



humanity  
& inclusion

2023

Annual Report

Latin America & Caribbean

## **Humanity & Inclusion**

### **Latin America & Caribbean**

**This annual report is possible thanks to the financial support of donors, and the joint work with partners and allies. We are especially grateful to our teams in Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and Honduras, as well as to the project participants, without whom our mission would not be possible.**

**Layout and proofreading**  
**Marcela Campos**  
Regional Communications Officer  
**Carolina Maldonado**  
Communications Officer Colombia

# Let us build a more inclusive world

We are excited to present Humanity & Inclusion's (HI) first regional report for Latin America and the Caribbean. Based on our regional strategy, **we have consolidated interventions in Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Cuba and Bolivia**, preparing the basis for new or renewed actions in Ecuador and Honduras. This is thanks to a tireless and constructive collaboration between our country teams, the region and our headquarters. The vision of "One HI" guides our way of thinking and building solutions, using our technical and programmatic richness, the organisation's advocacy and the irreplaceable contributions of the people, partners and local institutions with whom we collaborate. The coherence and relevance of our actions as an actor of inclusion have led us to reinforce our work also as a second level institution with public and private bodies, as well as with cooperating partners, to install in these institutions an understanding and application of the **inclusion approach**.

In 2023, we made strong progress with humanitarian demining in Colombia, and we will be able to hand over to the population municipalities free of suspect of explosive devices; the land will then, once again, produce safely and the beautiful landscapes will also provide opportunities for tourism and income generation for the communities. In **Colombia** and **Bolivia**, we are working with national governments to implement the World Health Assembly's resolution on rehabilitation, advocating for compliance in allocating public budgets to this important and often under-prioritised sector.

At the regional level, we have been able to continue providing rehabilitation services, access to psychosocial support and opportunities for economic inclusion to the migrant population, working in Venezuela, fighting against violence and promoting

alternatives to migration, and in destination countries such as **Colombia** and **Peru**, with attention and prioritisation of people with disabilities, children and elders. These people suffer from a notable lack of access to health services and our work allows them to have the necessary attention.

**2023** was a year in which we kept working on our new federal strategy 2026-2030, building on inputs from the people we serve, partners, public and private institutions, donors and the UN system.

We have defined to further strengthen the implementation of our **Disability, Gender and Age policy**, reinforcing these intersectionalities in the responses we provide, as well to clearly move towards a stronger and more strategic relationship with local partners, always keeping inclusion at the core of our operations.

Thanks to this report, produced with the support and contribution of colleagues and participants in our actions, you will be able to better understand the impact we have been able to generate. The stories that follow reflect **our inclusive approach to promoting dignity and access to and exercise of rights for all people**. Many thanks to the people supporting us building a more inclusive world every day.



**Nicola Momentè**  
Regional Director





**Presence in Latin America & Caribbean\***

**38 projects in 7 countries**

**People Supported directly and indirectly**

**Direct beneficiaries**

**136.822**

people having received goods or services as part of a project implemented by HI or its operating partners in 2023.

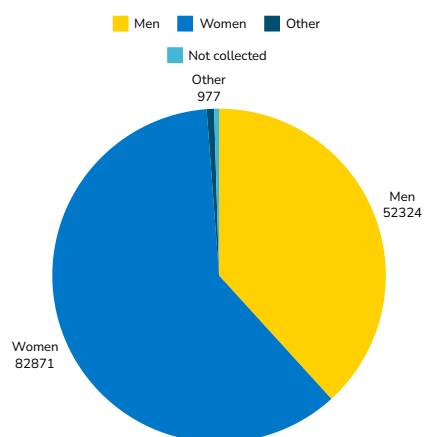
**Indirect beneficiaries**

**199.308**

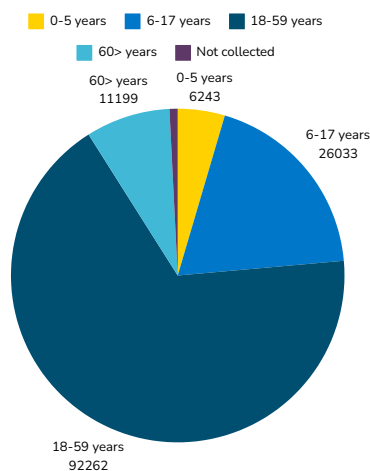
people benefiting from the effects of goods or services received by HI's direct beneficiaries in 2023.

**Disaggregation by:**

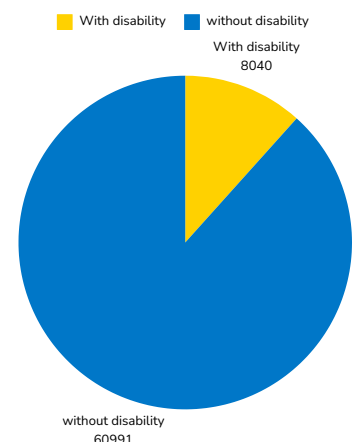
**Gender**



**Aged**



**Disability**



\*HI works in Haiti, however the management of this country is carried out by the Emergency Division, This report does not include data on our actions there.



## People Reached by Sector of Activity

### HEALTH & PREVENTION

**11.718** People.

### ARMED VIOLENCE REDUCTION - AVR

**19.826** People.

### PROTECTION

**7.916** People.

### REHABILITATION

**5.438** People.

### SOCIAL AND INCLUSION

**4.305** People.

## Our staff

**354** People.

- 346 local staff in project countries.
- 8 international staff in project countries.
- 204 women.
- 150 men.
- 8 people with disabilities.



## Our vision

Outraged by the injustice faced by people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, we aspire to a world of solidarity and inclusion, enriched by our differences, where everyone can live in dignity.

## Our mission

HI is an independent and impartial aid organisation working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. We work alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, taking action and bearing witness in order to respond to their essential needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights.



## About us

We are an independent and impartial aid organisation working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. We work alongside people with disabilities and most vulnerable populations, responding to their essential needs, improving their living conditions and promoting respect for their dignity and fundamental rights.

Together with local partners, we develop programmes in health, rehabilitation and social and economic inclusion. We work with local authorities for humanitarian demining, victim assistance and to prevent accidents related to landmines and unexploded ordnance through risk education. We prepare communities for disaster risk management and respond quickly and effectively to crises to limit serious and permanent injuries and assist the recovery and reintegration of survivors.

HI is a Federation of eight national associations located in Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, which is responsible for resourcing and promoting actions and campaigns worldwide, operating in more than 60 countries.

Our progress inspires us to go even further over time, as our organisation has expanded to become a global network of support for people with disabilities and the most vulnerable people in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. We work tirelessly to help meet their basic needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights.

## Safeguarding our ethical principles

Since 2015, the HI Institute for Humanitarian Action (formerly the Handicap International Foundation) has been responsible for defining the ethical framework underpinning HI's actions. The Institute analyses the ethical and political issues facing the HI movement and the aid sector in general.

### Institutional policies and Code of Conduct

HI's institutional policies set out the principles to be respected by all of our employees and partners. Our gender, beneficiary safeguarding and child protection policies are accompanied by a code of conduct that applies to everyone representing HI (employees, people accompanying expatriate staff, consultants, service providers, partner organisations, interns and voluntary workers). Whenever local legislation permits, we incorporate this code of conduct into employment contracts and internal rules of procedure.

Our institutional policies are available on line at <https://hi.org/en/institutional-policies>:

- Gender, disability and age policy.
- Child protection policy.
- Policy for the protection of beneficiaries against sexual exploitation and abuse, which also prohibits recourse to prostitution.
- Policy for the prevention of and fight against bribery and corruption
- Safety and Security policy.





A woman with dark hair, wearing a blue short-sleeved shirt, is shown in profile from the side, gesturing with her right hand as if speaking to a group of children. The children, including a young boy in the foreground wearing a blue and white shirt, are looking towards her with interest. In the background, another woman in a light pink shirt is seated, observing the interaction. The setting appears to be an indoor space with a rough, stone or brick wall.

# Our work in Latin America & Caribbean





## Health

HI adopts the definition established by the WHO, which defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not simply the absence of disease or infirmity. HI positions itself as a key player in achieving the third purpose of the Sustainable Development Goals, which aims to "enable all to live in good health and promote well-being for all at all ages". It focuses on people with disabilities and vulnerable populations to ensure they have access to appropriate and quality health services.

### Anahi, lawyer and Tamara's mother - Bolivia

*"Tami loves coming to therapy and enjoys being played with. Thanks to the support of the centre, we have seen big changes. Before, Tami couldn't say words, she couldn't identify objects... Now she can say some words, recognises objects and communicates her emotions".*



© Yarmila Franco / HI



## Physical and functional rehabilitation

Despite the fact that rehabilitation is a fundamental part of the continuum of health care and Primary Health Care, within health systems globally, the implementation of rehabilitation processes has had a low prioritisation among decision-makers, which results in rehabilitation needs remaining unattended.

In this context, common to the countries of the Region where HI is present, the Physical and Functional Rehabilitation component is developed under the coherence of the principles of intervention, the cross-cutting approaches of the Organization, and is identified as a global process within the field of health that contributes to the social role of the person with functional limitation or disability.

Thus, HI is positioned as a key player in health care through physical and functional rehabilitation, to promote transformations in users, families and communities that materialise in sustainable life projects.

### Our contribution

- We promote the broadest and measurable possible positive impact on the living conditions of users and their families.
- We generate the implementation of contextualised and realistic solutions that constitute a transformation in the lives of users and their environment.
- Our approach places participants at the centre of decision-making that concerns them, developing and facilitating links between them and service providers, promoting effective access, as well as with any other stakeholder in the person's environment.
- We prioritise the most vulnerable people from a differential approach in order to restore their opportunities to access to physical and functional rehabilitation services, without discrimination and with no other consideration than their needs and rights.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Provide guidelines and technical support to projects, in terms of design, planning, strategies, standards, approaches and instruments for Rehabilitation, in line with global benchmarks and ensure relevant monitoring.
- Formulation of the terms of application of the tools for quality analysis in projects in the region to be implemented in the Rehabilitation sector.
- Support to the different projects in the fulfilment of the planned indicators.
- Advocacy in the different spaces of participation (Cluster, Committees among others).
- Participatory construction of strategies for the provision of comprehensive rehabilitation services for the entire population, especially those living in rural and remote areas.

## HI ADDED VALUE

Physical and Functional Rehabilitation in HI is defined as a sector of integrated services in a global intersectoral approach, focused on the user and his family, which seeks the transformation of life projects through the recovery of independence and autonomy of its beneficiaries.



## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Good mental health does not mean not having a problem, but rather being able to live a full and creative life, having the flexibility to cope with life's inevitable challenges. Mental, neurological and substance abuse disorders are among the leading causes of mental disability.

Depression, especially persistent in women, and alcohol abuse in men is the most common mental health condition. Humanitarian crises, such as natural disasters or political violence, impact mental health, especially in vulnerable populations. In emergency contexts, WHO estimates that the percentage of those affected almost doubles. In addition, gender stereotypes reinforce social stigma and limit help-seeking.

### Our contribution

- We develop programmes that prevent mental health conditions, taking into account social factors.
- We provide Psychological First Aid and design specific kits for individual and group interventions.
- We create opportunities for psychological wellbeing by adapting our programmes to local needs and resources.
- We support community projects to improve the emotional and social quality of life in situations of gaps or lack of services.
- We facilitate the participation of people with lived experience in mental health in decision-making and proposals.
- We support the development and implementation of MHPSS public policies and strategies that respect human rights and the rights of persons with disabilities.
- We promote initiatives to strengthen social cohesion and solidarity among participants and key actors in the community.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Training, accompaniment and interaction with and for community leaders, rural psychosocial promoters, people with disabilities, counsellors and indigenous knowledgeable people in mental health and psychosocial support.
- Participation and advocacy in decision-making and analysis spaces such as technical working groups on mental health, health clusters, gender, diversity and inclusion groups.
- Conducting mental health and psychosocial support assessments, providing guidelines, support and technical follow-up to projects in line with international standards.
- 7 projects implemented with a MHPSS approach in the region with different donors and for the attention of diverse populations.
- 15 professionals or consultants make up the psychosocial team with different specialties and epistemological approaches.

## HI ADDED VALUE

We consider mental health conditions beyond symptoms, taking into account the person's resources to face adversity and enjoy life. We serve communities by ensuring that the most vulnerable people maximise their physical and mental capacities, access available services, achieve cohesion and actively contribute to their own environment.







## Protection

In emergency situations or in contexts of extreme poverty, persons with disabilities and vulnerable populations are often left behind. HI implements programmes to prevent and respond to violence with special attention to populations differentiated by disability, gender and age.

### Martha Lucero Granada - Colombia

*On the farm we had the episode of a bull that lost its life because it stepped on a mine, and now with the clearing of the territory we feel safer. Humanitarian demining is what is driving the financial factor here. It has not only been limited to clearing our land.*



© Ana Sánchez / HI



## Protection against violence

Our actions are aimed at mitigating, preventing and responding to violence by ensuring attention to populations differentiated by disability, gender and age (DGE). We seek to offer integrated and independent programming to prevent and respond to violence with differentiated approaches in DGE.

For HI, one of the elements of the quality of its projects is the intersectionality and transversality of protection, recognising disability, gender and age as axes that can generate greater vulnerability and exclusion. The intersectionality of these three identity factors as a priority, without neglecting others that are relevant to the context, is understood as the existence and intersection of two or more characteristics that, due to the social constructions that are built on them, generate levels of oppression / vulnerability or privilege / protection.

## Our contribution

- We advise victims on social and legal issues to access their rights.
- We create, in a participatory manner, care routes for different forms of violence.
- We recognise, identify and strengthen institutional and intercultural protection mechanisms within the framework of the special jurisdiction for indigenous peoples.
- We raise awareness and provide training in human rights.
- We promote the participation of vulnerable communities.
- We strengthen the capacities of public and private institutions for the adequate care of persons with and without disabilities who are at risk of protection.
- We articulate our work with organisations of persons with disabilities for public advocacy and access to differentiated services.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognition and leadership in the development of the approach to the inclusion of people with disabilities (participating in the humanitarian architecture of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia).
- Expanding our contribution with technical advice on inclusion to strengthen humanitarian organisations.
- Our intervention in protection has been maintained in countries such as Colombia and Peru and has increased in Venezuela and Honduras.

## HI ADDED VALUE

Our actions use an inclusion approach to humanitarian programming. We mainstream and include intersectionality with a focus on Disability-Gender-Age.

We strengthen individual, community and organisational capacities, public and private, working with a community approach respecting cultures, diversity and practices, offering alternatives with a human rights approach.





## Armed violence reduction

Due to the proliferation of the use of explosive devices in rural and vulnerable communities in Colombia, HI decided to join the national efforts in the fight against anti-personnel mines and their impacts since **2005**.

HI has technical expertise in four of the five pillars of humanitarian mine action, which facilitates our comprehensive approach "A Comprehensive Approach to Mine Action (CAMA)", as a factor of conflict transformation, with the participation of communities to manage their protection, risk prevention, elimination of the threat of explosive devices and contribute to their socio-economic development.

### Our contribution

- We work to promote the participation of victims in advocacy spaces and influence the creation and implementation of inclusive policies and care programmes.
- We provide care and guidance to victims of Antipersonnel Mines - APL and Unexploded Ordnance - UXO, as well as other persons with disabilities to ensure effective access to their rights.
- We provide guidance to the population in vulnerable conditions, strengthening their capacities to reduce their exposure to risks in areas contaminated by APL, UXO and booby traps.
- We develop non-technical studies to cancel or confirm dangerous areas where clearance work will be carried out.
- Our humanitarian demining activities contribute to a significant reduction in explosive ordnance events.
- We protect communities so that they are less exposed to violence and provide conditions of dignity, autonomy and control over their own lives.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Creation of the Community Liaison strategy. Community Liaison (CL) plays a key role in Integrated Mine Action, especially in the Colombian context, where "trust" is a crucial factor.
- Strengthening the Conflict Transformation Approach.
- Promotion of conflict transformation under an integral approach and the participation of communities in all its processes.

## HI ADDED VALUE

We promote the creation and development of local capacities in order to facilitate the efficiency and impact of interventions under community methodologies (capacity building, conflict prevention and community protection), developed and applied in different contexts, specifically in Colombia and Venezuela.







© Marcela Campos / HI

## Inclusion

Our teams rely on work carried out in consultation with the relevant local authorities and services, as well as with civil society networks, including disabled people's organisations.

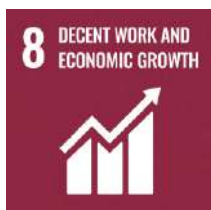
We also promote the rapprochement between mainstream services (such as social services or employment agents) and specialised services in order to improve the inclusion of people with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, whatever their specific needs and personalised projects are.

### Cocoa Women's Association - Venezuela

*Taking into account the conditions we have been through, we feel happy and different in knowing that we can make an enterprise for ourselves and even more taking into account that several women are survivors of the conflict and show the capacities that each one of them have, it is very good to wake up and see that all the bad things are over.*



© Marcela Campos / HI





## Social inclusion

Inclusion is part of our organisational mission and mandate and is a cross-cutting theme in the humanitarian response we provide to people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations, responding to their specific needs and requirements in a dignified, person-centred manner.

Inclusion is both the process and the goal of improving the participation and access of persons with disabilities and vulnerable people to all aspects of society, including services, and therefore requires a tailored approach and the use of the twin-track model: promoting an inclusive society and, at the same time, empowering vulnerable people and their representative organisations.

### Our contribution

- We build capacity and raise awareness among staff, partners and consultants on inclusion and disability issues.
- We provide technical support to provide more inclusive services in humanitarian response.
- We influence coordination and exchange mechanisms on cross-cutting issues related to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, intersectionality and accessibility in the humanitarian architecture of countries.
- We coordinate with networks of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs).
- We promote capacity development for the collection of disaggregated data at the regional level.
- We identify, analyse and contribute to overcoming barriers during inclusive humanitarian action.
- We carry out accessibility assessments of environments to make them more inclusive.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Positioning HI in the clusters on disability inclusion issues.
- Recognition of HI's role as a specialist leader on the disability inclusion approach.
- Consolidation of the Regional Inclusion Group and participation in communities of practice.
- Increased interest of organisations in working with HI for the sector of Inclusive Humanitarian Action - IHA.
- Updating of the cooperation agreement with the Latin American Network of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families - RIADIS.
- Incorporation of new interventions in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador through technical support in IHA.

## HI ADDED VALUE

We have been able to move towards more inclusive communities, we are reaching more resilient and empowered people about their identity, their human rights, placing people with disabilities at the centre of humanitarian action as actors and members of affected populations, based on safer and more inclusive programming.



## Economic inclusion and livelihoods

Our purpose is to promote the empowerment and resilience of persons with disabilities for their economic autonomy and the recognition of their social role in their communities, seeking to ensure equitable and meaningful participation in the process of socio-economic development and access to economic opportunities.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, this is a challenging and ongoing task, due to the high rates of poverty, inequality and informality that limit access to real, effective and impactful opportunities. This informality related to socio-labour opportunities has led us to implement economic inclusion initiatives, with an important role of communities, where capacity building of public and private economic actors contributes to access to equitable and sustainable opportunities.

### Our contribution

- We respond to basic needs in emergency and chronic crisis contexts with a focus on inclusion and accessibility.
- We give priority support to people with disabilities in strengthening employability skills for their access to decent employment.
- We provide technical assistance in disability inclusion to public and private institutions/organisations that seek to be inclusive.
- We promote associative and individual economic initiatives and their articulation with local productive economic development programmes.
- We promote the poverty graduation model with a disability inclusion approach, combining social protection and economic development.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Participation in the inclusion committee made up of representatives of associations of people with disabilities in the design and implementation of public and social policies and strategies for the economic inclusion of people with disabilities in the province of Granma Cuba.
- Adaptation of digital solutions and training modules in financial education with an accessible version for the financial inclusion of migrant and host populations in Bogotá, Medellín and Barranquilla, Colombia.
- Measuring economic inclusion outcomes based on a battery of indicators.

## HI ADDED VALUE

We promote quality and lasting solutions for the economic inclusion of the most vulnerable populations, helping to transform unequal power relations through economic initiatives that enable people and communities to improve their lives, implementing a holistic approach to inclusion.







**Financial management**



## HI's principles of financing and financial management

To maintain its independence and ensure the long-term sustainability of its actions, HI has two sources of funding:

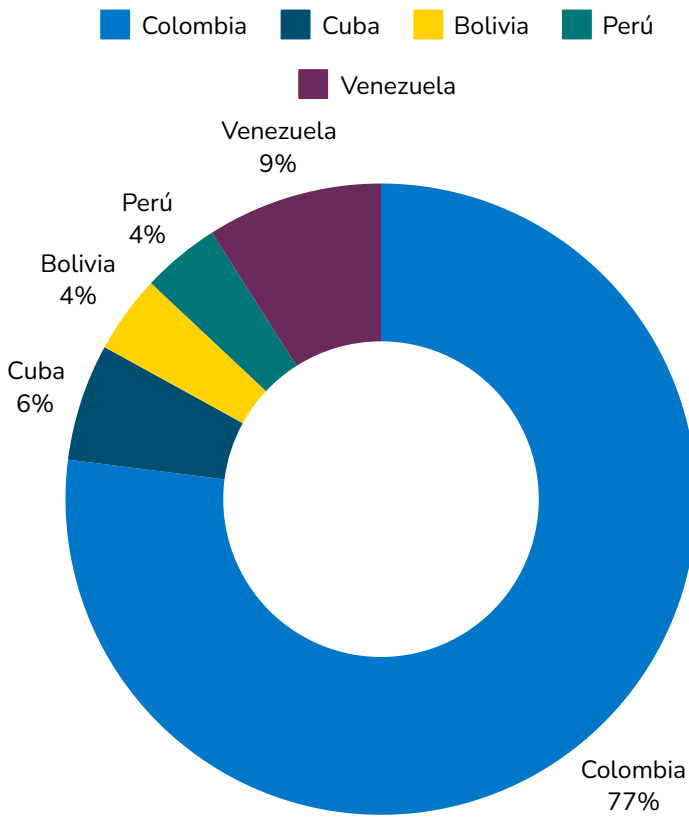
- Grants from institutional donors (public institutional funds, regional or national branches of international cooperation agencies) or private bodies (foundations, associations, companies);
- HI also carries out consultancies for government agencies and international organisations based on our experience and expertise.

As a result of its mixed funding structure (private donations and institutional funding) and its international activity in crisis, disaster, response, reconstruction and development contexts, HI's financial statements cannot be compared to those of other types of organisations.

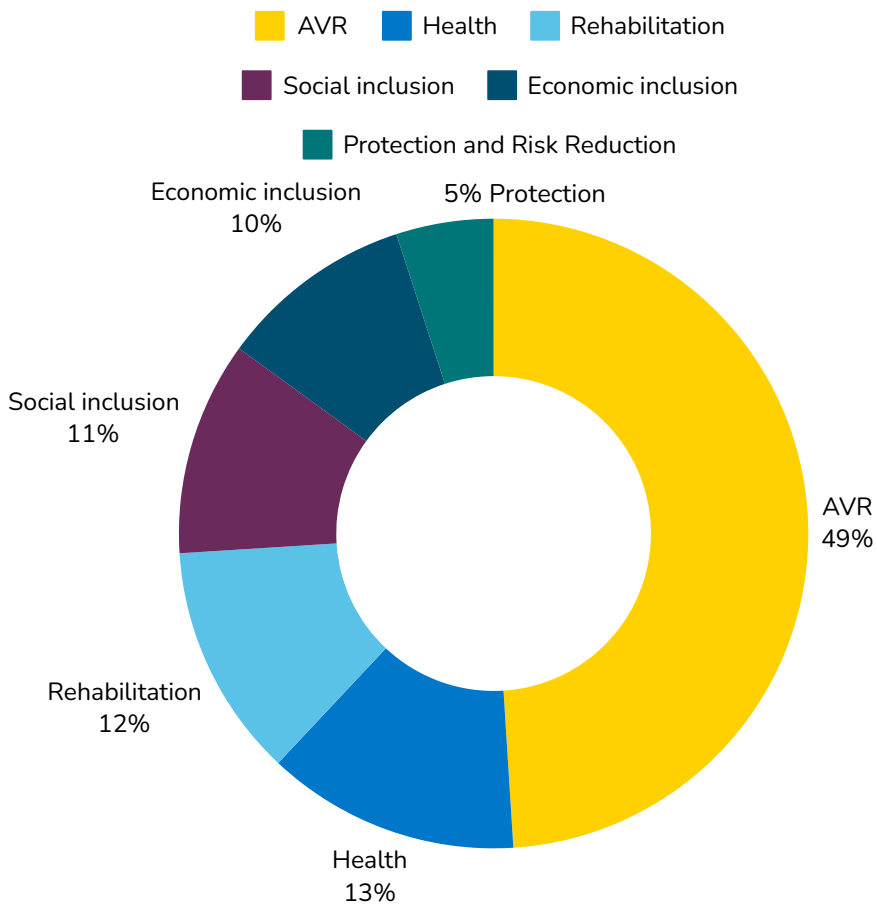




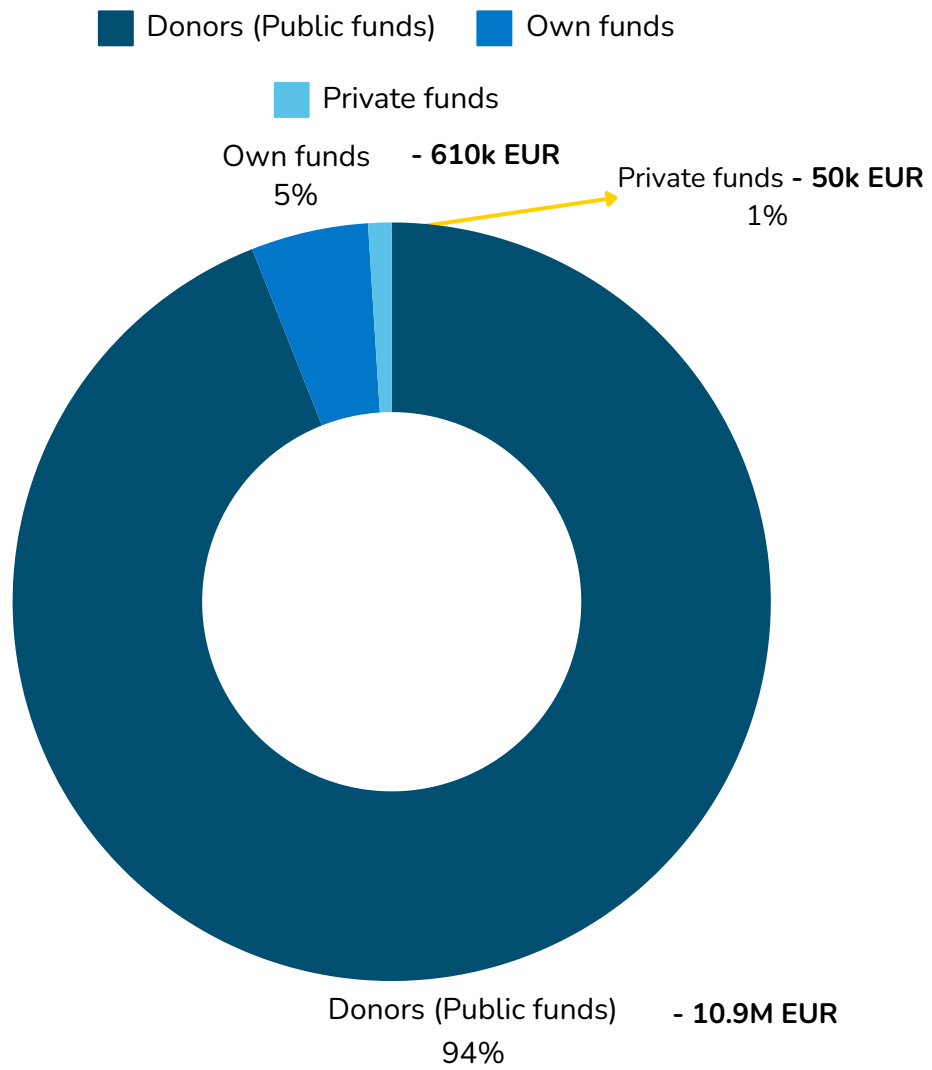
## Country distribution



## Sector distribution



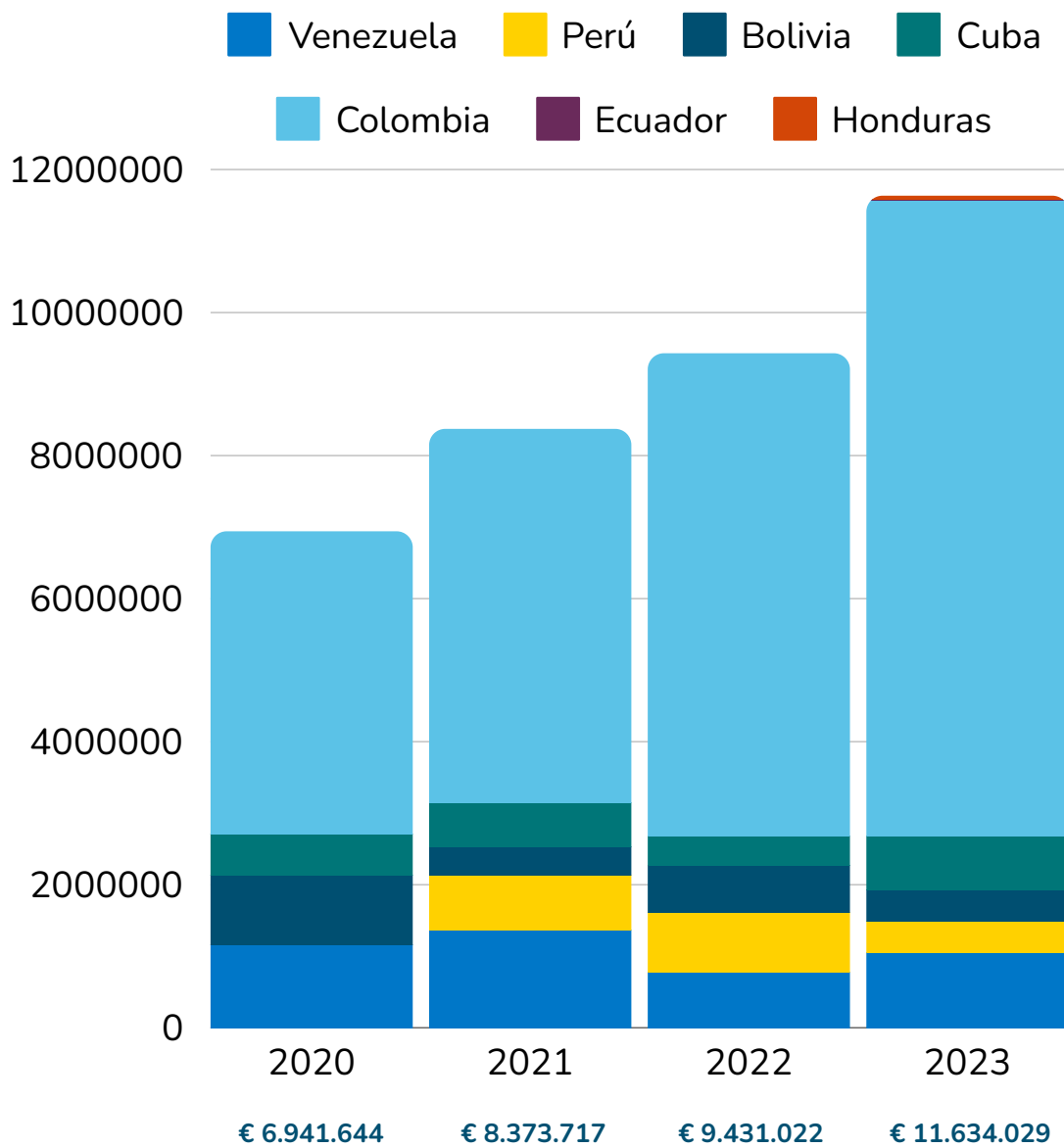
## Distribution by source of funds





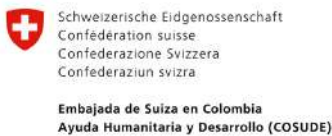


## Financial volume development





## Our donors



# Our partners





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