



2023

ANNUAL  
EXECUTIVE  
REPORT

LATIN  
AMERICA  
AND THE  
CARIBBEAN

**actalliance**

Regional Office for Latin  
America and the  
Caribbean

# A year of reactivation

Dear ACT member organizations,

It is a pleasure to present the first executive report highlighting ACT's work in our region. We want to share the achievements and exciting progress we have made together in 2023.

We are glad that this report highlights the reactivation of the ACT Alliance in the region, thanks to the members' hard work together with the regional and global ACT team. We want to express our deep gratitude for the wonderful energy and for all the actions our members promoted in 2023.

2023 was a year of growth and consolidation of the regional team, strengthening relationships and communication with the forums and members. We celebrate the various face-to-face meetings and the significant joint achievements, especially around the issue of human mobility. Thanks to the challenges and setbacks, we have learned important lessons that will strengthen our Secretariat and Alliance.

We hope that this report and our work will help members feel increasingly identified with our common project and that you feel that ACT is a valuable commitment and truly yours.

We invite you to continue building and leading ACT Alliance in LAC.

Kind regards,

ACT Alliance Regional Team in LAC.

# This report



This report aims to transmit in a visual, clear, and concise manner the most notable activities and progress of the ACT programs in the region and the work of the Regional Office in order to shed light on progress, promote transparency, and generate a systematization tool.

Additionally, we anticipate that the next annual report will attempt to incorporate the contributions and achievements of our Communities of Practice and Forums.

We extend a cordial invitation to all forums and CoPs (Comunities of Practice) to report your progress and achievements to the Regional Team in order to include them in the 2024 report.

## Contributions, comments or questions?

The regional team values constructive feedback. We believe that it is through these contributions that we can perfect our work.

In addition, we extend a warm invitation to external readers interested in obtaining additional information to write to us:



**[lac@actalliance.org](mailto:lac@actalliance.org)**

# Top 8 Achievements 2023

**1** **Capacity Building Process in the Humanitarian Mechanism in collaboration with the DRR CoP.**

**2** Over 15 organizations collaborate to **quickly fulfill the 8 Bogotá Agreements on Human Mobility.**

**3** **Improved communications** between member organizations and the Regional Secretariat.

**4** **3 In-Person Meetings:** 2 Regional on Human Mobility and 1 Sub-regional Meeting of Central America.

**5** **Blended course on Development Effectiveness** and the consequent **reactivation of the Central America Forum.**

**6** **Secured funds and initial preparation of the “Guatemala +5”** or ACT National and Regional Dialogues on Regressive Agendas, Human Rights, and Democracy.

**7** **First mapping of members' work in Human Mobility by UMCOR.**

**8** **Hiring a Program Officer** for the Climate Justice and Human Mobility programs.



# OUR FORUMS



- Chile
- Argentina
- Peru
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Nicaragua
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- El Salvador
- Haiti
- Dominican Republic
- Cuba



- FESUR  
(South America)
- Central America
- Caribbean

# OUR CoPs

**3**

**Formalized with Memorandum of Understanding:**

- Disaster Prevention and Response
- Gender Justice
- Community-Based Psychosocial Support

**2**

**In progress :**

- Youth
- Human and Climate Mobility

## OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP IN LAC

**26**

**National  
Organizations**

**18**

**International  
Organizations**

# Summary by program



2023 was a successful year for ACT Alliance in Latin America and the Caribbean, as all of our programs implemented budgets and activities in the region. **In this sense, 2023 stands out as a year of reconnection between the global and regional levels in some key ACT programs. We hope that this renewed energy will inject vitality into our region.**



Moreover, pivotal initiatives were launched in LAC that could potentially shape the global future of the Alliance, especially concerning **training processes related to ACT's humanitarian system, joint advocacy for climate mobility, and the execution of projects by our Communities of Practice** (the latter, the Regional Gender Justice CoP project).



We extend a special call and invitation to member organizations to remain active participants and leaders in the collaborative initiatives of the Alliance in LAC.



The Regional Office and Program Managers are eager to discuss advancing programs and realizing the 'forum-driven' approach in LAC.



In the following pages, we succinctly present the main advances and actions of the five programmes in LAC, followed by the work of the Regional Office

# Humanitarian Program

- **Secured financing and development of a capacity-building process in the ACT Humanitarian Mechanism, in conjunction with the CoP DRR** and its Capacity Development Committee. 8 forums were trained in person for approximately 3 days. 2 more training for Chile and Brazil are planned for 2024.
- Provided support for the **Development and updating of Emergency Plans (EPRPs) in nine countries**. The EPRP update has been completed by the ACT Forums in Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Argentina. Updates are in progress for the ACT Forums in Peru, Colombia, and Honduras. The update process will commence for the ACT Forums in Brazil and Cuba in 2024, while the development of the EPRP will begin for the ACT Forums in the Dominican Republic and Chile.
- Based on the findings from a monitoring visit in the framework of the RRF 14/2022, the Council of Churches of Cuba (CIC), with technical support from the ACT team, developed an **improvement plan for institutional strengthening**, including safeguarding, feedback mechanism, procurement procedure, Monitoring and Evaluation system, among others.
- **Supported the CHS Alliance in conducting a case study on the work of the IELCH in Colombia**, and efforts were made to secure grants for ACT members to travel to the regional review of the CHS.
- **Provided technical and coordination support to the ACT team facilitating the CHS Self-assessment project. This pilot initiative provides technical and financial support to two organizations in LAC, CIC in Cuba and SCH in Haiti**, with support from Kerk in Actie.





## What's to come?

- **Promote a dialogue space among ACT international members with human mobility programming in LAC to identify coordination mechanisms for financing emergency preparedness and response in LAC.**
- **Strengthen understanding of the ACT Humanitarian Mechanism to ensure an effective response to emergencies.**
- **Provide technical assistance for the preparation of proposals and the monitoring of projects financed by RRFs and Appeals.**
- **Develop a programmatic package for the psychosocial/psychospiritual approach in emergency response.**



# Climate Justice Program

- The climate justice program **conducted research based on rights-based approaches to climate change programming**. For this process, the Secretariat spoke with possible interested forums, and members in Honduras, Peru, and Argentina were linked.
- **The program opened a regional call for grants aimed at advocacy at the national level**. Argentina won a grant for \$5,000, with implementation planned for 2024.
- **Additionally, the program financially supported the meeting on human mobility in the Dominican Republic**, enabling the first joint exploration of the topic of climate mobility and laying the foundation for the alliance's future work in LAC.





# Climate Justice Program

- Also, the program ensured the **participation of two LAC representatives at COP 28**. The participation we had in COP 28 was articulated with key messages from the ecumenical LAC community such as: prioritizing adaptation efforts with measurable goals, not acting now will be more costly in the future, promoting development goals through adaptation.
- This program was essential support for **obtaining the position of Program Officer for LAC in 2023**.
- The program served as a **bridge to connect the Nicaragua Forum with an expert** for its workshop on Climate Change and Justice and Sustainable Development.

## What's to come?

- The program will offer technical assistance for a virtual training course focused on advocacy and the promotion of rights for individuals involved in human and climate-related migration processes in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The program will support the climate mobility advocacy pilot for the Regional Review of the Global Compact and it will contribute to gathering insights from the region for the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) 29.
- The program will facilitate the appropriation of ACT research in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a focus on the integration of rights-based approaches.

# Gender Justice Program

- The Global program, in collaboration with the Gender Justice Community of Practice, supported prioritized forums through strategic projects.



The project in **Peru** focuses on analyzing discourses, attitudes, and practices within religious communities that resist adopting a human rights-based approach. It aims to articulate an alternative theological-political discourse to that of fundamentalist groups.

In **Brazil**, the program supported the FEACT Forum to contribute to the fight against fundamentalism and promote racial equality. Topics addressed include diversity, religious racism, masculinities, and spiritualities, among others.

- The Gender Program and the Gender Community of Practice collaborated in the **development of an “Argumentario Teológico” or theological argumentation project** that was validated by a group of theologians from the region and the Community of Practice.
- A **virtual regional workshop on security and gender** was jointly facilitated with the Community of Practice.

- **The strengthening of the Gender Regional CoP is another area of progress at the regional level, with financial and technical support for their work in three areas: a) the fight against gender-based violence, focusing on the 16 Days of Activism campaign; b) the economic empowerment of women, through three regional roundtable discussions; and c) the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights, supporting the regional campaign for a Secular State in two countries, Colombia and Peru.**
- **The program facilitated the participation of members from Colombia and Argentina in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the United Nations Commission on Population and Development delegations. This included the delivery of an impactful oral statement at the UN.**
- **The program supported the development of thematic informational documents on sexual and reproductive health and rights with members in Argentina and gender-based violence with members in Cuba for global working groups aimed at supporting the program's efforts.**

## What's to come?

- **Articulation and support in the internal dialogue process for the validation, appropriation and use of the "Argumentario Teológico".**
- **An in-person meeting of feminist theologies in the defense of human rights in the region.**
- **Participation in global advocacy forums like ICPD and CSW, along with internal ACT initiatives like Guatemala +5, supporting that the voice of the region regarding gender justice is heard on both global and regional spaces.**

# Migration and Displacement Program

- **Two in-person regional events allowed us to reconnect and reach concrete agreements on regional goals.** We express our gratitude to ELCA, PC-USA, the North America Forum, and Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas for their invaluable contributions in making this possible.
- In February 2023, the so-called “Bogotá Agreements” were generated, eight in total: four on humanitarian action and four on advocacy. The regional team and **more than 14 ACT organizations collaborated to fulfill them. As a result, eight months after the meeting, all the Bogotá Agreements were fulfilled.**
- A **Program Officer was hired** to develop the Migration and Displacement and Climate Justice programs.
- As one of the Bogotá Agreements, **the first regional mapping of members working on human mobility** is carried out, thanks to UMCOR’s hard work.
- **A first internal regional political document has been created, gathering the unified sentiments and voices of the region on the prioritized thematic axes from the meeting in Bogotá:** Gender and Fundamentalism, Climate Mobility and Racism, Xenophobia, and other forms of discrimination.
- In a second regional in-person event in September in the Dominican Republic, agreements were renewed at the regional level, and **the first Community of Practice on Human and Climate Mobility was created.**
- **A virtual library of self-care and caregiver care materials was created,** available for the entire region.

# Migration and Displacement Program

- **A concept note was developed along with the terms of reference, and small funding was guaranteed for a virtual leveling course** on advocacy in LAC on Human and Climate Mobility.
- **Successfully facilitated experience sharing:** EPES Chile and the Lutheran Church in Mexico developed brief documents detailing their experiences in assisting people on the move and virtual sessions featuring presentations from members in the three Caribbean countries where ACT has a presence were hosted by the regional office.
- **A calendar of events of regional relevance was prepared for 2023.**
- In a follow-up to the Bogotá agreements, **the CoP for Disaster Prevention and Response in LAC developed the concept note for a ToT in the CHS**, with a special focus on organizations working in Human Mobility.

## What's to come?

- **Support to the CoP on Human and Climate Mobility to achieve the commitments of the Dominican Republic.**
- **First regional advocacy pilot for the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Migration.**
- **Virtual leveling course on advocacy in LAC.**
- **Support, at the request of the forums or CoPs, for possible joint humanitarian response and/or advocacy projects for the migration crisis.**

# Peace and Human Security Program

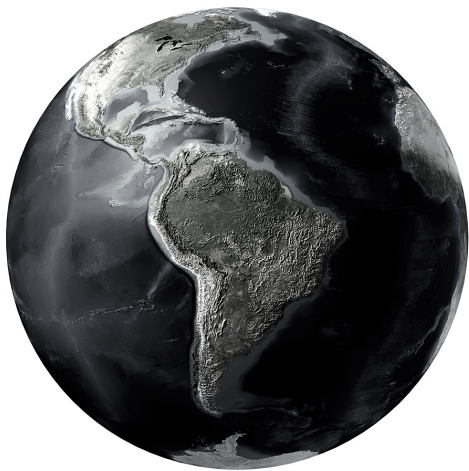
- In 2023, the Program provided a **grant of \$5,000 to the Colombia Forum to support the Forum's work around advocacy for Peace** in the country.
- The office in New York **supported various meetings related to Peace in Colombia with high-level stakeholders.** For example, our UN Representative in NYC accompanied the National Human Rights Award tour.
- **The Brussels Office and the Secretary General of ACT attended different dialogue spaces on the work of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and its special envoys to the dialogue process with armed actors in Colombia,** allowing good communication at a global level between the ACT and the WCC.
- The ACT Office in Brussels, our Secretary General, and the Brazil Forum (FEACT) worked together to **facilitate and accompany the visit of the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide to Brazil.**

## What's to come?

- **The ACT Global Offices are ready to support the work of the Colombia Forum around international advocacy for Peace.**
- **The Regional Office will accompany the development of initiatives and support the publication of advocacy documents upon request from forums or CoPs, addressing issues such as democracy, human rights, peace, fundamentalism, and human security.**



# Work from the Regional Office



The year 2023 was a period of notable growth and achievement. The Regional Office grew to have a team of four members, and during 2023, the team managed to become a more solid and consolidated group of professionals.

During 2023, the ACT Alliance Regional Team for Latin America and the Caribbean carried out three key efforts for the region: **capacity strengthening and sharing related to the ACT humanitarian mechanism in conjunction with the Community of Practice for Risk Reduction of Disasters, the mobilization of the region to collectively address the migration crisis** in Latin America and the Caribbean with a focus on advocacy, **and the improvement of relations in the forums and with members**, with special emphasis on improving communications.

In an effort to promote greater exchange and closeness with the forums, **visits were made to the entire region by the Regional Representative and the Humanitarian Officer. In addition, visits by the Secretary General of ACT and the Director of Communications to Colombia, Peru, and Argentina were facilitated.**

Regarding communications, the regional team **rigorously developed biweekly newsletters**, managing to systematize information and opportunities. In addition, the **regional WhatsApp chat was updated** with a considerable number of regional and global members.

Administratively, a big accomplishment for the team was **updating the regional database**.

On the other hand, the office **secured resources and worked jointly with the coordinators of the Central American forum to carry out blended training in Honduras**, focused on the Istanbul Principles and Effective Development (CPDE). This workshop was accompanied by the Regional Office and **resulted in the reactivation of the Central American Forum**.

In relation to advocacy from the forums, the Regional Office **supported the correct application of the ACT policy in the publication of four public statements: Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Peru**, addressing various national crises.



Regarding advocacy at the regional level, the Regional Representative was dedicated to **collaborating with other Faith-Based Organizations for the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development 2023**. Thus, the regional representative traveled to Santiago, Chile in April to attend the Civil Society Participation Mechanism meeting and co-organize and host a shadow event related to human mobility and LAC governance crises.

On the other hand, **dialogue spaces were facilitated between United Nations Offices with some forums and Communities of Practice**, such as meetings between UNFPA with the El Salvador Forum and the Gender Justice COP and OHCHR with the Peru Forum. The meeting between the Honduras Forum and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change was also facilitated.

Although is not part of our programs or strategic plan, the Regional Office responded to members' requests to boost fundraising. **We initiated two regional discussions on 'forum-driven fundraising', allowing members to lead in exploring strategies and best practices**. One was virtual, with the leadership of Hora de Obrar, ACT CoS, and CASM, while the other took place in person during our meeting in the Dominican Republic, led by CASM.

The joint creation of a concept note was promoted to respond to the aspiration of the members to repeat the event on human rights and democracy held in Guatemala in 2019. The effort allowed the **obtaining of funds, and a joint procedure (members and regional team) was carried out to select the consultant who will implement the initiative: "ACT's National and Regional Dialogues in relation to Regressive Agendas and their Impact on Democracy and Human Rights in LAC"**, during 2024. We would like to thank Kerk in Act, Act Church of Sweden, Bread for the World, Diakonia, ELCA, and Christian Aid for their support.



- In efforts prior to the National and Regional Dialogues, the Regional Office supported the recently formed Youth Community of Practice in **developing the 'ACTive Youth' project and securing funds**. We also provided close support during project implementation.
- In terms of general support for the ALC forums, in 2023, **two meetings were held with each of the forums in the region**: one at the beginning of the year and another at the end, with the aim of learning about their action plans and determining how to provide support.
- Finally, the Office organized **two meetings with coordinators of successful forums from the Middle East and Africa** to share lessons learned and good practices.
- The Regional Office **promoted, supported, and, at times, successfully led the implementation of three ACT programs in the region: Humanitarian, Migration and Displacement, and Climate Justice**.

## What's to come?

- **The ACT Regional Office will continue to support the implementation of programs in the region, playing a connector and facilitating role.**
- **The Regional Office will mobilize and accompany national and regional dialogues on Regressive Agendas and their impact on Democracy and Human Rights.**
- **Support will be provided to the Global Secretary and members in preparations for the General Assembly.**
- **The Regional team will remain attentive to supporting specific joint work initiatives in forums and Communities of Practice, responding to specific requests from members.**

# THANK YOU

**For your generous support and hard work to  
strengthen the ACT Alliance in Latin America  
and the Caribbean**

## Stay in touch!



**Web**

[www.actalliance.org](http://www.actalliance.org)



**E-mail**

[lac@actalliance.org](mailto:lac@actalliance.org)



**Social Media**



[@ACTallianceLAC](https://twitter.com/ACTallianceLAC)



[ACT Alliance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/act-alliance)