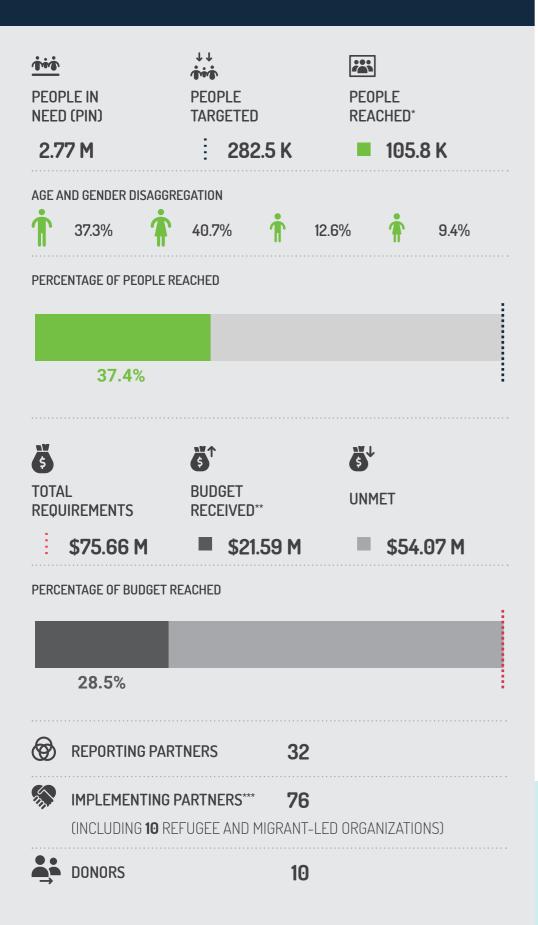
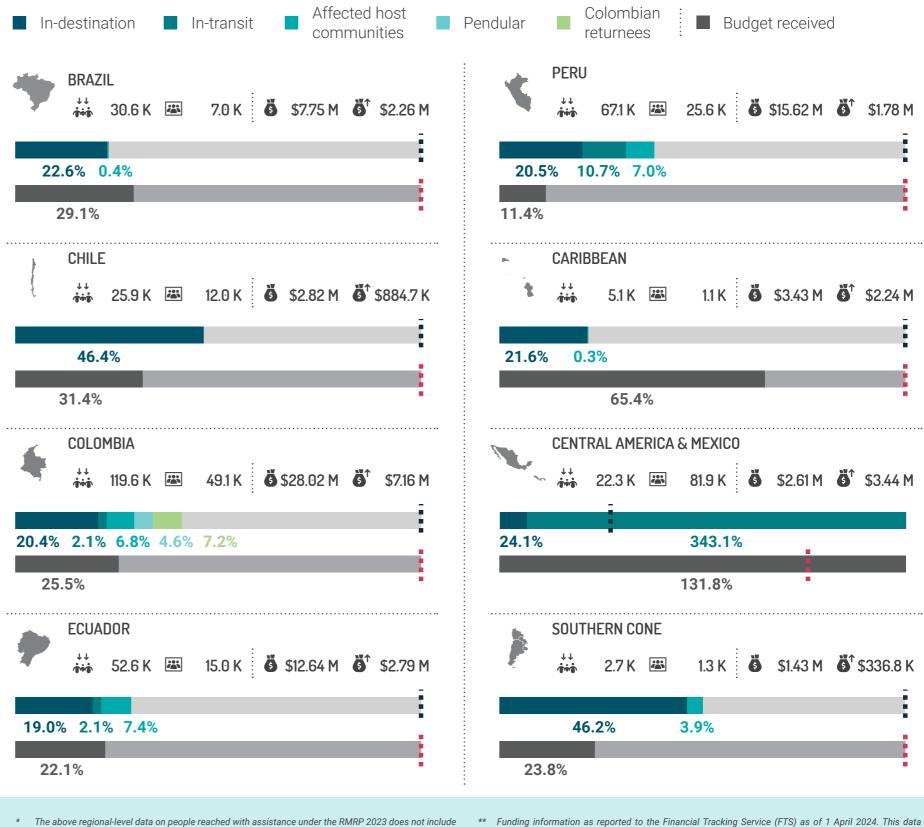
END-YEAR REPORT 2023 Ĵ.



CHILD 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).

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 link. *** 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.



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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.



CHILD PROTECTION

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Situation

Throughout 2023, refugee and migrant children and adolescents faced challenges accessing essential services and support, including protection, regularization and refugee status recognition, documentation, as well as basic needs, including food, education and healthcare. Sexual violence was one of the recurrent forms of violence affecting refugee and migrant girls and adolescents in Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador and Curaçao, Trinidad and Tobago. This includes physical and psychological violence as well as discrimination.

The *RMNA* highlighted the risk of child labour and early unions affecting refugee and migrant children. A significant number of unaccompanied and/or separated children (UASC) were also identified in 2023, including cases of voluntary separation from parents and caregivers, who undertook onward or transit journeys, often through unsafe routes and exposed to criminal groups, including smugglers and traffickers. Children traveling via such irregular routes or without documentation frequently faced barriers in accessing basic services, such as healthcare, education, and regularization process. Brazil reported a considerable increase of UASC in the first quarter of 2023, with 1,108 cases identified in Roraima, representing a 55% increase from the first half of 2022. Another concerning finding highlighted in the *RMNA* was that more than 12% of children aged 13 to 17 in Chile were separated from or unaccompanied by their parents.

Response

In 2023, Child Protection Sub-sector partners reached 105.8K people with some form of assistance, representing 37.3% of its target population. A total of 4,126 activities were implemented across the region, by 32 appealing organizations and 76 implementing partners, including 10 refugee- and migrant-led organizations.

The Sub-sector prioritized the provision of direct assistance, such as MHPSS, counselling, legal support and orientation, prevention and response to violence, support to family reunification processes, transitory care for UASC, documentation and registration.

At the regional level, the Sub-sector, in collaboration with the Integration Sector and Trafficking and Smuggling Sub-sector, published a report on <u>Situation of Refugee and Migrant Children</u> <u>from Venezuela and the Link to Child Labour in Latin America</u>. Furthermore, the Sub-sector carried out trainings for 22 partners in Trinidad and Tobago on the <u>use of the psychosocial model for care</u> for girls and adolescent survivors of GBV. In addition, the Sub-sector supported the development and implementation of the <u>3rd Regional</u> <u>Course on Child Protection in Humanitarian Action</u>, training 120 people, including government officials and representatives of local and international NGOs and humanitarian actors from across the region.

Lastly, the Sub-sector maintained close coordination with the Quito Process, particularly with Government of Colombia, the Champion Country of the Child Protection Working Group, to advance advocacy efforts for child protection matters among the member states of this intergovernmental forum. This included the approval of the <u>Operational Guide for Transnational Cooperation on</u> <u>specialized child protection in processes of human mobility</u>.

Lessons Learned

In some countries of the region, limited funding impacted the Subsector's ability to provide child protection services for refugee and migrant children, to strengthening public policies and specialized child protection services, family reunification, and regularization for children and their families. In other areas, the unprecedented onward and transit movement flows required for an adaptation of the R4V Child Protection response, resulting in exceeding initially planned targets.

Support for UASC continues to be a priority, and greater investment is needed to identify, negotiate and create mechanisms across countries to identify and attend the increased caseload UASC and provide them with child protection services, especially for those intransit.

