



WASH

PEOPLE REACHED AND FUNDING BY NATIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL PLATFORM

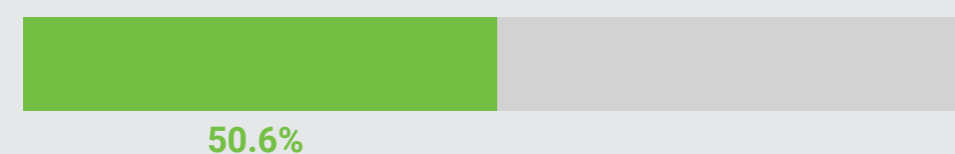
Legend: In-destination, In-transit, Affected host communities, Pendular, Colombian returnees, Budget received



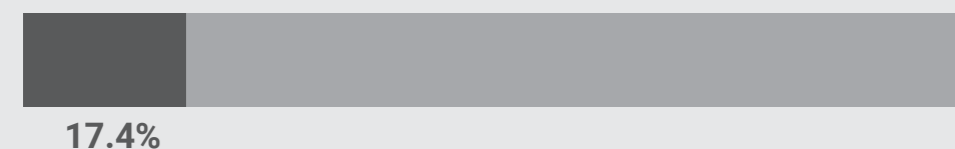
AGE AND GENDER DISAGGREGATION



PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE REACHED



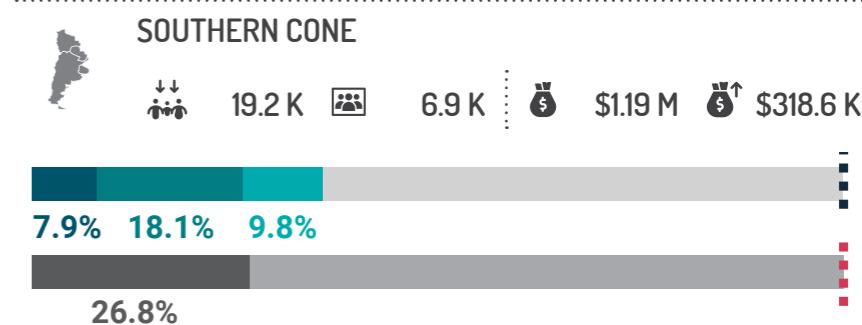
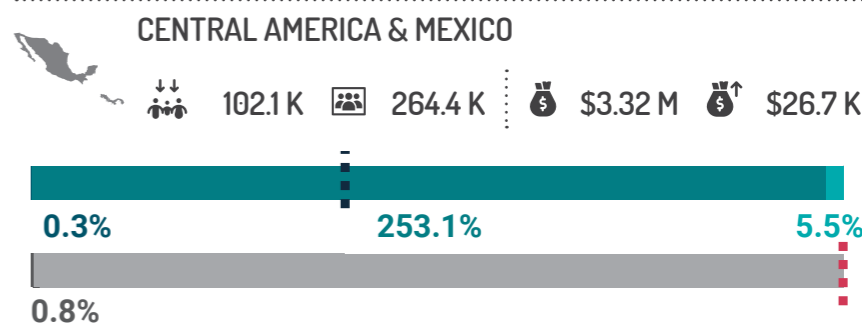
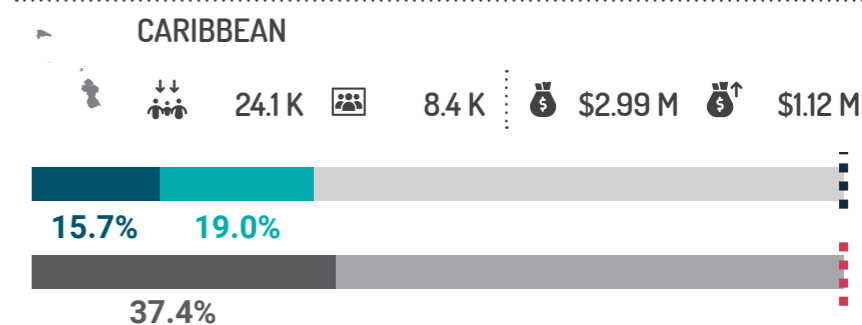
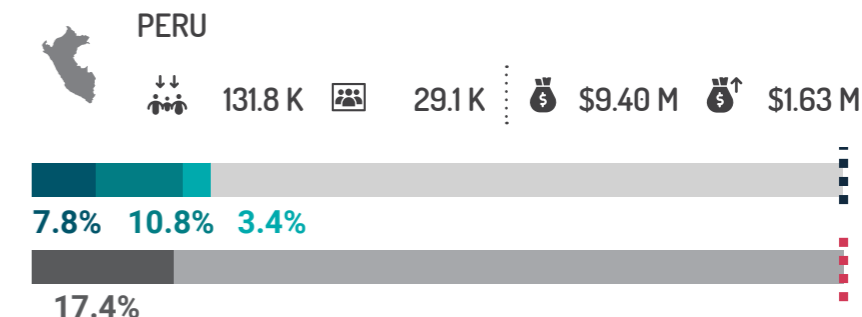
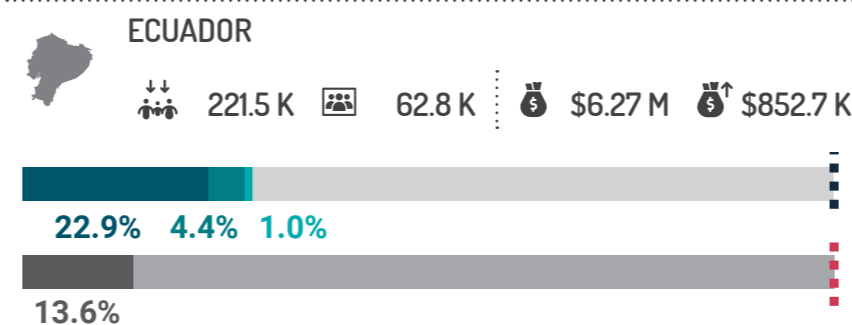
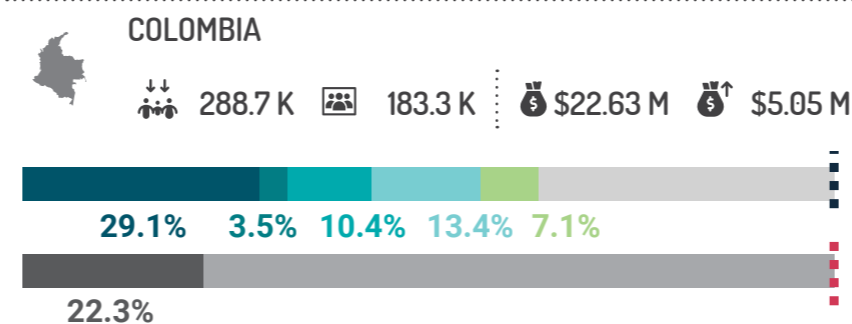
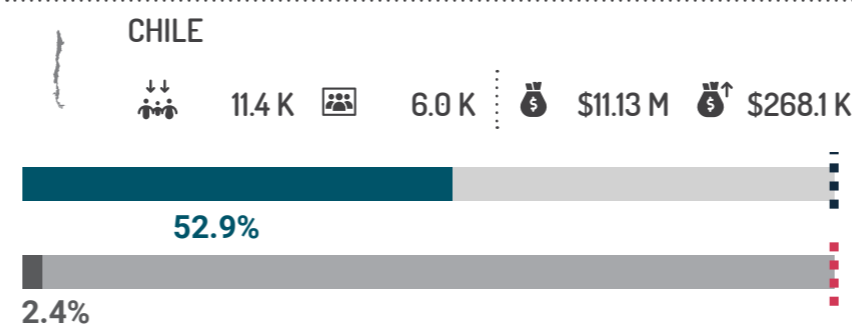
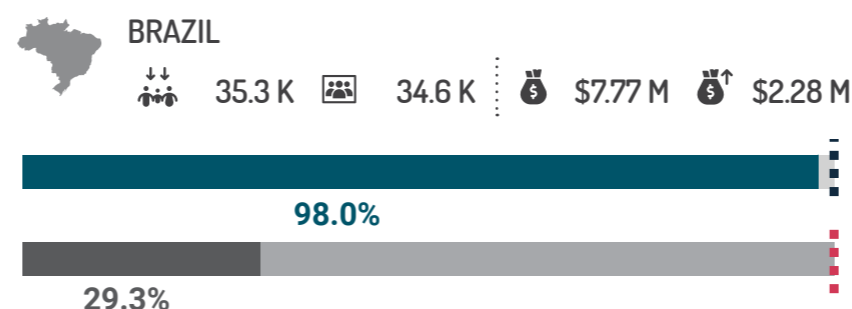
PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET REACHED



REPORTING PARTNERS **38**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS*** **57**
(INCLUDING 2 REFUGEE AND MIGRANT-LED ORGANIZATIONS)

DONORS **13**



* 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.



WASH



©UNICEF

Situation

In 2023, the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs of refugees and migrants remained critical, as highlighted in the [RMNA](#). Challenges persisted in accessing essential WASH services, especially against a background of the increasing onward and transit movements, and the strains this puts on local infrastructures along transit routes. For instance, 100% of those transiting through Panama's Darien jungle require access to essential WASH services, despite the often remote location and overwhelmed capacities along the routes in Panama, Costa Rica, and Colombia. As also highlighted in the RMNA, women and girls on the move encountered difficulties accessing menstrual hygiene products, both along the northward route via the Darien, as well as in destination countries in the Southern Cone and the Caribbean.

Refugees and migrants in-destination often faced inadequate access to WASH services, especially those residing in urban or peri-urban areas characterized by more precarious conditions. For example, in informal settlements in Colombia, where 58% of Venezuelan households lack regular access to water, 53% have toilets outside their homes, and 39% reported open defecation practices. Obstacles persisted in accessing WASH services, partly due to high demand and strain on available WASH services in public facilities, which struggle to meet the needs of growing populations. Additionally, policies and approaches adopted by local authorities sometimes did not prioritize WASH services in informal settlements, exacerbating the issue. Collaborative efforts and the involvement of public sector partners is crucial to build local capacity and promote a nexus approach.

Additionally, extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change, such as the flooding emergency in Peru, droughts and bushfires in Chile, Colombia and Guyana, often in close proximity to areas inhabited by refugee and migrant communities, contributed to increased water scarcity, impacting disproportionately refugees and migrants, as well as affected host communities in accessing sufficient potable water.

Response

The WASH Sector's response in 2023 reached 299.3K refugees and migrants and affected host communities, representing 50.6% of the target population. It was implemented by 38 partners in 17 countries. Panama reported the highest number population reached (264.1K, representing 259% of the national target), followed by Colombia (183.3K), Ecuador (62.8K), Brazil (34.6K), Peru (29.1K) and Guyana (7.2K). Owing to the larger than anticipated transit movements through Central America, coupled with the above-average need for WASH assistance by practically all those using this route, the number of refugees and migrants in-transit supported with WASH assistance in Panama (258.4K) was higher than any other sectoral assistance provided to in-transit populations.

The response across the region was largely implemented through direct assistance by sector partners (81%), including medium- to long-term interventions benefiting refugees and migrants in-transit and in-destination. Examples include improvements of sanitation

and drinking water facilities in official shelters in Pacaraima and Boa Vista, as well as [upgrades and maintenance of safe water production plants to guarantee water access in Migration Reception Centres \(ERMs\) and host communities in Panama's Darien](#) region. The WASH Sector also provided assistance through integrated services, such as WASH assistance points, in Tumbes in Peru. Additionally, widespread distribution of in-kind hygiene supplies was an important activity, implemented through innovative response modalities, such as the [Hygiene Corner](#). Through partners distribution of hygiene items for refugees and migrants in-transit in Necoclí in [Colombia](#), more than 5.2K persons were reached in 2023.

On a smaller scale but with significant impact, capacity building activities (8.5%) were conducted to strengthen coordination and response efforts, including with including government officials. Additionally, partners carried out hygiene promotion campaigns (8,1%) aimed to promote social behavior change. Lastly, partners also improved infrastructure (1,6%), including through WASH projects in institutions like schools and healthcare facilities frequently attended by refugees and migrants. These interventions were coordinated with Shelter, Protection, Education and Health Sectors.

Lessons Learned

In 2023, the USD 11.56 million allocated to the WASH Sector covered only 17.4% of partners financial needs for the year. Consequently, response activities were insufficient to comprehensively address the urgent WASH-related needs of refugees, migrants and their host communities across the region. Funding shortfalls and the substantial increase of refugees and migrants in-transit resulted in front-line and shorter-term WASH needs being prioritized, impacting the implementation of longer-term solutions.

The movement trends and dynamics, in particular those involving multidirectional onward and transit movements, seen in 2023 require increased support in 2024 to enhance response capacities, to manage increased movements and to provide partners and institutions with the necessary technical support and tools. Addressing the challenges requires a coordinated and multi-sectoral approach, including building partnerships, strengthening local capacity and ensuring sustainable funding mechanisms.