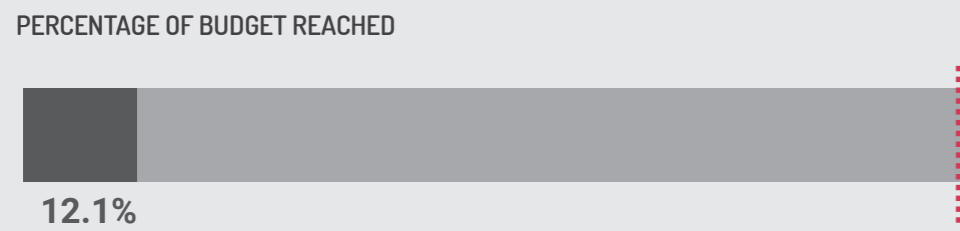
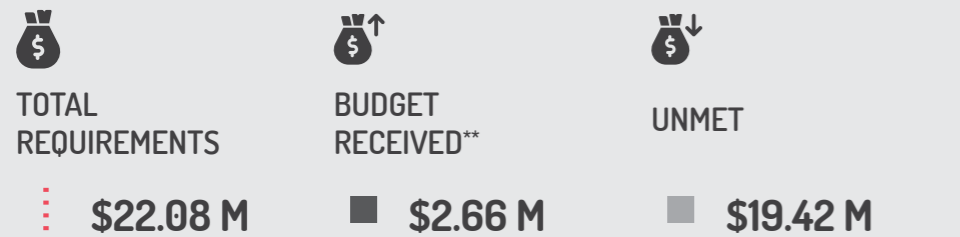
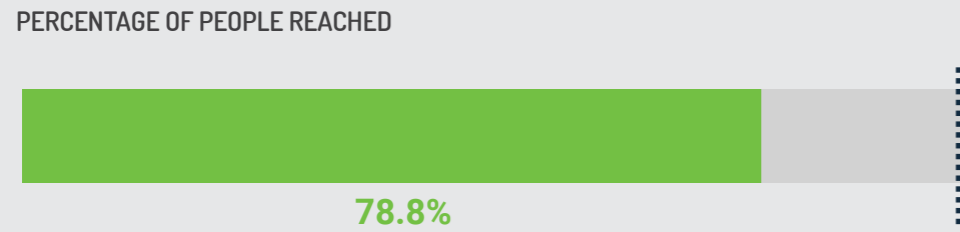
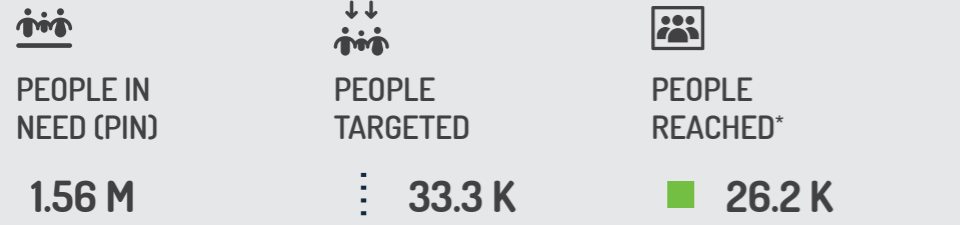




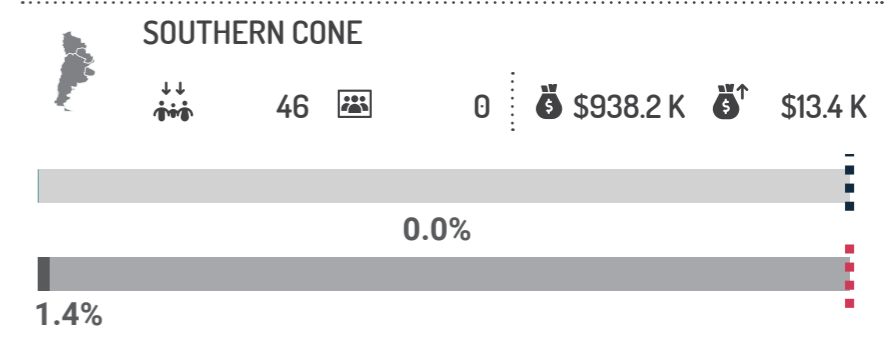
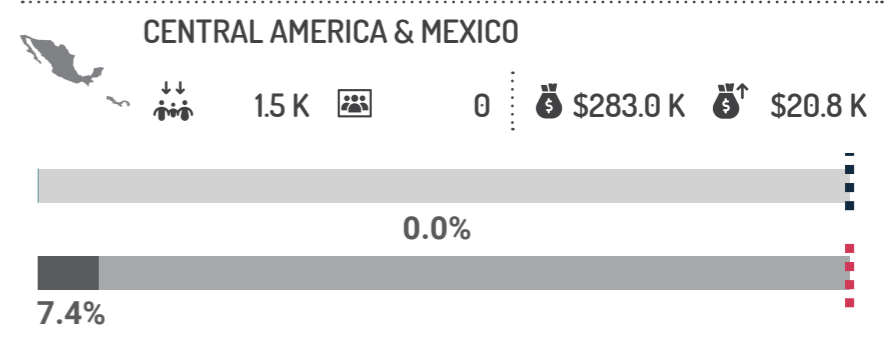
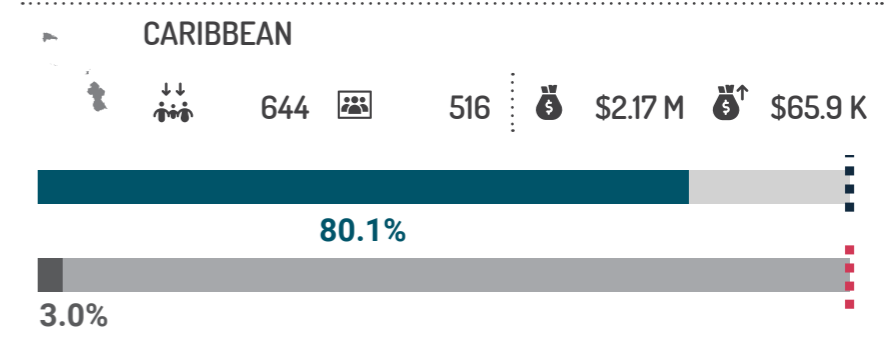
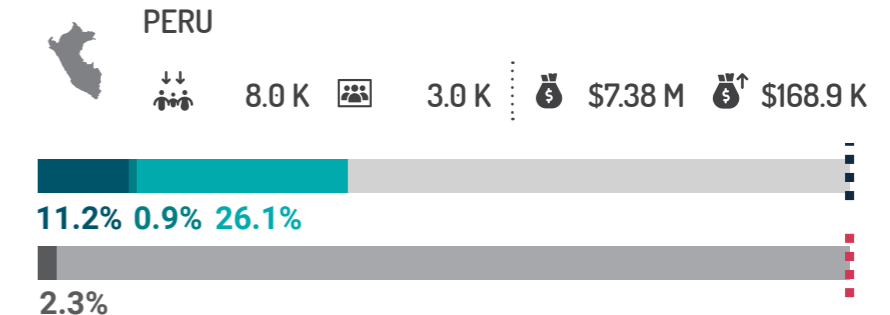
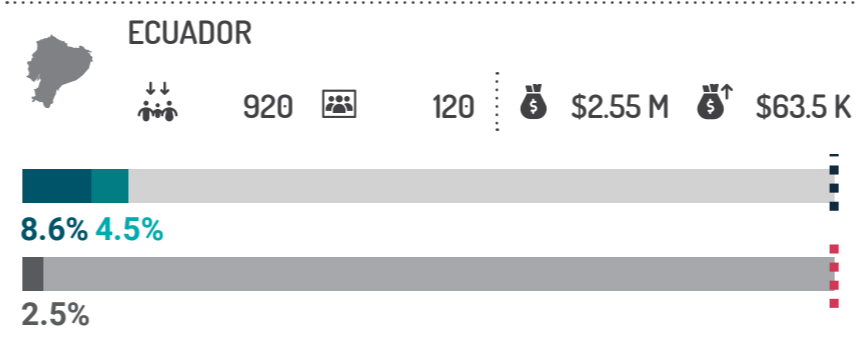
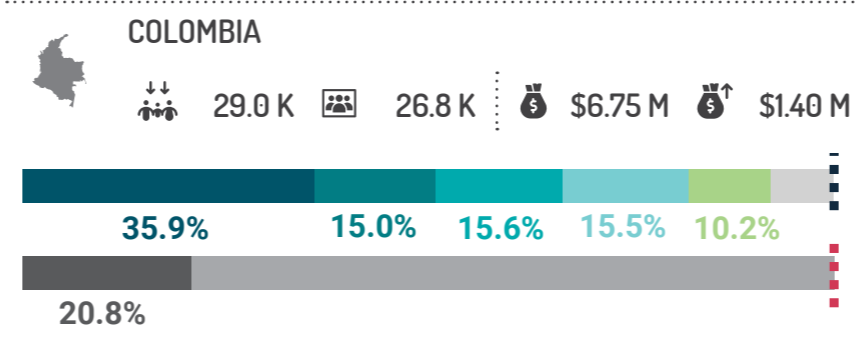
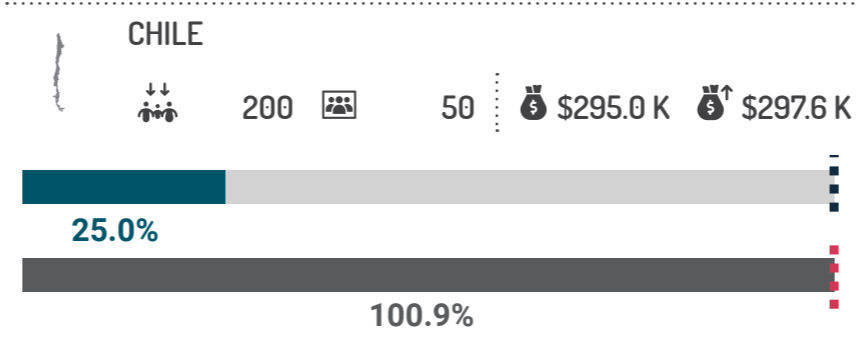
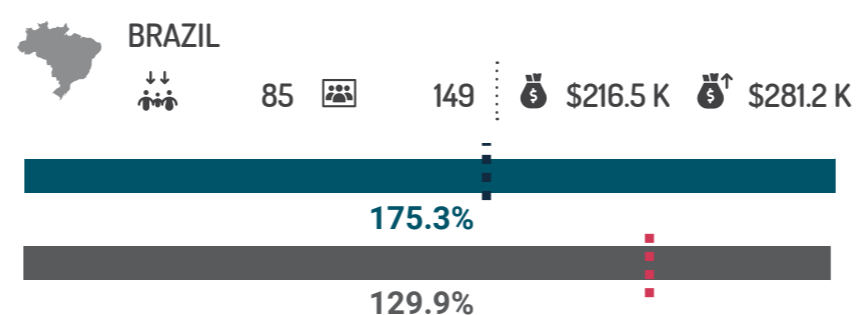
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING

PEOPLE REACHED AND FUNDING BY NATIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL PLATFORM

■ In-destination
 ■ In-transit
 ■ Affected host communities
 ■ Pendular
 ■ Colombian returnees
 ■ Budget received



- REPORTING PARTNERS **11**
- IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS*** **18**
(INCLUDING 3 REFUGEE AND MIGRANT-LED ORGANIZATIONS)
- DONORS **5**



* 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. Unmarked 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 [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.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING

Situation

Refugees and migrants were at high risk of human trafficking and smuggling throughout the region in 2023, with Venezuelans being identified as victims of trafficking (VoT) in almost all 17 countries of the R4V response. As noted in the [RMNA 2023](#), those most vulnerable to trafficking are often refugees and migrants in-transit or in an irregular situation, in particular women, unaccompanied and/or separated children, indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, persons with disabilities, sex workers, and LGBTQI+ persons. Its findings also show that victims of trafficking are subject to various forms of exploitation, especially for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour.

Human trafficking and smuggling have gone hand in hand with the rise in irregular transit movements, driven by restrictive access practices and policies, including militarization of borders and at times prohibitive visa requirements. These measures have pushed refugees and migrants to seek alternative routes, including resorting to smugglers, often accompanied by heightened risks.

Other significant challenges include the presence of organized criminal groups that control smuggling routes and expose in-transit populations to diverse threats, with gang-related activity observed along borders in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru. In particular, porous borders facilitate illicit human trafficking, as observed in Colombia, Brazil and Peru. Overall, refugees and migrants crossing these borders irregularly face various risks, such as labour and sexual exploitation, hazardous travel conditions, and the possibility of being victims of human trafficking, underscoring the importance of a coordinated and well-informed regional response to address this issue.

Response

In 2023, the Human Trafficking and Smuggling Sub-sector provided assistance to 26.2K refugees and migrants, and affected host community members, reaching 78.8% of its target, despite limited funding. Notably, 60% of the target population received direct assistance, including legal aid and psychosocial support. In addition, refugees and migrants who were victims of trafficking or at risk of trafficking were also able access to vocational programs in countries like Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

At the regional level, [guidelines](#) were developed to improve the early identification of trafficking and smuggling profiles. These were

integrated into training sessions for Peru and Ecuador and presented at regional meetings. Additionally, the Regional Assistance Mechanism provided direct assistance, such as shelter, healthcare, and legal assistance to 38 cases to a total of 83 individuals in 2023, including victims and those at risk, addressing various forms of exploitation across Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Panama and the Dominican Republic. A regional campaign, "[Something Goes Wrong](#)" was launched to mark the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

The Sub-sector also supported the development of tools within the Quito Process, specifically in coordination with the Trafficking in Persons Working Group (Champion Countries: Chile and Ecuador) including the Consular Assistance Guide and the Early Identification Toolkit. The former systematically compiles information according to international standards, supporting consular staff in identifying and assisting trafficking victims. The latter establishes criteria for prevention and victim identification.

In summary, the Human Trafficking and Smuggling Sub-sector achieved significant progress despite financial constraints. Its efforts encompassed direct assistance, regional collaboration, capacity building, and awareness campaigns. The Sub-sector's commitment to addressing human trafficking and smuggling adopts a multifaceted approach, which prioritizes victim support, prevention, and cooperation among regional stakeholders.

Lessons Learned

Challenges encountered by the Sub-sector in 2023 include sustaining progress, adapting to evolving trafficking methods, and enhancing support to victims for long-term rehabilitation and integration into society. Achievements underscore resilience and commitment but require continued innovation and collaboration.

Funding levels for activities under the R4V response to human trafficking and smuggling varied widely across the region, with some countries encountering significant shortages while others benefitting from greater financial support. Misalignment between data on funding levels and people reached data may stem from some activities not contributing to the overall number of people reached, notably awareness campaigns or some capacity-building activities, while in other cases partners may not have reported activities or the funding they received.