



**Accompanied  
and shared  
LIFES**

JRS LAC 2023 Regional  
Annual Report



# Accompanied and Shared Lives JRS LAC

## Regional Annual Report 2023

### Jesuit Refugee Service for Latin America and the Caribbean - JRS LAC

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# » Presentation

## WE PROTECT PEOPLE RAISING HOPE

A few weeks ago, I visited Necoclí (Col) located on the Colombian-Panamanian border. There, I met forced migrants of various nationalities resting on the beach before embarking on their journey through the Caribbean Sea, which connects them with the Darien jungle and eventually to Panama. I could see in their eyes the deep pain they carry, the uncertainty of not knowing what lies ahead, but the total certainty of doing it to protect their lives and find a better future, as a cry for dignity that resists to be taken away: they do not know where they are going, but resilience and hope makes them move forward.

There I thought of the measures of governments in the region that ignore international commitments in terms of protection and human rights. I thought about the injustice that does not guarantee the right to not migrate; I thought of the hostile and hospitable attitudes of local communities; I thought of the high risks along the route, often aggravated by organized crime that profits from human trafficking; I thought of their life projects and the number of family groups with children who made the journey: children who have not decided to move, and who are forced to do so by the circumstances of their families.

A boy of about 7 years old was arguing there with his father. He insisted that he did not want to be living on the beach any longer (they had been there for five months, in inhumane conditions). The boy did not understand why he had to wait there, and not be in his neighborhood, with his friends at the school where they came from in the outskirts of Caracas. His father could not explain to him what was happening, and he burst into tears out of helplessness and frustration. There was a great silence. We listened to them as we made a conscious presence and sought to connect them with humanitarian and social services in the area.

These realities overwhelm us as individuals and organizations. They push us to work together, knowing that refugees and forced migrants need a compassionate and quality response that does them no harm. They demand a prophetic voice to call injustice by its name, to propose paths of greater inclusion, protection and justice, just when it seems that these scenes of pain and violations of their human rights are part of the landscape. We cannot naturalize so much injustice and pain. They are our teachers of humanity, and only with them we can build relevant responses.

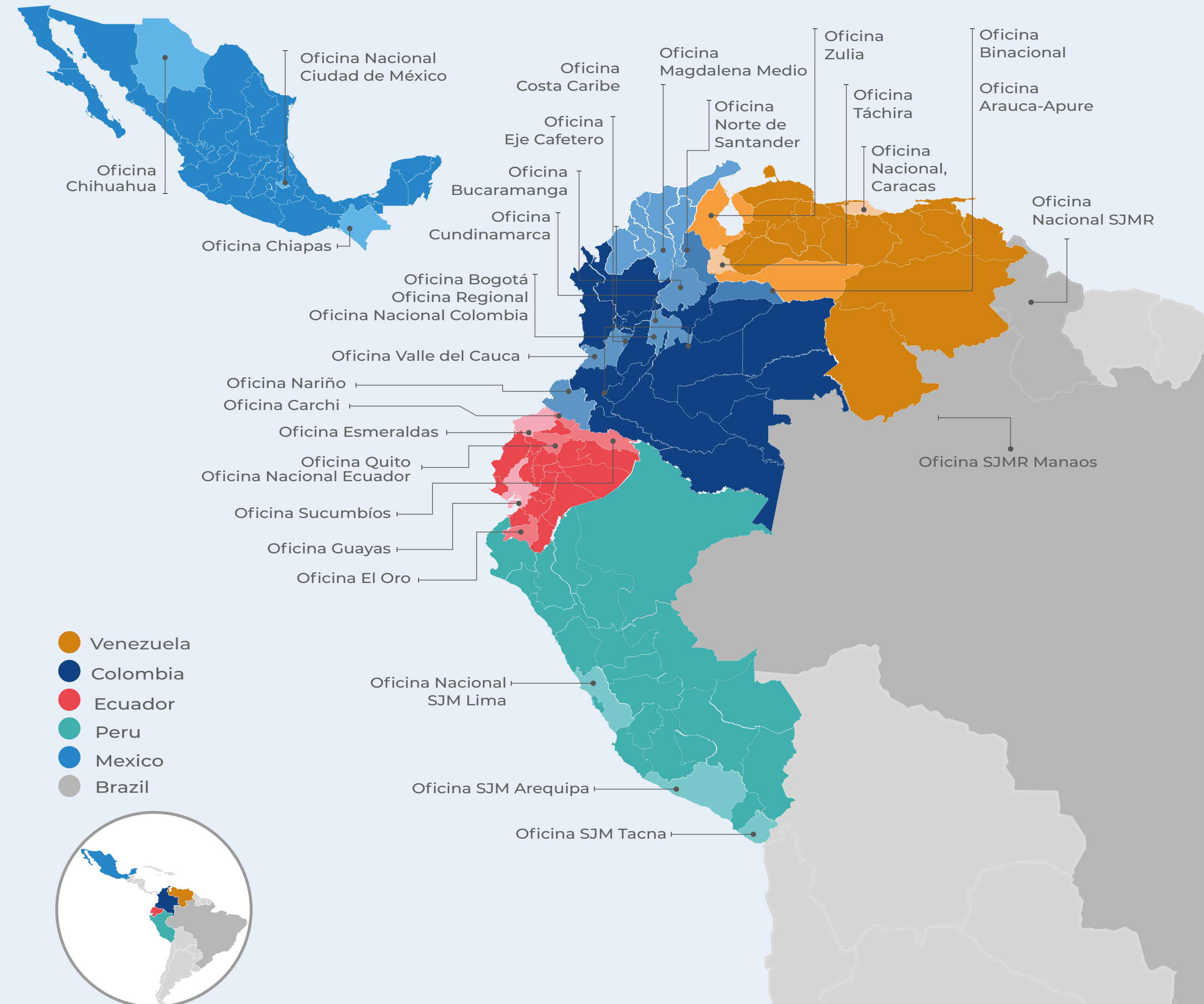
Undoubtedly, in 2023, as JRS in the LAC region, we have become more aware of the need to "expand" our understanding of forced migration as a complex reality, an expression of the unjust system that goes beyond national - interconnected - views and borders, which can only be explained from a panoramic and global view, without detriment to our own particularities. Our Discerned Strategic Framework for Regional Collaborative Action - MED has allowed us to articulate ourselves in the implementation of regional processes from each local and national circumstance.

This understanding has also made us more aware of the relevance of the global and specialized responses that, as a global organization of the Society of Jesus, we can provide from a cross-border and interprovincial perspective. This is the way to develop the "magis" in our apostolic work, as it articulates knowledge, efforts and learning for greater service.

[lac.jrs.net/marcoestrategico2023-2027/](https://lac.jrs.net/marcoestrategico2023-2027/)

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# » Territories with our presence



# 01



## » Regional protection and mental health process



Protection is defined as all those activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of all persons, without discrimination, in accordance with existing legal regimes (Global Protection Cluster, 2016). At the Jesuit Refugee Service - JRS we promote justice by providing protection to refugees (de facto refugees<sup>1</sup>), migrants and forcibly displaced persons, or at risk of being so, from actions that restore Human Rights in light of International Refugee Law, International Humanitarian Law, bearing in mind the recognition of nationality and the prevention of statelessness.

We are guided by the principles for internal displacement and other guarantees established in national constitutions and regulations, as well as in human rights treaties, especially in contexts where the population faces serious abuses, coercion and violence. In this sense, in JRS we understand our work as a commitment to comprehensive protection, where all the people linked to our teams take measures to prevent and reduce risks, as well as to restore the well-being and dignity of people affected by crises, especially the most vulnerable, helping them to mitigate their effects and recover from the situation experienced. Likewise, we work from a conflict-sensitive approach to prevent our actions from generating harm or negative impacts on the lives of the people and communities we accompany.

<sup>1</sup> "There is a certain group of forcibly displaced persons who do not fall into any classic category of protection, and therefore end up being excluded or obtaining a lower level of protection. In view of this, there is an urgent need to achieve a broader and internationally agreed legal definition of refugee, which includes each and every one of the causes that force a person to leave his or her country. In this sense, the figure of the de facto refugee seeks to expand this protection and make visible all those people forced to emigrate due to structural violence, political, economic and social policies that force them to flee their country. economic misfortune or natural calamities, among other causes" (Morera, 2023). "We see the need to call for the use of a broader definition of refuge, such as the one offered by the Catholic Church in the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People in 1992 where the Pontifical Council Cor Unum incorporates the concept "de facto refugee", which refers not only to any person persecuted because of race, religion, membership of social or political groups, but also to "any victim of armed conflict, misguided economic policies or natural disasters, and, for humanitarian reasons, any internally displaced person, that is, any civilian forcibly uprooted from his or her home by the same type of violence that generates refugees." (JRS LAC, 2022).



## Humanitarian assistance

JRS accompaniment is characterized by provide bridges between people to build processes of reconciliation and hospitality, which reestablish in a just way the relationships fragmented by violence. In this sense, for JRS, humanitarian assistance includes complementary actions motivated by a comprehensive approach to accompaniment. because of the identification of needs, the life project of the people accompanied and integrated case management.





**Total by office**

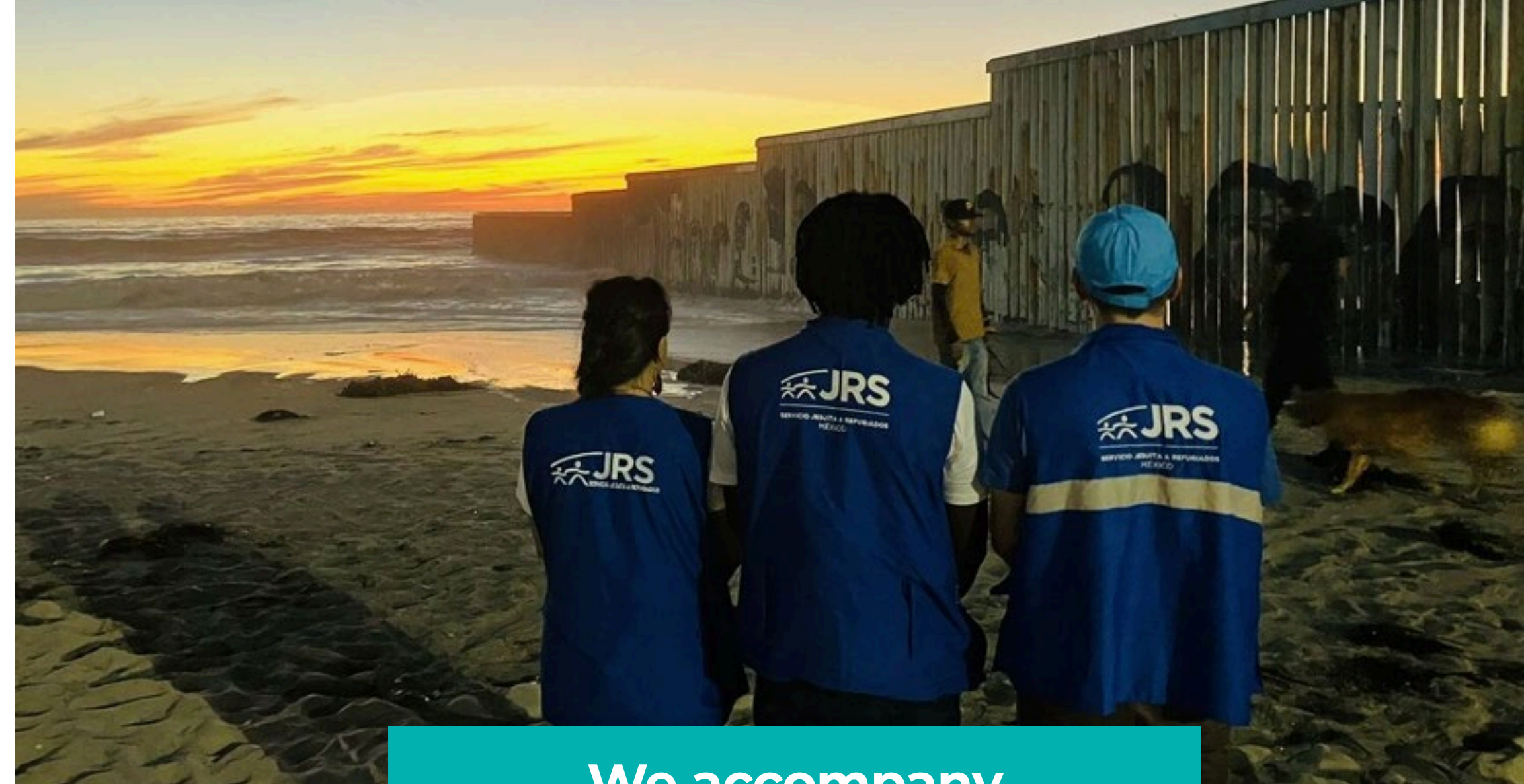
	JRS Mexico	JRS Colombia	JRS Venezuela	JRS Ecuador	SJM Peru	JRS LAC
<b>Persons</b>	1.170	17.481	2.670	6.482	3.293	4.703
<b>Resources</b>	\$148.603,30	\$1.920.674,79	\$110.467,20	\$1.457.000	\$478.746	\$164.046,29

**Regional total**

	Women	Men
<b>Persons</b>	21.716	14.083
	35.799	
<b>Resources</b>	\$4.279.537,58	

**Table 1.** Accompanied population and resources executed 2023: Humanitarian assistance<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> All tables and graphs in this document were prepared in-house. The currency of the amounts referenced in all tables and graphs are U.S. Dollars.



**We accompany**

# Tapachula/Mexico

## Woodley: Accompanying Haitians in Mexico

In the midst of Haiti's economic and humanitarian crisis, Woodley decided to leave his country in search of a better future. Wanting to work in southern Mexico, Woodley found an opportunity through a friend who shared job offers. Among the options, one from the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) caught her attention. This project focused specifically on serving Haitians.

On August 22, 2023, Woodley joined the Tapachula team with the hope of accompanying his compatriots. His goal was to create spaces of reconciliation where people feel welcomed and respected in their lives and dignity. The service provided by the team focuses on the vulnerability criteria: diversity of refugees and migrants in terms of gender, age, health status, disabilities, family situation, among other factors, which increase vulnerability and specific needs.

Woodley found it invaluable to be able to provide information, psychological and legal care in the language and with the elements of culture shared with the Haitians. This closeness and trust proved essential for the people accompanied, who often face multiple barriers and challenges, exacerbated by the language barrier, structural racism, discrimination, aporophobia and xenophobia.

Despite these challenges, Woodley finds satisfaction in accompanying the difficult journey of Haitians, who are often invisible, rejected and violated in transit. His work not only offers immediate support, but also helps to rebuild the dignity and hope of a community struggling to rebuild their life projects in new countries.



## Legal protection and assistance

For JRS, people are at the center of its mission. Therefore, we provide legal orientation as the first level of accompaniment for protection, and legal assistance in which we provide information about rights, institutions and access routes for the guarantee and effective enjoyment of their rights. We also provide accompaniment to interpose mechanisms for the enforceability of rights, including legal representation. In this sense, legal assistance -based on comprehensive protection - contributes to and has an impact on the reduction of gaps and access barriers.



# » 2023

## Total by office

	JRS Mexico	JRS Colombia	JRS Venezuela	JRS Ecuador	SJM Peru	SJMR Brazil	JRS LAC
<b>Persons</b>	7.811	15.148	1.799	10.711	1.773	420	1.717
<b>Resources</b>	\$423.154,36	\$685.955,28	\$86.941,47	\$420.124	\$253.880	\$9.796	\$59.110,95

## Regional total

	Women	Men
<b>Persons</b>	25.088	14.291
	39.379	
<b>Resources</b>	\$1.938.962,06	

**Table 2.** Accompanied population and resources executed 2023: Protection and legal assistance



We accompany

## Ciudad Juárez/México

### Coming into the world at the border: Rosalinda's story

In June 2023, Rosalinda, a young Guatemalan woman several months pregnant, set out on a journey with her brother in search of a better life. They left their native country in the hope of crossing into the United States, having paid a person who guaranteed them the crossing. Their first stop was Ciudad Juarez, where they arrived by air. However, when trying to cross the bridge to the U.S. and 'turn herself in' to the authorities, Rosalinda's water broke.

Far from receiving help, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents sent them back to Mexico. It was at the beginning of the Mexican side of the bridge where Rosalinda, assisted by a security guard, gave birth. The ambulance did not arrive in time to transport her to the hospital. "It was one of the worst days of my life," says Rosalinda about that moment.

After receiving medical attention, Rosalinda and her family were sent to a shelter. There they met the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), who accompanied them through the process of registering

their baby and advised them of their rights in Mexico. Although the process was complex, their persistence paid off: they were able to obtain an early appointment with the civil registry officer.

Days later, Rosalinda, her baby and her brother finally crossed into the United States and are now living in Washington, D.C.

D.C. with family members. Thanks to Rosalinda's persistence and struggles - and the accompaniment of JRS - the baby was registered and obtained her birth certificate.

Rosalinda's story is a testimony of struggle and hope during adversity, a reflection of the difficulties faced by thousands of migrants in their search for dignified and peaceful living conditions.







## Health

From JRS we try to ensure that the accompaniment is of quality to meet the needs of people in a timely, differentiated and intersectional manner, so that protection is materialized as a comprehensive humanitarian response. Although JRS does not specialize in health response, the commitment to comprehensive accompaniment has led to the creation of agreements with specialized institutions that follow quality criteria as a mechanism for access to medical consultations, specialized medicine, care for pregnant and lactating women, medical examinations, specialized diagnoses, and access to treatments and medicines for chronic or catastrophic diseases. This process is complemented by legal advice for individuals and communities to access the right to health in the public systems of each country.





**Total by office**

	JRS Mexico	JRS Colombia	JRS Ecuador	JRS LAC
<b>Persons</b>	230	3.498	126	719
<b>Resources</b>	\$264.479,5	\$341.125,7	\$81.526	\$51.438,38

**Regional total**

	Women	Men
<b>Persons</b>	3.000	1.573
	4.573	
<b>Resources</b>	\$738.569,67	

**Table 3.** Accompanied population and resources executed 2023: Health



**We accompany**

**Buenaventura/Colombia**

**Oral health and self-esteem: alliances for a right to health**

The district of Buenaventura, located on Colombia's Pacific coast, is known for its high biodiversity and the resilience of its inhabitants. However, this territory has been affected by a series of situations and barriers to accessing rights, such as armed conflict, historical exclusion, racism, poverty and corruption. One of the most affected areas has been effective access to health, which not only causes physical damage to people, but also affects their dignity and mental health.

In response to this crisis, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), with its historical presence in the territory through education, integration and protection actions, has joined forces with strategic allies to develop health workshops. One of these initiatives included a space for oral rehabilitation aimed at the communities of Santa Rosa de Guayacan, San Isidro and Valledupar.

During these days, an average of 361 people were attended, who -due to the difficult access to preventive health services- had lost dental pieces, affecting their physical and mental health. These interventions not only helped restore participants' oral health, but also contributed to improving their overall well-being and self-esteem.

The inter-agency actions led by JRS Colombia, and its partners represent an important step in the fight for the right to health in Buenaventura. By addressing structural barriers and providing essential services, these initiatives seek to restore dignity and improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable communities in this region of the country.



## Mental Health MHPSS

Our programs are oriented to provide quality services that seek the psychosocial well-being and mental health of refugees, migrants and forcibly displaced persons, who live constant vulnerabilities and violence in places of origin, transit and reception. This is why JRS has developed individual, family, group and community Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) that recognize the needs, plans and life projects of refugees, migrants and forcibly displaced persons.

In the Latin American and Caribbean region, these processes seek to accompany the management of emotions, the strengthening of support networks, the development of life skills ("soft skills"), the mitigation of health impacts caused by traumatic events or violence, the work on family roles and functions, thus acquiring elements to build a culture of reconciliation and hospitality.



# » 2023

## Total by office

	JRS Mexico	JRS Colombia	JRS Venezuela	JRS Ecuador	SJM Peru	JRS LAC
<b>Persons</b>	1.809	5.487	1.238	3.271	2.468	60
<b>Resources</b>	\$105.614,74	\$357.407,62	\$21.954,29	\$92.214	\$117.624	\$45.970,25

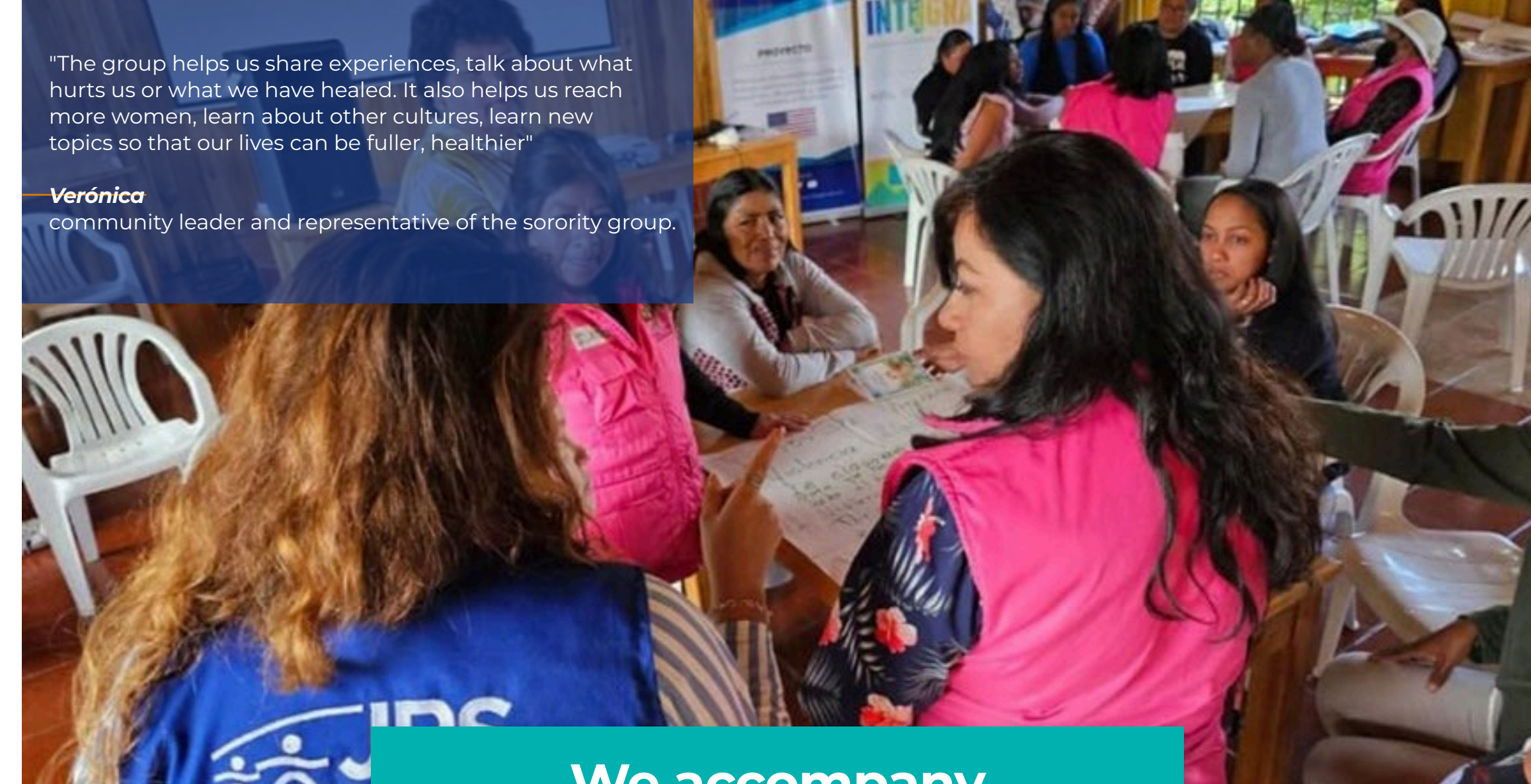
## Regional total

	Women	Men
<b>Persons</b>	10.171	4.162
	14.333	
<b>Resources</b>	\$740.784,90	

**Table 4.** Accompanied population and resources executed 2023: Mental Health - MHPSS

"The group helps us share experiences, talk about what hurts us or what we have healed. It also helps us reach more women, learn about other cultures, learn new topics so that our lives can be fuller, healthier"

**Verónica**  
community leader and representative of the sorority group.



**We accompany**

## Quito/Ecuador

### Sorority on the move: care and support among women

In the south of the city of Quito, La Argelia shelter house has been an essential refuge for families in a situation of forced human mobility since 2018. This house has become a beacon of hope for many women and their families who, escaping violence and other situations in their countries of origin, seek new life opportunities in Ecuador. There, a story of sisterhood and empowerment was woven transforming the lives of many women.

The women and the technical team that accompanies them saw the possibility of creating a sorority group to have a safe space and continuous support for women victims of gender-based violence (GBV) in addition to the individual therapy space to continue with their processes in a collective way.

The idea was simple and powerful: sorority, understood as solidarity and mutual support among women, could be a key tool to foster empowerment, self-esteem, resilience and use of free time among the participants. They - mainly Colombian, Venezuelan and Ecuadorian - began this journey to weave and share life experiences.

The creation of the sorority group allowed them to have a space to learn together and build strong support networks through manual activities, art and other skills. The activities and themes are developed according to an annual action plan developed through a participatory diagnosis with and for the participating women.

The meetings not only offered emotional support, but also the development of practical skills and knowledge to improve their autonomy and decision-making capacity. Recreational and community activities were also organized, such as celebrations of carnival, Christmas, Mother's Day and Saint Valentine's Day, which strengthened the sense of belonging and local integration.

This group has allowed linkages with other women's networks at the local level and with the Ministry of Women and Human Rights to strengthen their capacities. For many of the participants, leaving the shelter marked the beginning of a new stage full of challenges, such as finding housing and employment, and continuing their emotional recovery processes in an environment that could often be hostile. The sorority group made it possible to mitigate the feeling of isolation and strengthen accompaniment through the exchange of experiences, since violence comes in many forms.



# 02



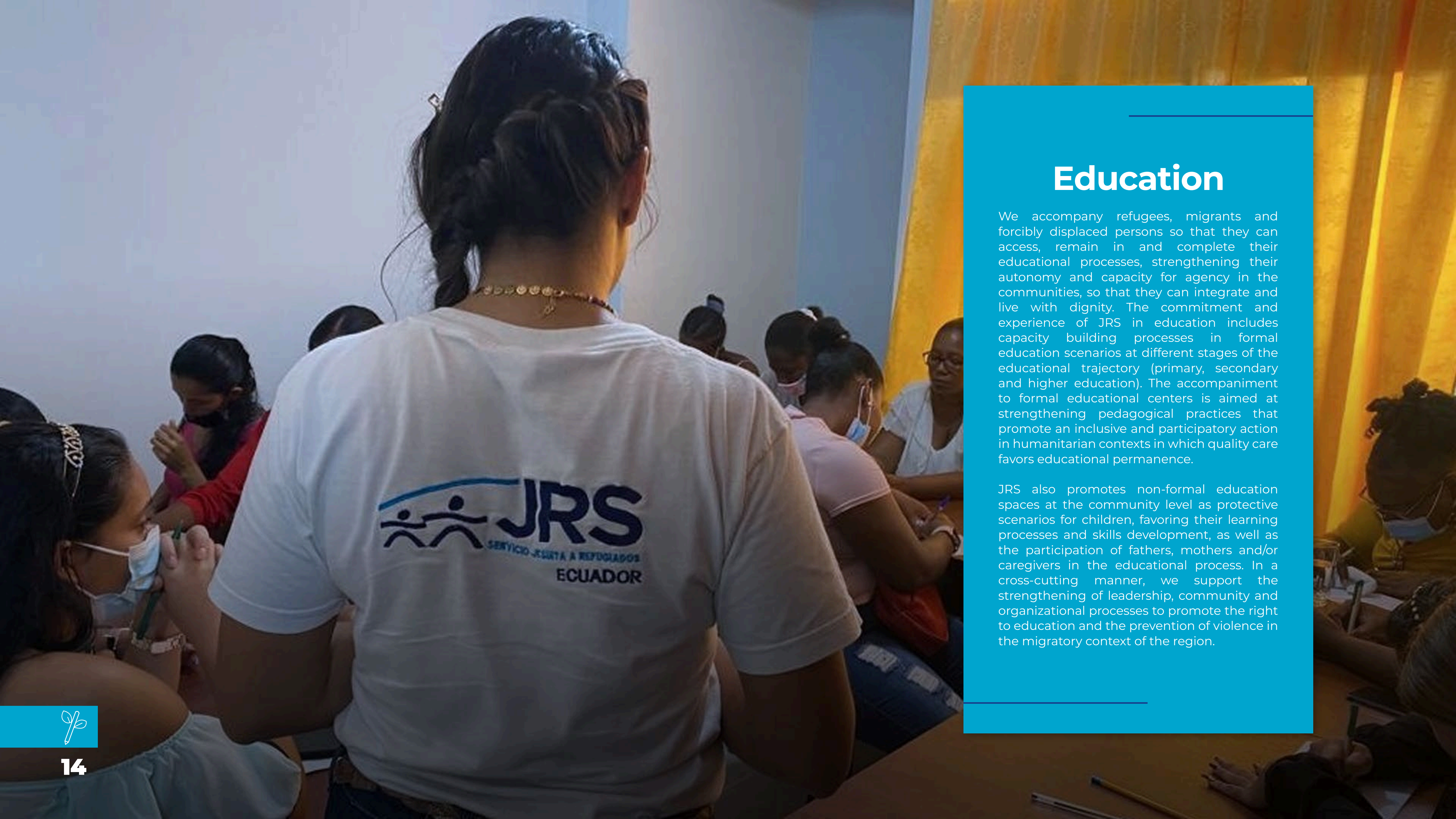
## » Regional Education and Livelihoods Process

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For JRS, education is a fundamental universal right that States must guarantee, regardless of where people come from. We recognize that access to education provides stability and a sense of stability in the lives of refugees (de facto refugees), migrants and forcibly displaced persons. It also generates hope as it prepares them to face future challenges and offers them opportunities to integrate into new social, economic and cultural contexts.

In this sense, JRS is committed to ensuring that children and adolescents who have been forced to migrate - leaving their homes and communities behind - are not deprived of their right to education and the possibility of forging a path towards a productive and hopeful future. We also seek to offer opportunities through education -especially non-formal education- to young people and adults to accompany their socioeconomic integration processes in the places of transit and destination.



## Education

We accompany refugees, migrants and forcibly displaced persons so that they can access, remain in and complete their educational processes, strengthening their autonomy and capacity for agency in the communities, so that they can integrate and live with dignity. The commitment and experience of JRS in education includes capacity building processes in formal education scenarios at different stages of the educational trajectory (primary, secondary and higher education). The accompaniment to formal educational centers is aimed at strengthening pedagogical practices that promote an inclusive and participatory action in humanitarian contexts in which quality care favors educational permanence.

JRS also promotes non-formal education spaces at the community level as protective scenarios for children, favoring their learning processes and skills development, as well as the participation of fathers, mothers and/or caregivers in the educational process. In a cross-cutting manner, we support the strengthening of leadership, community and organizational processes to promote the right to education and the prevention of violence in the migratory context of the region.



"JRS has touched a chord in all of us and made us feel that we are not alone, that we have people who are also committed to education."

**Emilse Gómez**  
Machirí N.S. Principal



**We accompany**

# San Cristóbal/Venezuela

## School of the Heart: Teachers who teach with their souls

In San Cristobal, Venezuela, two educational institutions, E.N. Machirí and U.E. Walda de Marquez, face a bleak situation. Without access to basic services such as water, electricity, food and health, with a weakened infrastructure and low salaries, the outlook is discouraging. Despite these conditions, the teachers continue to teach with unwavering determination, convinced that hope lies with the children.

In the midst of violence and economic hardship in the country, they try to create protective and safe environments with the few tools at their disposal. Their work goes beyond simple teaching; it is an act of resistance and faith in a better future.

Together with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) they have developed a process based on Ignatian Spirituality. This approach invites them to reflect on their vocation and the importance of their role in generating hope in times of crisis.

Each teacher has created a personal logbook to describe their experiences and the most beautiful experiences of their career, as a way of raising awareness and recognition of their vocation.

Despite the poor salary conditions, the willingness and disposition of the teaching staff have been crucial for the creation of safe spaces for well-being. These educational communities have become places where appreciation, mutual recognition and the strengthening of relationships between students, their families and teachers are fostered.

In addition to seeking an improvement in current conditions, the JRS initiative seeks to contribute to the reconstruction of a hopeful future for Venezuela. In a crisis context, they teach with their soul, demonstrating that, even in the darkest moments, education and hope can flourish.

### Total by office

	JRS Colombia	JRS Venezuela	JRS Ecuador	SJM Peru	SJMR Brazil	JRS LAC
<b>Persons</b>	11.290	102	308	292	492	592
<b>Resources</b>	\$1.113.907,70	\$19.131,28	\$36.113	\$7.894	\$6.607	\$59.991,51

### Regional total

	Women	Men
<b>Persons</b>	8.367	4.709
	13.076	
<b>Resources</b>	\$1.243.644,49	

**Table 5.** Accompanied population and resources executed 2023: Education



## Livelihoods

JRS accompanies refugees, migrants and forcibly displaced persons to create spaces, based on their capacity for agency, where they can explore and enhance their skills, and thus take steps to rebuild their life projects through two distinct strategies. In the first place, an accompaniment to entrepreneurs, which includes education processes in soft skills, finance, marketing, value chain, production and other relevant topics to strengthen their enterprises; as well as the capitalization and recapitalization of productive units and a sustained process over time for follow-up and accompaniment. Secondly, a strategy for employability through higher education processes that allows them to complete their educational trajectories and influencing socioeconomic integration through formal, informal and non-formal education processes, while generating incentives for the business sector to hire migrants, refugees or forcibly displaced persons accompanied by JRS.





# » 2023

## Total by office

	JRS Mexico	JRS Colombia	JRS Venezuela	JRS Ecuador	SJM Peru	JRS LAC
<b>Persons</b>	8	5.155	270	434	1.272	38
<b>Resources</b>	\$5.572,61	\$1.371.910,57	\$31.662,23	\$138.731	\$388.500	\$67.580,33

## Regional total

	Women	Men
<b>Persons</b>	4.951	2.226
	7.177	
<b>Resources</b>	\$2.003.956,74	

**Table 6.** Accompanied population and resources implemented 2023: Livelihoods

"My motivation has changed, my self-esteem has been strengthened because of this."

**Lisbeth**  
Venezuelan in Peru



**We accompany**

# Lima/Perú

**Matheo's Creations: A Form of Resilience**

Lisbeth, a Venezuelan woman with a vocation for education, clearly remembers the moment of deep depression she experienced in her native country. The economic crisis and the separation from her children, who had migrated to Peru, led her to live in despair. Finally, she decided to leave Venezuela and set out for Peru with her daughter and grandson.

Upon arriving in Peru, Lisbeth faced new challenges. Shut in and distanced from others, her depression made it difficult for her to form bonds with new people. One day, however, she made a firm decision: "No, I'm not going to shut myself away. She decided to go out and make friends, one of whom invited her to a spiritual workshop. This workshop marked the beginning of a personal transformation, helping her to strengthen her support network in her new home.

In Venezuela, Lisbeth worked as a teacher, while in Peru she found a new form of expression and livelihood in sewing. With the income she earned from her sewing work, she supported her daughter

with household expenses. Thanks to a fellow countrywoman, Lisbeth learned about the support provided by Encuentros SJM Peru, where she began attending workshops that strengthened her creative and administrative skills.

in the workshops as that of a teenager going back to school, enjoying learning, laughing a lot and making new friends, both from Venezuela and Peru. The sewing and overlocker machines that she received significantly improved the quality and speed of her production, allowing her to devote more time to her home and to sharing with her grandson.

Lisbeth has managed to turn her depression into a form of resilience. Through her business, she has rebuilt the bonds fragmented by the various forms of violence experienced in her country. "Creaciones Matheo's" is not just a business, but a symbol of her ability to reinvent herself and find hope in the midst of adversity.



# 03



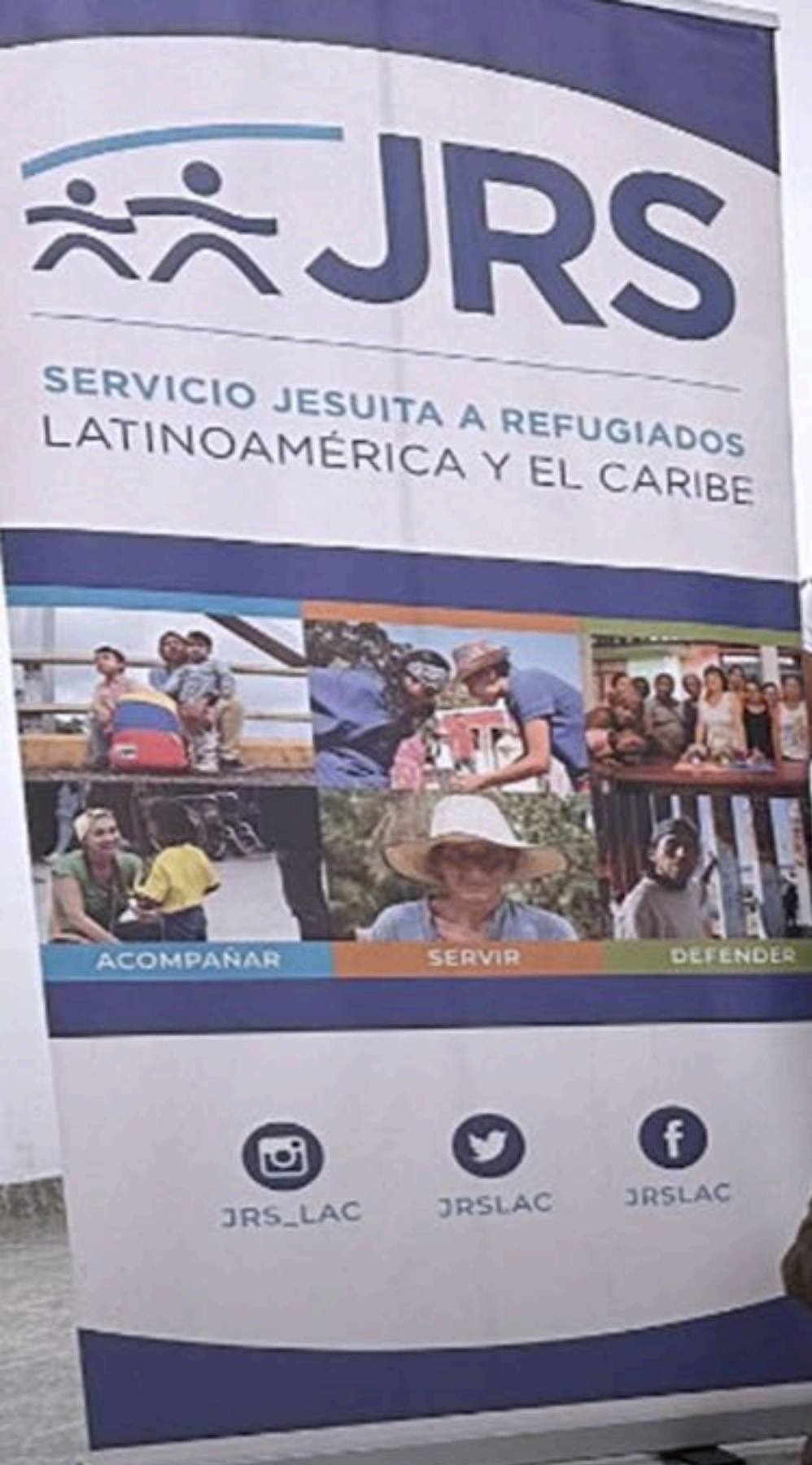
## » Regional Reconciliation Process

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From JRS LAC we understand reconciliation as a call and an option to "re-unite what was broken", which is expressed in a way of proceeding aimed at promoting just relationships at the level of JRS teams, people and communities that have been fragmented by violence and conflicts in Latin America and the Caribbean, so that their life projects develop in a framework of hospitality, respect, dignity and guaranteed rights, generating political, social, cultural, environmental and spiritual conditions that promote the culture of encounter and help to overcome the cycles of violence.

Therefore, it is possible to recognize that the dialogue between the Strategic Framework for Regional Collaborative Action, national autonomy and contextual needs generate a specific call that must be heeded: to discuss, reflect and bet, so that reconciliation becomes a way of proceeding that allows the development of principles that can be appropriated in the territories, makes it possible to measure the impacts of actions and contributes to the re-establishment of fair relations as an institutional commitment.



**Cross-border School of Citizenship Arauca-Apure**

Leaders strengthen their capacities to exercise their citizenship in Arauquita, Tame, Saravena and in Llano Alto, La Victoria and Resguardo Resguardo Indígena Macaguán del Vigía.



# » 2023

## Total by office

	JRS Mexico	JRS Colombia	JRS Venezuela	JRS Ecuador	JRS LAC
<b>Persons</b>	144	3.581	4.373	280	192
<b>Resources</b>	\$204.441,82	\$173.972,33	\$113.904,14	\$28.226	\$29.450,09

## Regional total

	Women	Men
<b>Persons</b>	5.951	2.619
	8.570	
<b>Resources</b>	\$549.994,38	

**Table 6.** Accompanied population and executed resources 2023: Reconciliation



**We accompany**

# Apure/Venezuela

**Your Refuge, Your Community: Llano Alto**

In the municipality of Paez, Apure State (Venezuela), the Llano Alto community has found a refuge in solidarity and working together. Accompanied by JRS, this community has seen how community empowerment and local integration can transform lives. Through training, recreation and dialogues of hope projects, leaders have worked tirelessly to make their community a better place for all its inhabitants.

Greyllis Suárez, one of the leaders, expresses with gratitude: "JRS has been a companion in our process, it has completely fulfilled its mission to accompany, serve and defend our community". Yulis Baldayo, another of the leaders, shares how she has experienced the accompaniment by JRS: "JRS for me means family, growth, knowledge, leadership. JRS has been a fundamental part of my growth as a person, as a leader, it has taught me to be confident in my abilities, and that we must make our dreams come true. Spiritually it has been a very important strengthening, I will always be very grateful to this great family.

The empowerment of community leaders has been key to organize and establish objectives that allow for effective decision making and the strengthening of the social fabric. An outstanding example of this empowerment is the creation of the "Adrian Tech Bomb" school, among other initiatives that have emerged thanks to joint work and constant dedication.

These efforts have been guided by a focus on hospitality, peace-building and reconciliation, values that have strengthened the bonds within the community. By recognizing shared humanity, Llano Alto has been able to cohere its social fabric, providing an environment where people feel welcomed and can rebuild their lives to the fullest.

The initiatives in Llano Alto not only represent the materialization of concrete projects, but also a path of work and continuous accompaniment. The community continues to work with perseverance and dedication to realize the prioritized initiatives, always with the goal of building a better future where everyone can prosper.



# 04



## » Regional Advocacy and Communication Process

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In JRS we understand Communication as a human dimension and capacity (personal, interpersonal, community and social) in constant transformation, which allows understanding, "shaping" and building different human realities from the actors, contexts and intentions that interact with each other. We also understand Advocacy as the set of political, legal, social and community actions that seek to influence people and entities that make decisions.

The aim is to establish a culture of integral protection, hospitality and reconciliation that allows for the full guarantee of the human rights of the people accompanied by the company.

In this sense, our bet is to strategically develop an incident communication and a communicative incidence from a comprehensive protection approach that influences and raises public, political and social awareness on regional realities, especially from the experiences and voices of refugees (de facto refugees), migrants and forcibly displaced persons. We seek to contribute to the transformation of society so that people are treated fairly, can coexist peacefully, integrate, participate and live with dignity.

## Conversatorio

Desafíos y respuestas para  
la protección de los derechos  
de las mujeres que migran

Día Mundial de las Personas

[invisibilizadas.mujeresenmarcha.org](http://invisibilizadas.mujeresenmarcha.org)



Angie, Afro-Colombian refugee in Ecuador, participated in the *Mujeres en Marcha* (Women on the move) in Madrid, where was presented the report *Invisibilizadas, Mujeres migrantes en el cruce de fronteras* (Invisible, Migrant women in border crossings). There, she highlighted how gender affects women's migratory experiences, underlining their migration experiences and underscoring the importance of the challenges women face.

# » 2023

## Total by office

	JRS Mexico	JRS Colombia	JRS Venezuela	JRS Ecuador	JRS LAC
Persons	70	1.689	0	0	633
Resources	\$172.616,40	\$201.783,94	\$13.594,12	\$99.945	\$119.757

## Regional total

	Women	Men
Persons	1.659	733
	2.392	
Resources	\$607.696,92	

**Table 7.** Accompanied population and executed resources 2023: Advocacy and Communication

"We need inclusive migration policies, with a gender perspective, that contribute to reduce the risks that we experience at every stage of migration".

**Angie Torres**  
Afro-Colombian refugee in Ecuador



We accompany

# Ecuador

Voice and experience of young refugee at the Global Forum on Refugees 2023

Angie, a young Colombian woman, was forced to leave her country to Ecuador in search of International Protection, even as a minor, due to the prolonged armed conflict that exacerbated the violence in her homeland. In the process, she emerged as a leader, dedicated to promoting the integrity and dignity of those forced to leave their homes. However, her journey was also marked by painful experiences: violence, rejection, discrimination and xenophobia on the part of state institutions, authorities and society, complicating her personal and community efforts.

With the accompaniment of JRS (territorial and national office in Ecuador, LAC regional office and international office), Angie was part of the official JRS delegation to the World Refugee Forum 2023 held in Geneva, where she also called on the governments of the LAC region to effectively implement the Cartagena Declaration in view of the Cartagena +40 Process, to be held during the year 2024. She also participated in other advocacy spaces in Madrid (together with other Jesuit works such as Entreculturas, Jesuit Migrant Service and the Pontifical University of Comillas),

to discuss the reality experienced by refugees, migrants and forcibly displaced persons in the Latin American and Caribbean region, as well as integration and protection efforts.

This experience strengthened her conviction to empower refugees and migrants to raise their voices in decision-making spaces. For this reason, she emphasizes the importance of financing and supporting projects that promote their organizational capacities, with gender, rights, intersectionality and generational approaches, adapted to their needs.

Angie insists on the need for inclusive migration policies with a gender perspective, emphasizing that advocacy and communication are fundamental to expand spaces where people's stories and rights are recognized and respected, just as she experienced. Angie is one of the faces of forced migration in Latin America and the Caribbean that motivate us to continue creating inclusive and participatory spaces that empower displaced people to be agents of change from their own life projects.





# Research

In JRS we conceive of research as a multidisciplinary field that allows us to understand, reflect and act in relation to the movements of refugees, migrants and forcibly displaced persons. In addition, we explore the motivations, causes and effects of migration to develop our own analysis of the realities people face. With this knowledge, we can generate advocacy actions that promote their comprehensive protection.

In 2023, research and analysis were conducted on the context of the countries where forced migration arises or occurs, which made it possible to identify risks, vulnerabilities, impacts, as well as opportunities for reconciliation and hospitality for and with refugees, migrants and forcibly displaced persons.







## Published research:

Research Forced Internal Displacement in Mexico

06 July 2023

Humanitarian Border Monitoring - Arauca and Apure Border

July 17, 2024

Regional Context Report - Semester I 2023: Trends in Forced Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean

06 December 2023

Cross-Border Humanitarian Monitoring - Southern Border of Colombia and Northern Ecuador

11 December 2023

Cross-Border Humanitarian Monitoring - Southern Border of Ecuador and Northern Perut

December 18, 2023

Transboundary Humanitarian Monitoring - Triple Border Peru, Chile and Bolivia



**We accompany**

**Perú/Colombia/Ecuador/Venezuela/Bolivia/Chile**

### **Cross-border monitoring: A commitment to border work**

In 2023, cross-border humanitarian monitoring exercises were carried out to systematize the knowledge of local teams about the situation in the border areas of Arauca and Apure, southern Colombia, northern and southern Ecuador, northern Peru, and the triple border: Peru, Chile and Bolivia. Teams from JRS Colombia, JRS Ecuador, JRS LAC, Encuentros SJM Peru, SJM Chile and SJM Bolivia participated in the experiences and contributed to each exercise from their daily work of care and accompaniment of refugees, migrants and forcibly displaced persons.

For these research exercises, JRS LAC was able to promote transnational and cross-border approaches, beginning to weave in the perspectives of protection, reconciliation and multilevel advocacy. This, to enhance the work at the borders in an integral way, with greater impact and effective collaboration between the various works of the Society of Jesus and other allied actors present at the borders.

At the same time, the intention to promote interprovincial work was deepened, in such a way that the actions and decisions of the Jesuit provinces are articulated with national plans and work teams; thus, the work in border areas can be articulated for a more significant and protective impact.

These experiences made it possible to recognize each other among the members of each work team, and to strengthen ties and relationships to share experiences, articulate referrals and other actions that arise in cross-border territories, which are always dynamic and changing.

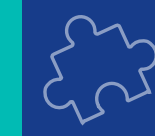


# 05



## » Regional Collaborative Management Process

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This process seeks to promote in the region an organizational culture based on transparency, trust and collaboration that leads to collective innovation by implementing continuous learning strategies within the organization, which have a positive impact on the operation of JRS and ensure the quality of services to refugees, migrants and forcibly displaced persons (according to The Core Humanitarian Standard - CHS) that provide technical guidelines for the accompaniment of refugees. To this end, we strengthen capacities for regional management and collaboration at all levels (local, national, regional and global), promoting peer-to-peer meetings, and the interdependence of the different actors.

The company is committed to teamwork, learning by doing, knowledge management and the generation of agreements to jointly respond to common problems.

We support each other in the implementation of policies, procedures and tools that ensure effective, quality and financially sustainable operations, adapting those developed by the JRS international system. We manage and execute projects that allow us to guarantee and sustain the development of the mission at all levels, as well as monitor our progress and impact. We generate mechanisms to articulate and cooperate with the provinces, the networks of the Society of Jesus in the region and the humanitarian community, promoting collaborative governance.



Accompaniment to local and national offices, providing comprehensive, integrated, integrative and inclusive care to refugees, migrants, and forcibly displaced persons.



# » 2023

These are the policies and practices that have been built in the countries, which allow us to improve our accompaniment with and for people:

- ### Colombia
- Internal Regulations
  - Internal Code of Conduct
  - Child Safeguarding Policy
  - Interactive Induction Guide
  - Personal Data Protection Policy
  - Administrative Manual
  - Compensation Policy
  - Permit Policy
  - Labor Disconnection Policy
  - Telework Policy
  - Safety, Security and Risk Management Policy
  - OSHMS Policy
  - Tobacco, alcohol and drug policy
  - Policy for the prevention of harassment

- ### Venezuelat
- PQR for Sexual Abuse and Harassment Prevention and Child Protection Policy

- ### Ecuador
- Prevention Protocol against Sexual Violence PEASt

- ### Oficina Regional JRS LAC
- Manuales de funciones y competencias transversales
  - Human Resources Procedures (Selection, hiring, induction, performance evaluation and termination).
  - Regional security policy
  - MEAL Policy



**We accompany**

## Latin America and the Caribbean

### Strengthening of National Offices

In 2019, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) International Office launched the analysis process known as Strengthening Country Offices (SCO), with the objective of improving country operations and moving towards institutional sustainability. This effort intensified in 2023, when JRS LAC was invited to participate and support in this process.

Participation in SCO, in collaboration with the country offices, allowed us to identify various opportunities for improvement and capacity building. The focus is on ensuring a long-term sustainable operation, covering both financial and programmatic aspects. This comprehensive approach seeks to offer a quality response to the people accompanied by JRS, as well as to maintain a solid and reliable reputation with communities, partner organizations and donors.

The success of this process was based on the facilitation of the dialogue between the four levels of the organization: local, national, regional and international. Through this dialogue, it was possible to analyze and evaluate internally the performance in four strategic areas of JRS:

programmatic, financial, projects and human resources.

So far, OCS tools have been implemented in three countries in the LAC region -Ecuador, Peru and Mexico- and are expected to be applied in Colombia and Venezuela, with the aim of carrying out a regional analysis to identify common factors and promote collaborative work in the region.

To continue strengthening this effort, the will for change and action has been fostered among the teams, directorates and provinces. We have also promoted the development of institutional leadership committed to the process, with the firm conviction that it will take JRS to the next level of operation, characterized by quality, integrity and accountability. This commitment is essential to achieve self-sustainability and ensure transparent and effective accountability.



# 06



## » Regional Care and Development Process



This process aims to ensure actions of well-being and care (integral, integrated and value based), contributing to the development of people and their capabilities, linked to the performance of their functions for the organizational mission in interdependence with the four levels (local, national, regional and global). To this end, we accompany each other in the development of our identity, mission and collaborative governance from Ignatian leadership, which promotes and embodies our values, based on participatory discernment, co-responsibility, the principle of subsidiarity, solidarity and care for the common home.

One of its effects is to ensure a work environment free of discrimination and respectful of diversity, promoting free access to complaint and accountability mechanisms, better service and helping to care for safety by identifying and managing the risks of the context in which we work. In this way we promote a culture of care that reconciles.

Together we built a path of mutual trust that allows us to recognize each other as JRS teams, with the mission to accompany and protect the most vulnerable people in the region.





**We accompany**

**Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Spaces for reconnection with the Source of Life**

In the year 2023, spiritual exercises were carried out with the local JRS Office in Cúcuta (Norte de Santander, Colombia), the Arauca-Apure Binational and the Regional office. The objective of these exercises was to accompany the teams in their reconnection with the source of life and in their personal and spiritual projections.

For four days, these spaces were based on the legacy of St. Ignatius and his Spiritual Exercises, which motivate service and freedom as part of a process of personal transformation. This methodology allowed the connection of the local and global mission, achieving greater efficiency in the use of resources and the achievement of results.

These experiences allowed the concept of Ignatian leadership (identity) and reconciliation (mission) to take root in the lives of the people who are part of JRS. These values are essential to accompany the most vulnerable people in hostile and hopeless contexts.

To achieve this objective, we used participatory discernment and worked with six key tools of Ignatian leadership:

- 1. Step back:** a tool that invites reflection and self-criticism.
- 2. Bilateral accompaniment:** an approach that fosters collaboration and mutual support.
- 3. Process task tracking:** a practice to ensure compliance and efficiency in projects.
- 4. Juntanza:** which promotes union and teamwork.
- 5. Discerning strategic planning:** which seeks a more reflective decision-making process aligned with the organization's values.
- 6. Institutional discernment networks:** to strengthen communication and collaboration between different areas and levels of the organization.

The purpose of these tools is to transform the organizational culture of JRS, turning it into an integrated and discerning global body. A body that understands forced human mobility and co-creates experiences adapted to each context, in order to re-signify its mission to reconcile and re-establish just relationships that have been fragmented by various forms of violence.

As expressed during these exercises: "There is no global collaboration if we fail to root ourselves in a common identity".

No. of experiences	JRS Office	Date	Component
1	Local office JRS Colombia Cúcuta, Norte de Santander	February 27 to March 01	In the Key of Reconciliation
1	Bi-national JRS LAC Office Tame, Arauca	October 23 to 26	In the Key of Reconciliation
1	Regional Office JRS LAC Chinauta, Bogota	November 20 to 24	In the Key of Ignatian Leadership

**Table 8.** Care and development experiences 2023



# 07

## » **Operation summary**

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## Our regional impact

# 125.299

accompanied persons

with

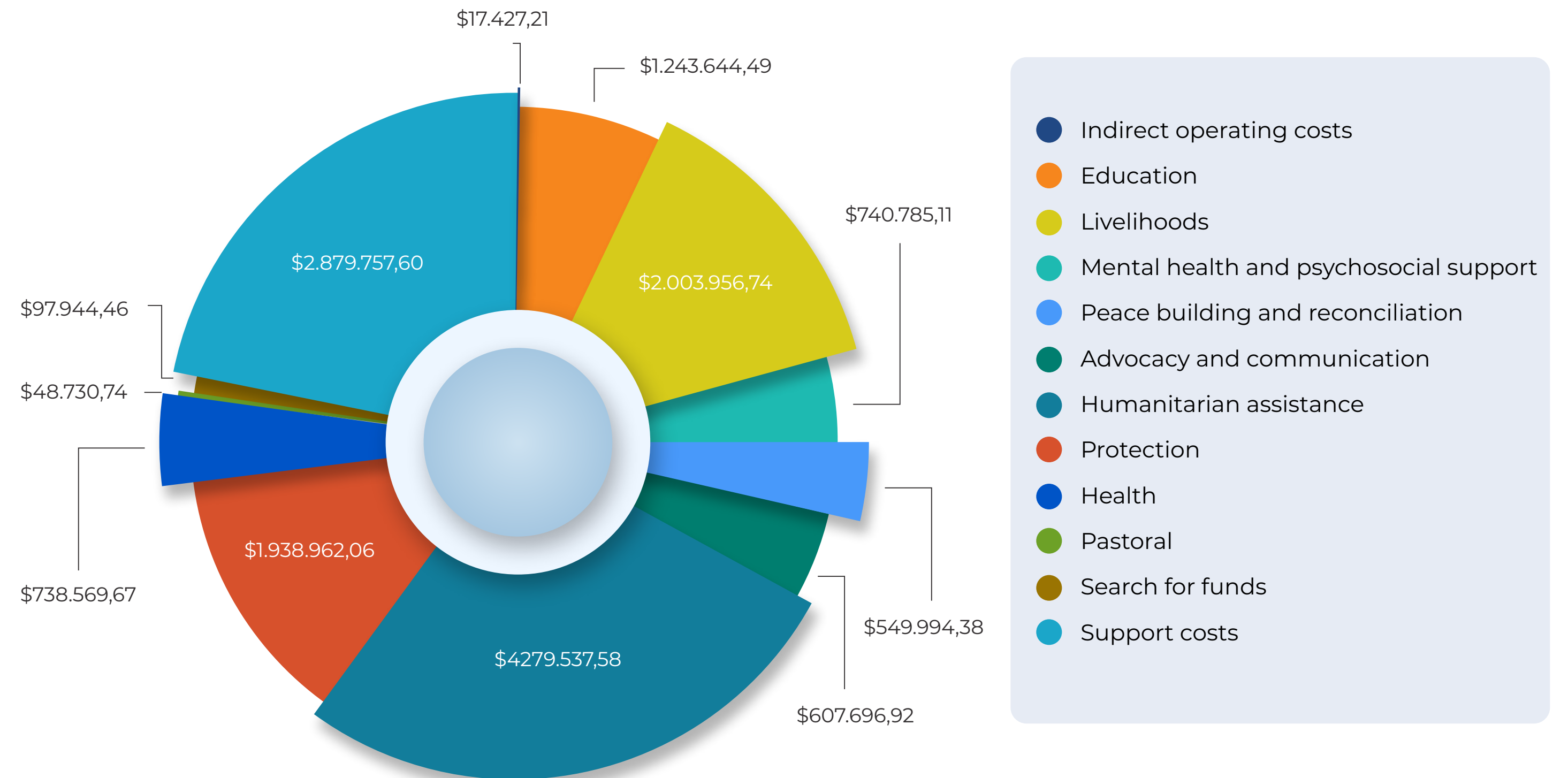
# \$15.146.014

USD

executed

	JRS Mexico	JRS Colombia	JRS Venezuela	JRS Ecuador	SJM Peru	SJMR Brazil	JRS LAC	Totals
<b>Resources executed</b>	\$2.002.893,12	\$6.859.552,82	\$ 566.415,40	\$3.170.956,00	\$1.246.644	\$16.403	\$1.283.149,67	<b>\$15.146.014</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	\$2.002.893,11	\$6.867.288,19	\$566.415,40	\$3.170.956,00	\$1.513.200,00	\$21.181,26	\$1.352.874,78	<b>\$15.494.809</b>

**Table 9.** Resources executed and revenues in the region in 2023



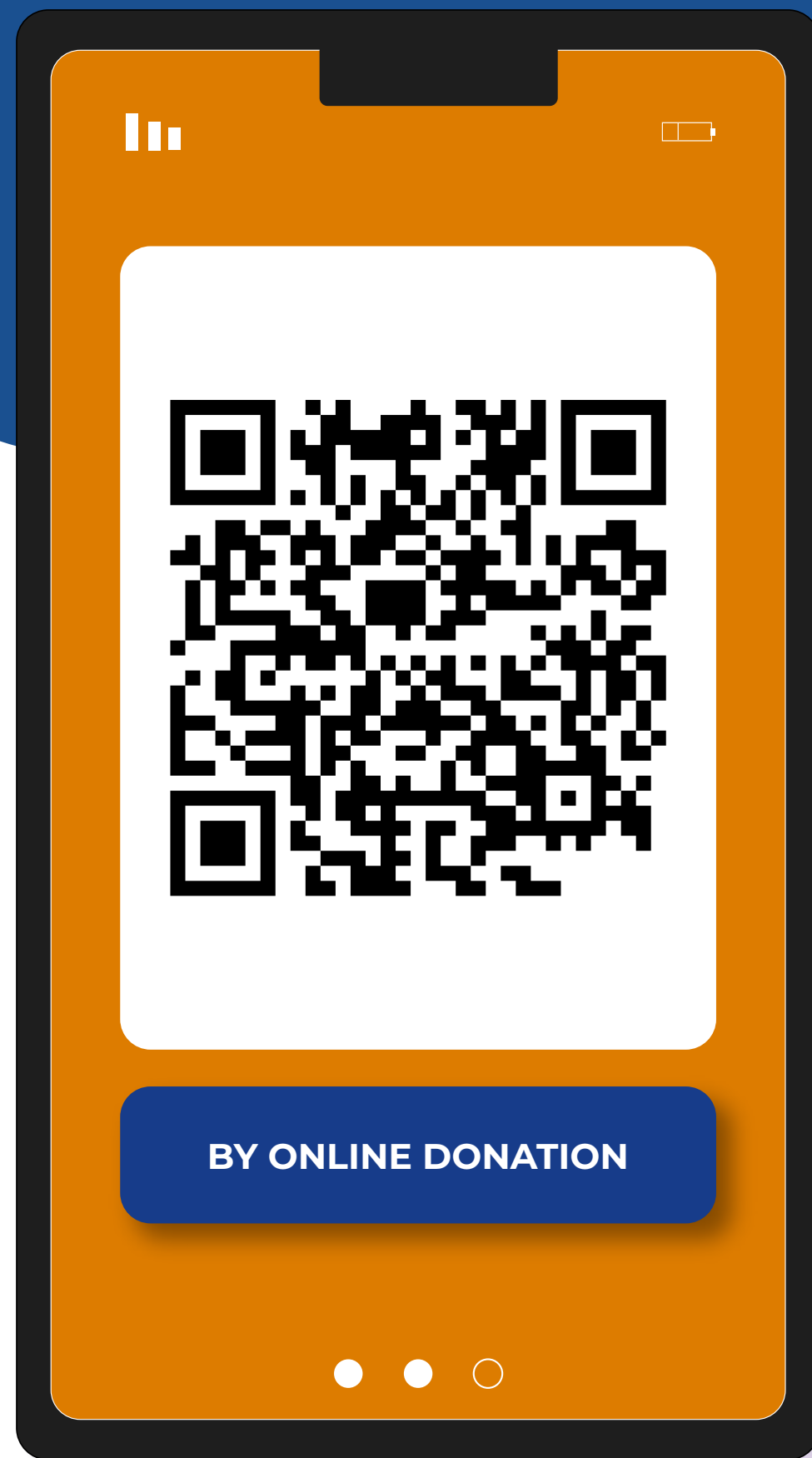
**Graph 1.** Resources executed by each service in 2023

## »Partners and donors

We are grateful for the support of our partners and donors for trusting in our work and being allies in the comprehensive protection of refugees, migrants and forcibly displaced persons in the region.

 <b>Dreikönigsaktion</b> <small>Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar</small>	 <b>entreculturas</b> <small>ONG - JESUITA</small>	 <b>giz</b> <small>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH</small>	 <b>UNHCR ACNUR</b> <small>La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados</small>	 <b>Manos Unidas</b>	 <b>Canadian Jesuits International</b> <b>CJI</b>
 <b>adveniat</b> <small>für die Menschen in Lateinamerika</small>	 <b>caritas</b>	 <b>Cusco</b> <small>International</small>	 <b>WFP</b> <b>World Food Programme</b>	 <b>DIE STERNSINGER</b> <small>KINDERMISSIONSWERK</small>	 <b>THE LOYOLA FOUNDATION</b>
 <b>Unión Europea</b>	 <small>DONACIÓN DEL GOBIERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS</small>	 <b>OXFAM</b>	<b>OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS</b>	 <b>Fundación LOYOLA</b>	

# » Become part of our service



By bank transfer

## Donations in U.S. Dollars and Euros:

Bank name:

Bancolombia Puerto Rico Internacional, Inc.

Account name:

Fundación Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados para Latinoamérica y el Caribe

Bank account No:

90100000538

SWIFT code:

CFSUPRSJ

Correspondent BIC or SWIFT code for donations in USD:

BOFAUS3M

BIC or SWIFT code for donations in EUR:

CHASGB2L

IBAN of the correspondent for donations in EUR:

GB56CHAS60924241407278

## Donations in Colombian pesos:

Name of bank:

Bancolombia

Account name:

Fundación Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados para Latinoamérica y el Caribe

Savings Bank Account No:

031-140470-31

beneficiary bank:

COLOCOBM

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