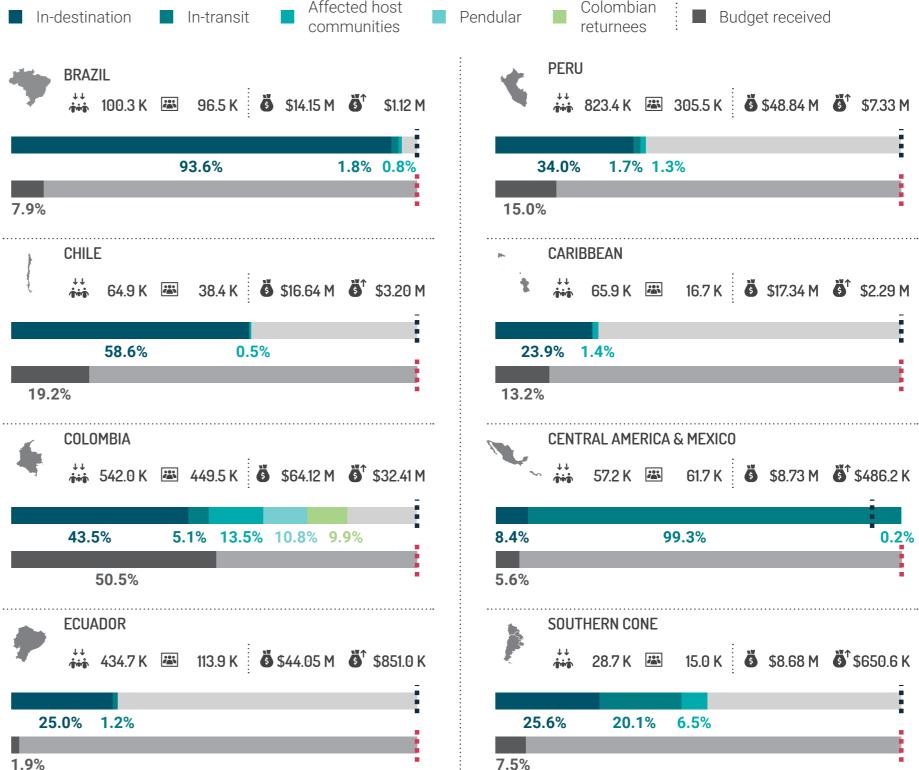
**DONORS** 

# **PROTECTION**





### PEOPLE REACHED AND FUNDING BY NATIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL PLATFORM



- \* The above regional-level data on people reached with assistance under the RMRP 2023 does not include assistance provided to refugees and migrants in-transit. While assistance under the RMRP was provided to refugees and migrants in-transit (in Brazil and Mexico, primarily to Venezuelan nationals, in the other countries, refugees and migrants of all nationalities in-transit), given that in-transit populations by their very nature pass through multiple countries, they may be assisted in more than one country. This would mean that the regional total for in-transit people reached with assistance would include significant duplications. In order to avoid such duplications, information for the in-transit population assisted is included at the country levels and should be referred to distinctly from the in-destination population (as is also done for the corresponding PiNs and targets).
- \* Funding information as reported to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) as of 1 April 2024. This data is based on partners' voluntary reporting of contributions and may not accurately represent all funds attributed to the RMRP response. Unearmarked funds from donors may also not be reported to FTS with a sector or country designation at the time of receipt by RMRP partners.

Sectoral funds reported for activities implemented at a regional, sub-regional, or multi-country level are not reflected in the above infographic disaggregated by national and sub-regional platforms. For more information about the funding of the RMRP please refer to this <u>link</u>.

\*\*\* 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

Refugees and migrants continued to engage in complex onward movements in 2023, often in an irregular manner and under precarious circumstances exposing themselves to excessive danger. Some individuals suffered violence, serious human rights violations, exploitation and abuse. Refugees and migrants from other nationalities increasingly joined these movements seeking safe access to territory. In addition, numerous Venezuelan refugees and migrants in host countries continued to remain in an irregular situation without regularization of their status.

## Response

In 2023, partners reached over 985.7K refugees and migrants and affected host community members with specialized protection assistance.

To promote safe access to territories, partners engaged in communication with communities initiatives, in coordination with the AAP-CwC working group, to enable vulnerable individuals to access accurate information about regular routes, the risks associated with irregular routes and entry processes to countries in the region. Partners produced information material about the existing entry requirements for Chile and Peru, while, at the regional level, guidance on the changed legal framework for entry to the United States of America was developed to facilitate partners' engagement with vulnerable individuals.

Legal assistance was a key activity to ensure refugees' and migrants' access to asylum systems and protection services. In Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia and Panama, partners engaged in strategic litigation to promote asylum seekers' safe access to international protection, while in Peru, legal services fairs in districts with high concentration of Venezuelans were organized.

Partners called on government authorities to enhance protection, including regular stay arrangements and regularization initiatives. To support the continuous registration and regularization efforts in Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia, partners extended technical assistance to governments and offered direct support such as legal assistance, information on procedures and cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to refugees and migrants. In the Southern Cone, advocacy with government officials led to the creation of safeguards for asylum application of individuals in need of international protection at the Bolivian borders. Aruban partners worked with the government on a quality assurance endeavor, examining the country's asylum process to guarantee equitable and efficient procedures that adhere to international standards. In Panama, partners supported authorities with the opening of a National Office for the Attention of Refugees (ONPAR) to receive asylum applications from people entering the country.

To strengthen linkages with the host states' social protection systems and promote a favorable protection environment, referrals to specialized services and community-based protection initiatives were promoted. In Brazil and Guyana, partners identified vulnerable individuals, including from the ethnic group of the Warao, and referred them to state protection services. In Colombia, partners

trained affected communities to reinforce their prevention and response capacity when confronted with human rights violations and violence. In Chile, actors supported community-based protection interventions to support social cohesion in response to an increased number of incidents involving xenophobia against refugees and migrants. In the Caribbean, partners engaged with indigenous and non-indigenous communities to promote their access to protection services and the exercise of their rights further.

Finally, the Sector also supported the work of the intergovernmental Quito Process and related protection advocacy, ensuring consultations with regional protection actors, creation of key advocacy messages and participation in the 'Regularization and Integrated Border Management' workshop held in October 2023.

#### **Lessons Learned**

The increasing number of refugees and migrants engaging in irregular movements; the adverse climate conditions at the borders between Chile, Bolivia, and Peru; the growing tension between Venezuela and Guyana due to bilateral territorial disputes; increasing levels of xenophobia and a militarization approach to mixed movements in the region, challenged the implementation of protection activities primarily by hampering the Sector's ability to meet significant protection needs, as well as partners' direct access to affected communities.

Limited funding impacted implementation across various countries of the region. Nevertheless, despite facing funding constraints in Brazil, Colombia and the CAM sub-region, partners were able to reach protection targets. This can partly be attributed to the reorientation of the response to the growing in-transit population, but also as a result of an increased focus on capacity-building activities. Additionally, discrepancies between data on funding and people reached may also be due to partners not reporting financial contributions.

Considering the changing dynamics and multidirectional movements, the Sector will strengthen coordination among Platforms and partners to define and implement a suitable regional protection approach to common protection issues.