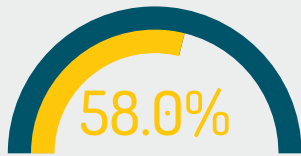




CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO



PEOPLE IN NEED

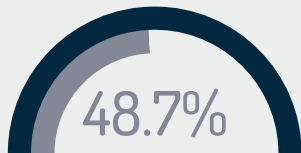
175.1 K

PEOPLE TARGETED

55.6 K

PEOPLE REACHED

32.3 K



TOTAL REQUIREMENTS

\$ 24.08 M

BUDGET RECEIVED*

\$ 11.72 M

UNMET*

\$ 12.36 M

REPORTING PARTNERS

6

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

8

DONORS

10

POPULATION TARGETED AND REACHED, FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND FUNDING

SECTOR	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	%	TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	BUDGET RECEIVED*	UNMET*	%
EDUCATION	1.7 K	632	36.8%	\$ 866.8 K	\$ 17.7 K	\$ 849.1 K	2.0%
FOOD SECURITY	8.1 K	2.3 K	29.1%	\$ 1.22 M	\$ 30.2 K	\$ 1.19 M	2.5%
HEALTH	11.2 K	1.3 K	11.8%	\$ 2.35 M	\$ 57.9 K	\$ 2.29 M	2.5%
HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION	500	-	-	\$ 45.0 K	-	\$ 45.0 K	-
INTEGRATION	14.0 K	1.5 K	10.8%	\$ 6.79 M	\$ 1.13 M	\$ 5.66 M	16.6%
NUTRITION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PROTECTION	19.4 K	19.0 K	98.3%	\$ 7.01 M	\$ 163.6 K	\$ 6.85 M	2.3%
CHILD PROTECTION	760	6.9 K	901.8%	\$ 206.0 K	-	\$ 206.0 K	-
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GVB)	1.1 K	26	2.4%	\$ 656.4 K	\$ 639.1 K	\$ 17.3 K	97.4%
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING	-	-	-	\$ 85.0 K	\$ 9.8 K	\$ 75.2 K	11.6%
SHELTER	6.2 K	2.4 K	39.0%	\$ 1.45 M	\$ 82.8 K	\$ 1.37 M	5.7%
WASH	7.7 K	1.6 K	20.2%	\$ 357.5 K	\$ 31.8 K	\$ 325.7 K	8.9%
MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE (MPC)	3.9 K	1.9 K	48.0%	\$ 2.24 M	\$ 1.87 M	\$ 370.0 K	83.5%

* 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 unearmarked 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.

CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO

SITUATION

Central America and Mexico registered a significant increase in transit movements of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in 2022. A total of 248,290 people crossed the Darien Gap, the highest number ever recorded, representing an increase of 85 per cent over the previous year. Venezuelans (150,327) accounted for the largest group from a single nationality crossing the Darien. The policy changes [announced](#) on 12 October 2022 by the U.S. were followed by a decrease in movements through the Darien, and many refugees and migrants, unable to continue their northbound journeys, were stranded in Central America and Mexico.

In Panama, irregular arrivals of Venezuelans in [2022](#) surpassed those in 2021: October of 2022 alone recorded over 40,000 arrivals, while in [2021](#) fewer than 3,000 refugees and migrants from Venezuela were registered for the full year. An R4V [partner survey](#) showed that the percentage of Venezuelans reporting international protection needs remained high: 38 per cent of respondents reported leaving their country of origin due to violence or threats against them or their families, and another 46 per cent reported leaving their country of origin due to general insecurity. In July, the population in-transit was impacted by large-scale protests held across the country, resulting in the closure of several main roads and the overflow of the Migration Reception Centres (ERMs) in Darien. Many refugees and migrants remained for several days at the ERMs in Panama, as they lacked resources to continue their journeys northwards.

In Costa Rica, as migration movements surged, the government imposed [visa requirements](#) on the entry of Venezuelans. Nevertheless, more than 226,000 entries from Panama were recorded in 2022, with October showcasing the highest monthly figure (60,440). In December, the government introduced [Decree No. 43810](#), which established that persons in-transit who could have applied for asylum in another safe country will not be eligible for asylum in Costa Rica. As many Venezuelans have first passed through Panama, this measure imposed a barrier for asylum-seekers to access international protection. Costa Rica also issued [Decree No. 43809](#), to be effective as of 1 March 2023, establishing a special temporary category to regularize Venezuelan, Cuban and Nicaraguan asylum-seekers whose applications were denied or who are willing to renounce their asylum claims. This temporary status will be valid for two years, renewable indefinitely for the same period and provides a facilitated pathway for naturalization after five years. Those who are granted this status will have the same rights as permanent residents, such as the right to work and to access health care.

In 2022, after the introduction of visa requirements for Venezuelans on 21 January, Mexico registered an increase in entries of Venezuelans via its land border with Guatemala. Over the course of the year, 16,803 Venezuelans were expelled from the U.S. to Mexico under the U.S. Title 42 policy, 97,078 undocumented Venezuelans were intercepted in Mexico and 14,957 asylum claims were filed by Venezuelans in Mexico. In October, after the announcement of the U.S. migration policy

change, shelters in Mexico City registered an occupancy rate of 260 per cent, with Venezuelans accounting for 70 per cent of the overall sheltered population, according to monitoring by R4V partners.

RESPONSE

In 2022, 32,258 refugees and migrants from Venezuela and members of host communities in the sub-region received assistance from R4V partners (16,159 in Panama, 3,055 in Costa Rica, and 13,044 in Mexico), representing 58 per cent of the targeted population. Assistance reached the greatest numbers of people in the areas of Protection (over 19,000 refugees and migrants assisted), Child Protection (6,854), Shelter (2,419) and Food Security (2,344 people reached).

Integration partners promoted activities to enhance the economic integration of refugees and migrants from Venezuela into host communities. In Costa Rica, the Integration Sector carried out training programmes for entrepreneurship and strengthening of soft skills to 101 refugees and migrants, and delivered seed capital for the implementation of business plans. In Panama, more than 1,400 refugees and migrants accessed income-generating activities, through entrepreneurship and formal employment opportunities.

R4V **Health** partners implemented actions to enhance access to primary and specialized health services, and psychosocial support. In Costa Rica, thanks to an agreement with the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), medical insurance was provided to 1,195 refugees and migrants from Venezuela, who also had access to psychosocial support services. In Panama, partners worked on capacity-building efforts for health personnel and provided workshops to support mental health and psychosocial support for people in need. A total of 541 refugees and migrants from Venezuela also received assistance through Cash Assistance (MPC) (CVA) to access specialized health services in Panama. In Mexico, access to primary health care as well as medicines, medical treatments and glasses were provided to 100 people.

Protection partners implemented actions to strengthen protection and access to rights for refugees and migrants from Venezuela. In Costa Rica, partners conducted GBV assessments and referrals for access to justice and support networks. In Mexico, 7,771 refugees and migrants from Venezuela received support and information regarding asylum, visa and naturalization procedures, as well as orientation for access to justice. In Panama, more than 7,600 people received general protection services, including legal counselling, psychosocial support, and access to safe spaces. More than 850 GBV survivors were supported with specialized services.

Education partners fostered education opportunities for refugees and migrants by providing access to school supplies and uniforms for 56 people in Panama. In Mexico, partners provided financial support for the recognition of 555 high school and university degrees, thereby improving refugees' and migrants' access to income generation opportunities.

R4V partners also worked to address emergency **shelter, food security** and **WASH** needs of refugees and migrants in the three countries. In total, 2,419 refugees and migrants were assisted with shelter, 2,344 with food security and 1,553 with WASH support in the three countries. R4V partners in Costa Rica focused on providing cash assistance, food cards and hygiene kits to refugees and migrants in temporary emergency shelters. In Mexico, R4V partners worked with national coordination groups to provide access to safe shelter for over 1,800 people, and provided CVA Multipurpose, including food vouchers, mainly to vulnerable families including single mothers, elderly people and people living with chronic diseases. In Panama, refugees and migrants were provided with cash assistance for short-term rental support while staying at government-led ERMs. In these reception centres, R4V partners provided Venezuelans with non-food items (NFI), hygiene kits and food to meet their basic needs.

LESSONS LEARNED

The impact of COVID-19, political and economic instability in Central America and Mexico, combined with the imposition of visa requirements in the sub-region and the expansion of Title 42 to Venezuelans arriving to the U.S. provoked rapid changes in movement patterns, requiring efforts from partners to adapt their interventions to meet the needs of in-transit and stranded populations.

Scarce resources in the sub-region, in particular at the onset of the new U.S. policy, impeded partners from responding to the increasing needs of refugees and migrants in-transit. The sub-region requires more financial support to respond to protection and humanitarian needs and to strengthen local authorities' capacity in managing mixed movements. 2022 also left as a lesson the need for improving multi-stakeholder coordination involving R4V partners, governmental entities, and host communities, as well as other coordination mechanisms present in the sub-region.

Another challenge is the need for updated data on movements to ensure the development of evidence-based interventions. In Panama, progress has been made in the collection, analysis, and disaggregation of data that has contributed to decision-making and programming for refugees and migrants.

The inclusion of other nationalities in the RMRP 2023-2024 in Panama and Costa Rica has been perceived as a recognition of the complexity of these mixed movements, opening the door to a more integrated response across the sub-region.