

**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**

**2023**





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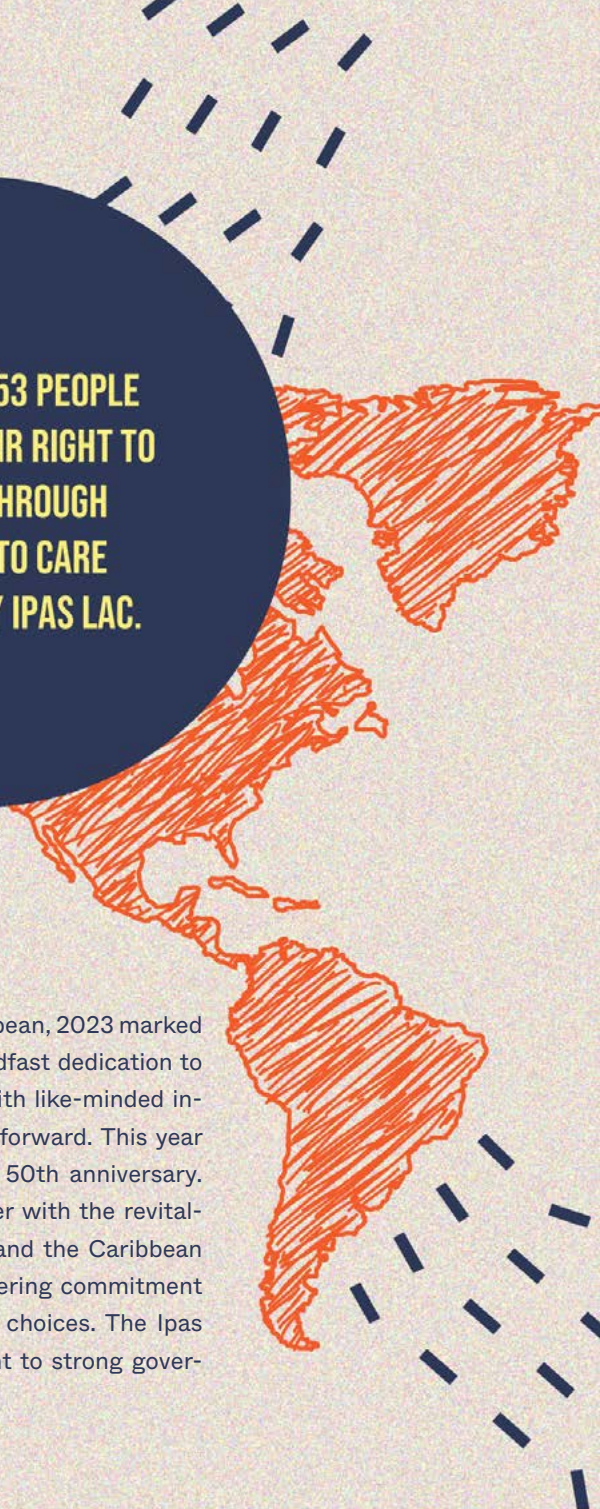


# WELCOME!

**IN 2023, 66,853 PEOPLE  
EXERCISED THEIR RIGHT TO  
ABORTION THROUGH  
PATHWAYS TO CARE  
SUPPORTED BY IPAS LAC.**

**Welcome to  
our annual  
report!**

In the dynamic landscape of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023 marked another milestone year for us as we continued our steadfast dedication to advancing reproductive justice. Collaborating closely with like-minded individuals and organizations, we've propelled our vision forward. This year held particular significance as we commemorated our 50th anniversary. Amidst this celebration, we embarked on a new chapter with the revitalization of our governing body, the Ipas Latin America and the Caribbean (Ipas LAC) Assembly. This step underscores our unwavering commitment to empowering people to make informed reproductive choices. The Ipas LAC Assembly is critical for deepening our commitment to strong governance, transparency, and accountability to our mission.





In 2023, our commitment to advancing reproductive justice in Latin America and the Caribbean remained steadfast. Despite progress, barriers to abortion access continue in many countries within the region. This reality motivates us to deepen our work and forge new alliances with partners dedicated to preventing unwanted pregnancies and ensuring access to safe abortion and contraceptive methods. In 2023, we supported access to safe abortion for 66,853 people and helped ensure access to modern contraceptive methods for 104,766 people through health systems and civil society partners. We also disseminated accurate information on reproductive health and rights, including abortion, to 100,913 people through Ipas LAC-supported civil society organizations and abortion self-care networks. These figures underscore our unwavering commitment to empowering individuals with comprehensive reproductive healthcare options while advocating for policy reforms that safeguard reproductive rights across the region.

We are proud to be active participants in 13 advocacy initiatives dedicated to defending women's Human and Reproductive Rights at both regional and global levels. Collaborating closely with national and international organizations, government agencies, and civil society, we champion inclusive policies and actions that ensure access to sexual and reproductive health, uphold the right to safe abortion, and strive to eliminate legal and social barriers hindering the full exercise of women's rights in Latin America and the Caribbean.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated team at Ipas LAC, for their exceptional work and unwavering commitment in 2023. I also express profound appreciation to our donors for their steadfast commitment to mobilizing resources for our mission to advance reproductive justice through access to safe abortion and contraception. To our invaluable allies – organizations, networks, and collectives – I extend my deepest thanks for your daily endeavors in building a world where all people have the right and agency to determine their sexuality and reproductive health with freedom. Your contributions are recognized and admired deeply.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey!

In solidarity,



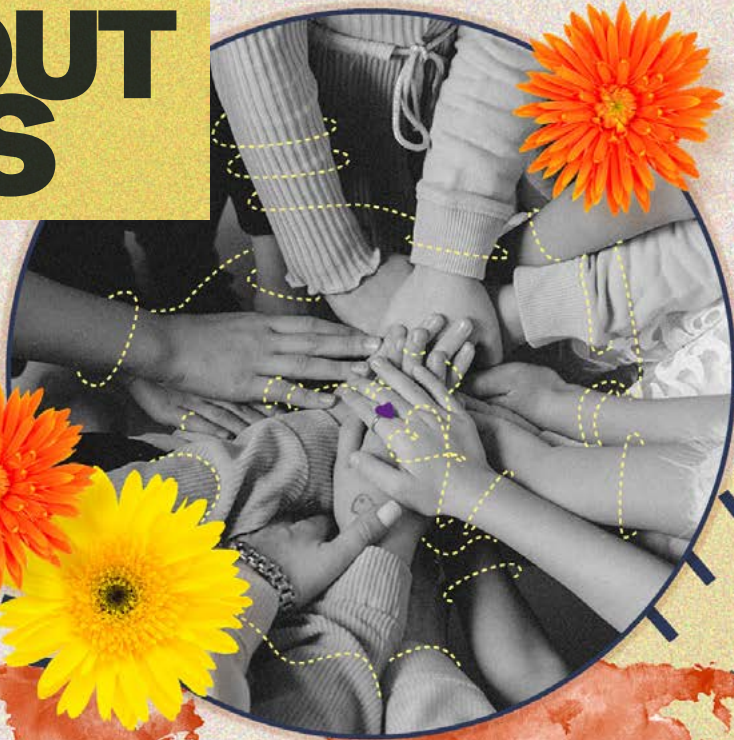
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Alcalde'.

**Maria Antonieta Alcalde Castro**

Director, Ipas Latin America and the Caribbean



# ABOUT US



Ipas LAC is a regional organizational member of the Ipas Impact Network, an international network working across the Americas, Africa, and Asia to ensure that all women and people who can become pregnant can make choices about their reproduction capacity with freedom and enjoyment.

We work in Latin America and the Caribbean with organizations, institutions, and people to prevent unwanted pregnancies and ensure access to contraception and safe abortion.



## MISSION



Ipas builds resilient abortion and contraceptive ecosystems using a comprehensive approach across sectors, institutions, and communities.



## PURPOSE



Transform the world so that all women and people who can become pregnant make reproductive decisions with freedom and enjoyment.

## VISION



We believe in a world where all people have the right and ability to determine their sexuality and reproductive health.





# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## *Better policies, laws, and financing*

We support decision-makers to design, approve, and monitor compliance with laws, public policies, and budgets that guarantee access to contraception and abortion for all women and people who can become pregnant. We promote access to abortion as part of a sustainable ecosystem in which interested parties, including women and people who can become pregnant, government actors, health personnel, civil organizations, activists, and financiers, work in an interrelated and committed manner for reproductive rights.







### ***Better social norms and agency***

We seek to ensure that women and people who can become pregnant in Latin America and the Caribbean have access to information and social support that allows them to exercise their autonomy and agency in making decisions regarding their sexuality and reproductive life, free of stigma and discrimination, especially around the prevention of unwanted pregnancies and access to abortion services.



### ***Better access and availability***

We promote and strengthen access routes to abortion and contraception services in the region to guarantee reproductive autonomy and provide quality, acceptable, timely, and affordable care.



# KEY 2023 Achievements

During 2023, in collaboration with our partners and donors, we achieved:



**66,853**

women and people who can become pregnant **accessed safe abortion services and quality post-abortion care** through health systems supported by Ipas LAC across 10 Latin American countries.



**52**

hospitals and health centers **received support from Ipas LAC** in seven Latin American countries.



**104,766**

women and people who can become pregnant **accessed contraceptive methods** in eight Latin American countries.





**100,913**

people reached with **information on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)** through CBOs and abortion self-care networks (ASCNs).



**50**

community-based organizations (CBOs) supported by **Ipas LAC**.



**263**

people from allied organizations strengthened their knowledge on SRH, abortion, and contraception through Ipas LAC's capacity-strengthening interventions in **Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua**.



**6,294**

women and people who can become pregnant were **supported by 23 ASCNs** in **Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua**.



**42**

**statements in favor of abortion access** made by public officials in four countries.



**2,823**


health professionals strengthened their knowledge and skills to provide **high-quality abortion and contraception** services without discrimination.



# IPAS LAC IMPACT MAP







At Ipas LAC, we actively work in Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua to promote access to safe abortion and contraception within a sustainable ecosystem.

Through strategic alliances, we also carry out actions and interventions in other countries in the region, expanding our impact and collaborating to guarantee the reproductive rights of women and people who can become pregnant. These actions include awareness-raising interventions, capacity-strengthening, technical support, and policy development, which contribute to the creation of favorable environments for SRH.







# SUSTAINABLE ABORTION ECOSYSTEM

Our approach starts by centering the individual, with the goal of achieving a better understanding of the complexity of the environment in which people make abortion decisions or, as we call that environment, the abortion ecosystem.

*We define a [sustainable abortion ecosystem](#) as “a dynamic condition in which resilient local stakeholders and systems are actively accountable and committed to abortion rights and responsive to everyone’s abortion needs.”*

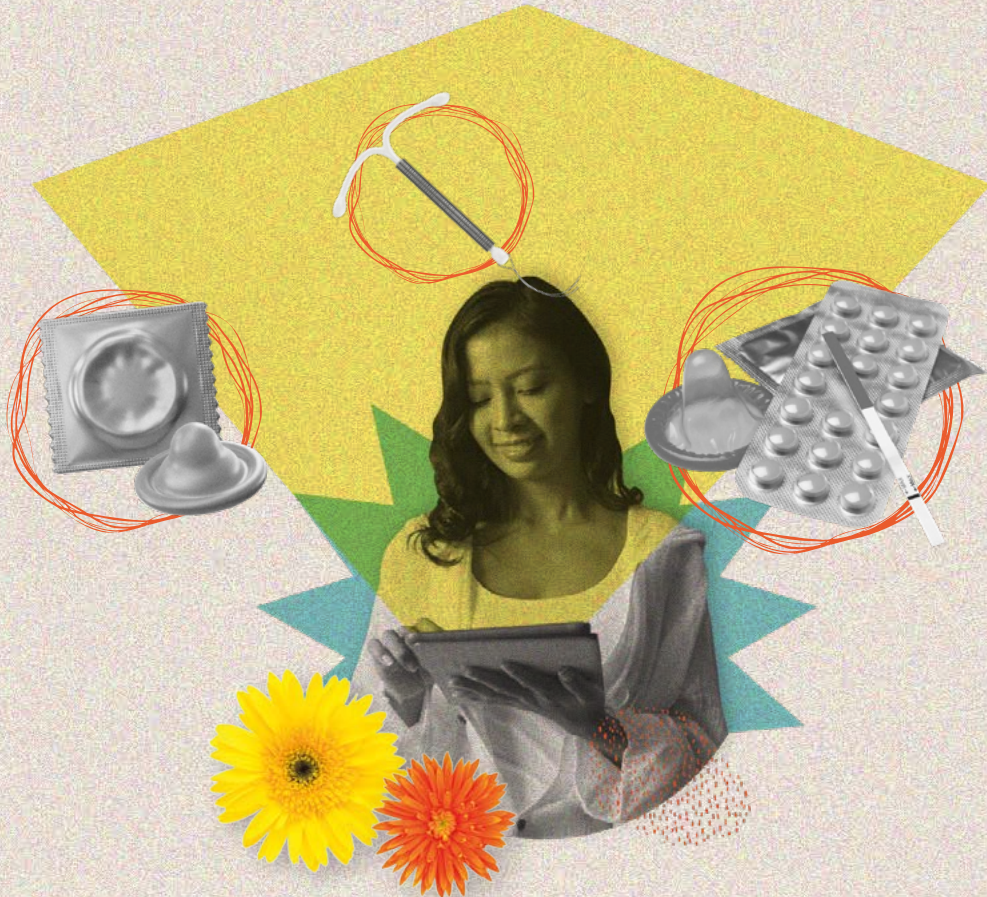
To achieve balance and ensure a committed, responsive system for abortion care, we have identified eight key programming components for action and evaluation. Each programming component is derived from and mapped to the abortion ecosystem that exists around an individual. We believe understanding and addressing the abortion ecosystem through this approach will help program designers better understand and improve the enabling environment around an individual’s abortion decision-making.

Understood this way, implementing programs can themselves be more efficient and responsive toward ensuring national ownership and sustainable access to person-centered, high-quality abortion care.





# 1. INDIVIDUAL KNOWLEDGE AND AGENCY



This component focuses on ensuring that all people have access to accurate and understandable information about their reproductive health, especially in relation to contraception and safe abortion. The main objective is to empower them to make informed and autonomous decisions about their health, regardless of social norms or external pressures. In 2023:





We developed and [launched](#) a chatbot on sexual violence and safe abortion for migrants called “[Te acompaño](#).” Our chatbot aims to expand access to information and abortion services to women and people who can become pregnant on the main migration routes through Mexico. In three months, the chatbot reached **7,016** visits from more than **2,000** people, mainly from Mexico, USA, Guatemala, Ecuador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. This translated into **567** automated conversations through the chatbot, and 85% of people reported being satisfied with information provided by the tool.



**TE ACOMPAÑO**

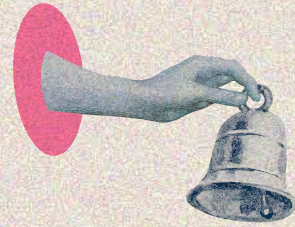


“I never thought there was an organization that cared about our health and even less to inform - about abortion. Thank you for everything you are doing.”  
Woman, Mexico.





We expanded dissemination of our [the Safe Abortion chatbot “Sofia”](#). The chatbot reached **18,339** visits made by **12,100** people, mainly from Colombia, Ecuador, USA, Mexico, and Peru. The topics people asked about most were: “medication abortion,” with a total of **11,248** consultations, and “use of mifepristone and misoprostol,” with a total of **9,027** consultations by the end of 2023.



**18,339**  
visits



“It was not difficult to use the platform, and I liked that it was a bot because it made me feel less exposed and gave me certainty that it would provide me with the exact information I needed.”

Woman, Colombia.

Mainly coming from **Colombia, Ecuador, the United States, Mexico and Peru.**

**CHATBOT “SOFÍA”**







We reached **6,913** people through our [Interactive Map of Abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), which was visited more than **37,339**. This web-based tool provides verified and easy-to-understand information about the legal status of abortion in the region, as well as a directory of **57** local organizations that can provide support to those people who need more information about abortion in their respective territories.

**6,913**  
people  
reached



"I took away more information than I expected. It attached documents and showed explanatory videos. I liked having research explained in a simple way. It gave me the feeling that it was legitimate information."

Woman, Chile.

**INTERACTIVE MAP  
OF ABORTION**





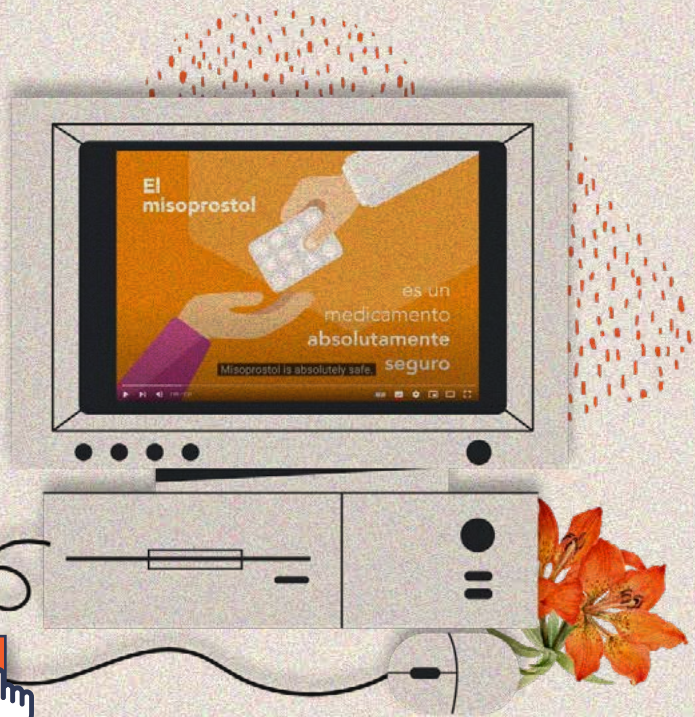


Our YouTube [video about Safe Abortion with Misoprostol](#) accumulated **5,362,357** views by the end of 2023, of which 74.4% correspond to women between 18 and 34 years old. The video's comments section reflects more than **46,941** messages, becoming a forum where people from all over the region can engage with each other and health professionals to access and share information and support becoming a forum.

**5,362,357**  
views



**WATCH VIDEO**

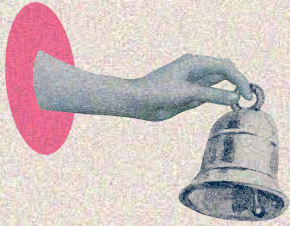


We created a [map showing where people can purchase misoprostol](#) in **10** Mexican states. By disseminating this tool we are strengthening women's ability to safely self-manage their abortions if they choose. Launched in late 2023, the tool had already been visited **436** times by the end of the year.





We developed four new safe abortion websites in [Baja California](#), [Colima](#), [Guerrero](#), and [Veracruz](#), and we continued disseminating the sites in [Tlaxcala](#) and [Oaxaca](#). These websites provide information on abortion legislation in each state and offer details about how to access care. In 2023, the websites were visited **39,757** times by **24,390** people.



**BAJA CALIFORNIA**



**COLIMA**

**VERACRUZ**

**HIDALGO**





We secured media coverage **96** times in local, national, and international outlets, covering topics related to reproductive justice. This coverage resulted from **41** interviews conducted with Ipas LAC staff and the inclusion of our work in research studies, articles, and reports by key stakeholders and media outlets.



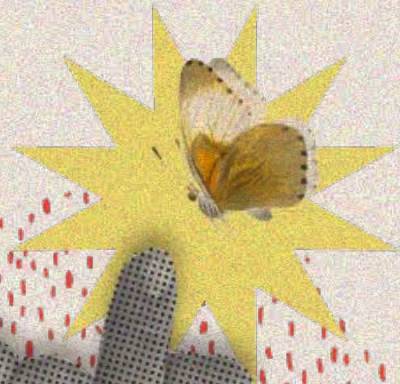
Our social networks reached tens of thousands of people in 2023. On our YouTube channel, we reach nearly **7.4 million** people. Our Facebook account received almost **4 million** visits through Ipas Mexico and **1,370,000** through the Ipas LAC account. On X (formerly Twitter), we reach nearly **3 million** people with information about access to safe abortion in the region.



**7.4 million**  
*people  
reached*



**4 million**  
*views*



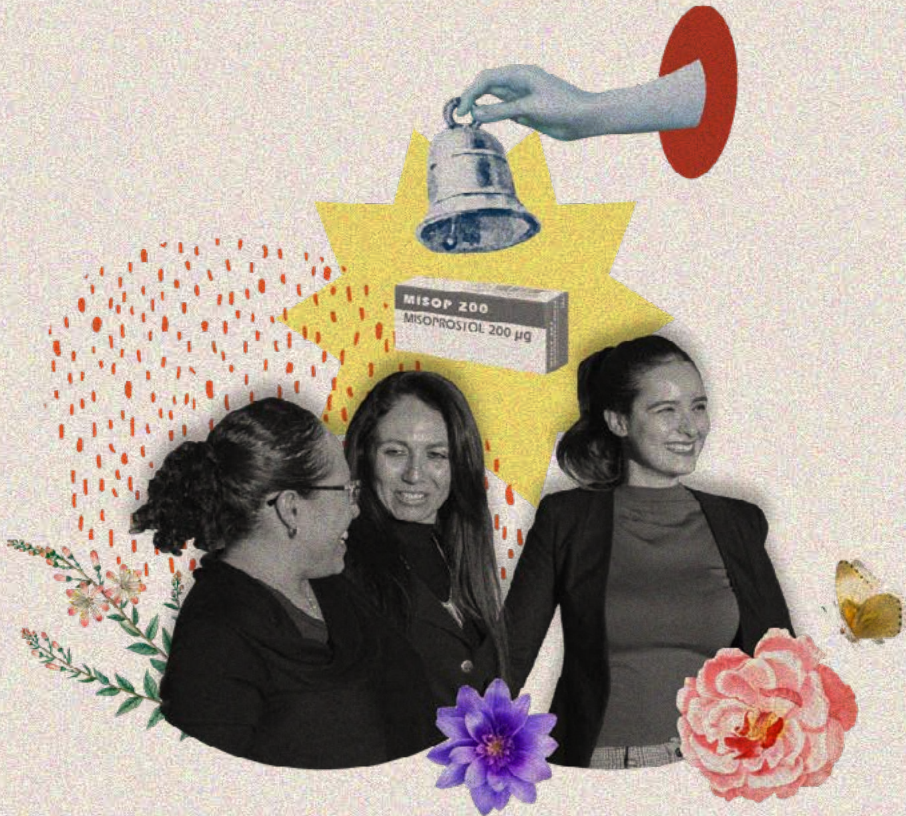
**3 million**  
*people  
reached*







## 2. COMMUNITY SOCIAL NORMS AND SUPPORT

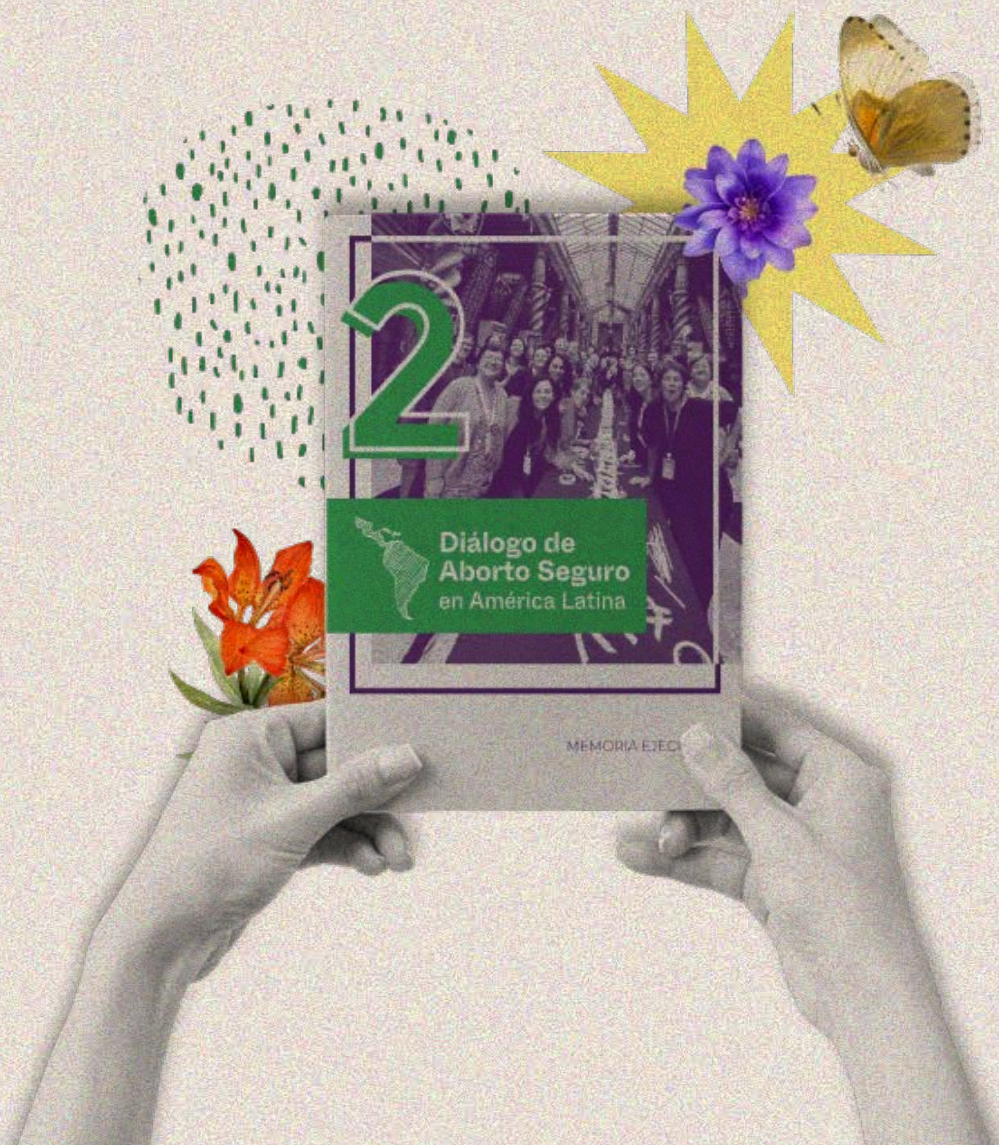


In the sustainable abortion ecosystem, social norms are free of stigma and discrimination related to abortion. This environment supports people's ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights (SRR). At Ipas LAC, we work together with community-based organizations, strengthening their capacities, promoting the accountability of those who guarantee these rights, and promoting the creation of social norms free of stigma and discrimination. In 2023, alliances were essential to advance in this direction, and thanks to this, we achieved the following:





We held a Second Safe Abortion Dialogue in Latin America, which brought together representatives of **37** civil society organizations and **9** donors from **20** countries. During this meeting, we facilitated discussion around four key areas: financing, strengthening access, advocacy and accountability efforts, and resisting anti-gender opposition. The objective was to identify fundamental challenges and opportunities to strengthen the safe abortion agenda in the region.







We participated in the VII Regional Conference of the Latin American Consortium against Unsafe Abortion (Clacai), [Persist in Change: Abortion is Our Right](#), which brought together more than **400** researchers, health professionals and representatives of civil society organizations. Ipas LAC played an important role, facilitating discussions and presenting relevant content in plenaries, roundtables, workshops, and panels. Our team of experts in the clinical, legal, communication, and supply management fields shared valuable knowledge, which promoted a fruitful dialogue about the abortion ecosystem in Latin America.

## Abortion is our right!



We collaborated with **50** CBOs and **23** ASCNs in Central America, Mexico, and South America to implement local strategies aimed at SRHR advocacy, comprehensive sexuality education and community outreach, linking and mobilizing advocates, and addressing gender-based violence. This enabled CBOs to strengthen the grassroots movement for SRHR, expand their impact, and address the needs of a diverse range of women, youth, indigenous peoples, migrants, and Afro-descendants.





With our CBOs and ASCN partners, we reached **105,769** people who now have information that allows them to decide where, how, and when to seek SRH care, including abortion. We distributed **153** Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) kits to partner organizations. We also helped strengthen the skills and knowledge of **263** grassroots SRH leaders by sharing tools, methodologies, and resources necessary to more effectively develop their interventions in the field of reproductive health.







Through Ipas LAC's User-Centered Design (UCD) methodology, nine CBOs, 3 government agencies, and more than 50 migrant women validated the content of our "Te Acompaño" chatbot.



"It is important to have information on how to defend myself, to know my rights as a migrant, and to ensure that my rights as a human being are respected."  
-20-year-old woman from Chiapas, Mexico.







We expanded our collaborations with ASCNs in 2023 to support their capacity to directly engage in SRH advocacy. Ipas LAC and our ASCN partners helped organize the Central American Meeting on Mental Health and Abortion in Guatemala. Thirty-four ASCN members and psychologists learned about tools for supporting the emotional wellbeing of women and people seeking abortion care. The meeting led to the creation of the Central American Network of Accompanying Psychologists.



We also provided capacity strengthening for **28** individuals from **7** ASCNs in Central America, training them in topics such as abortion after 13 weeks' gestation and tools for enhancing their safety and that of the people they support. ASCN members also often face isolation and burn-out in their work, so we also used these trainings to foster linkages and support among ASCNs in the region.



Given the restrictions on abortion in the U.S., we supported the expansion of ASCNs through training processes in several U.S. states, with a focus on reducing legal risks that people seeking abortion may face. On the Mexican side of the border, we provided support to cross-border ASCNs that offer information and resources to women and other people who can become pregnant- especially migrants.





## 3. POLITICAL SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP



In a sustainable abortion ecosystem, government stakeholders demonstrate prioritization of sexual and reproductive health and rights by respecting, protecting, and fulfilling human rights obligations. There are defenders of access to safe abortion at all levels, both in the government and the health sector, in addition to a strong civil society movement that mobilizes to promote and defend women's rights. During 2023, we had a presence in international and regional spaces to add to the defense of reproductive health and access to abortion.



## INTERNATIONAL SPACES



We participated in the International Dialogue of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Nexus Initiative retreat in Berlin, Germany. During these events, we shared Ipas LAC's interventions and projects related to safe abortion services. Additionally, we attended a meeting with key partners of the Nexus Initiative. The purpose was to explore opportunities for more effective collaboration in the defense, protection, and promotion of SRH.



During the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, we participated in a reception organized by the governments we participated in a reception organized by the governments of Sweden and Argentina, as well as the collective She Decides. At the event, we gave a presentation on global progress on abortion rights, in which we highlighted examples of progress in countries such as Mexico, Thailand, Colombia, and South Korea. The presentation addressed topics such as the decriminalization of abortion, access to safe and legal abortion, and the fight against stigma and discrimination towards women who have abortions.



During the 53rd General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), we worked with three progressive coalitions focused on sexual diversity, sexual and reproductive rights, and women's health. During the allied coalition strategy meeting, we led discussions on monitoring of anti-gender opposition and held a presentation on anti-rights actors at the OAS. We were also speakers at the Feminist Alliances workshop to Strengthen the Gender Equality Agenda in the inter-American human rights system.





We were part of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) Board of Directors meeting in New Delhi, India, which focused on four key strategic areas to promote coordinated action by countries to benefit the health and well-being of women, children, and adolescents. These areas were: engagement with global platforms, addressing the impact of climate change, participation in the Global Teen Forum and strengthening partner alignment at the national level. These approaches highlight the importance of comprehensively addressing challenges related to the health and well-being of these populations, as well as the need for effective collaboration both nationally and internationally. During the event, Ipas LAC gave a presentation that addressed the context of teenage pregnancy in Latin America.





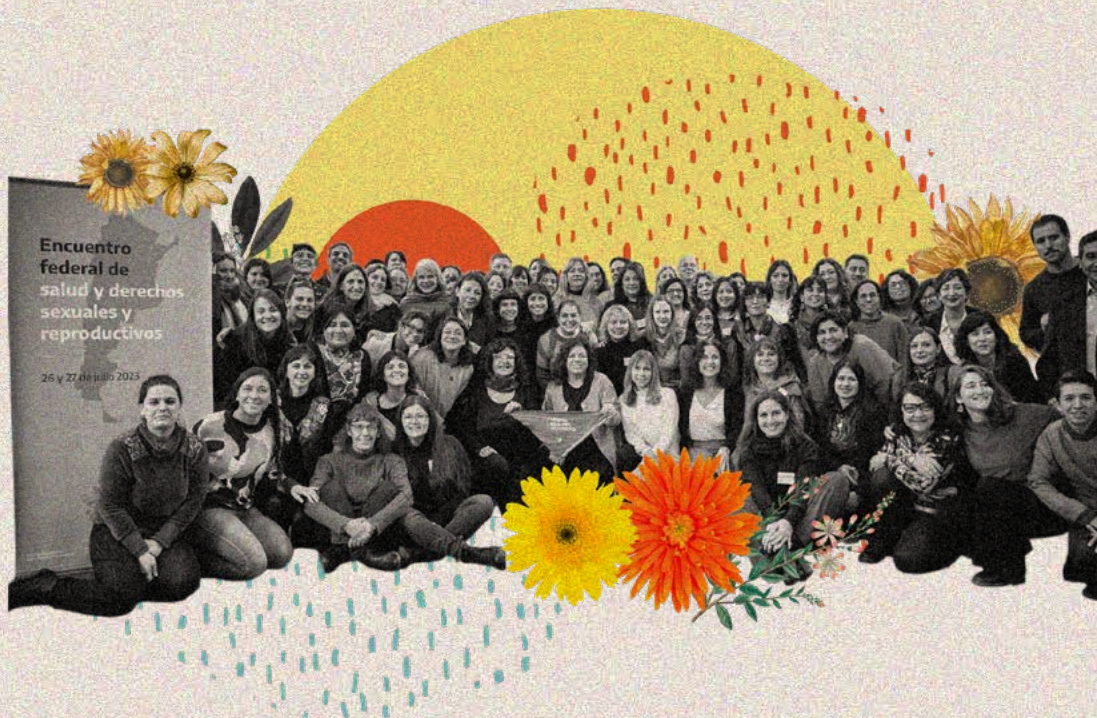
We participated in the PMNCH Cross-Cutting Committee retreat in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting centered on the implementation of PMNCH's revised approach for the promotion and accountability of commitments to the health and well-being of women, children, and adolescents. The event brought together more than 50 partners from various constituencies, including PMNCH's Country Partner Engagement Committee, Strategic Promotion Committee, Governance and Ethics Committee, Knowledge and Evidence Working Groups, and Accountability, together with the Executive Committee.



## REGIONAL SPACES



We are part of the Federal Meeting on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, organized by the Argentine government to analyze progress and challenges of strategies to continue expanding access to sexual and reproductive rights in Argentina. Meeting participants included provincial directors and leaders of sexual and reproductive health under Argentina's National Plan for the Prevention of Unintentional Pregnancy in and the Advisory Council of the NDSRH.







We participated as panelists in the Conference of the Foundation for Adolescent Health, presenting on the synergy among civil society and public institutions to advance SRH in Latin America in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where we shared our work regarding access to contraceptive services and methods, guaranteeing access to safe abortion and promoting the implementation of comprehensive sexual education. This activity was part of the 10th Anniversary of Casa FUSA.



We collaborated at sessions held during the event “10 years after the Montevideo Consensus: Towards a Population and Development Agenda with Territorial Equity”, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In this event, we participated as panelists in the section: Policies on Sexual and Reproductive Health in Argentina and the Region.



We attended the Fifth Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Santiago, Chile, commemorating 10 Years of the Montevideo Consensus. During our participation, we helped draft the Civil Society Declaration, highlighting 17 points of concern covering issues such as economic inequality, poverty, climate change, and violence against women. With our partners, we called on States to adopt concrete measures and effectively address these challenges.







We held the meeting “Towards strengthening coordinated agendas to confront and contain anti-rights movements,” in Bogotá, Colombia. We used this space to foster collaboration on strategies to monitor, confront and disarm the anti-gender movement in Latin America. Thirty-nine representatives of allied organizations from 13 countries participated.



We led 6 inter-organizational dialogue tables in coordination with Colombia’s Ministry of Health, bringing together local institutions to disseminate and implement the Ipas tool “Towards a sustainable abortion ecosystem” with a focus on planning interventions that foster a SRH system that is sensitive and committed to abortion services.



We participated in the [15th Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Meeting](#) (EFLAC) in El Salvador, where more than 1,700 allies gathered in favor of reproductive justice. During this meeting, we reaffirmed the right to free, legal, safe and free abortion as a fundamental human right.





# ADVOCACY ACTIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS



In collaboration with the Ipas US team, we are part of the Advisory Group on a project aimed at neutralizing anti-gender opposition within the OAS and the Inter-American Human Rights System. This project is coordinated by the Inter-American Commission of Women, with the support of the government of Canada.



We prepared an impact report on the organization Political Network for Values (PNFV), a transnational network that brings together important opposition political leaders. This report's objective was to provide details on the organization's background, including its origin, funding, and financial information.







We sent a report to the UN Special Rapporteur to expose contemporary forms of racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and forms of intolerance related to online hate speech by anti-rights movements. This report focused on analyzing online hate speech promoted by the anti-rights movement and its impact on reproductive and gender justice in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was signed by various regional allied organizations, including Synergia, IPPF, CRR, Promosex and the Intersectoral Group for Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Guatemala.



We collaborated with local allies, providing input to inform the Committee of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) about the state of Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Guatemala and Nicaragua. The CEDAW committee incorporated our contributions and, in its recommendations, urged the State of Nicaragua to legalize abortion, intensify efforts to reduce maternal mortality, and eliminate the ban on civil society organizations. In Guatemala, the CEDAW committee used our inputs as the basis for recommending the decriminalization and legalization of abortion and modification of public policies, including the Public Policy for the Protection of Life and the Institutionality of the Family 2021-2023.



We participated in the study “Laws and shadows. The regulation of abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean”, in collaboration with our partners at Clacai. This study highlights inequalities in access to safe abortion in the region. It is the first report that analyzes and compares abortion laws, protocols and regulations in 16 Latin American countries with the purpose of providing information, and recommendations in this area.



We supported dissemination of the Argentine Safe Abortion Access Network (REDAAS)' [Global Map of Norms regarding Conscientious Objection to Abortion](#). This innovative tool offers a visualization of current regulations on conscientious objection in abortion in at least 180 countries. This tool is meant for use by institutions, policy and decision makers, and the public, to strengthen public policies on abortion.





We carried out 2 trainings with medical decision makers in Mexico with theoretical and practical components, to strengthen advocacy skills on abortion and participants ability to present a public health perspective on abortion in the media.



During 2023, we presented 3 *amicus curiae*, to continue strengthening the defense of reproductive health and access to abortion:

- *Amicus curiae* of standards of care in the provision of safe abortion services in cases of obstetric violence, during the provision of safe abortion services presented before the Supreme Court of Justice of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay.
- *Amicus curiae* about the right to patient privacy and the duty to maintain provider-patient confidentiality during the provision of safe abortion care. This also documented the profound negative impacts on the health and lives of women whose right to privacy and con-



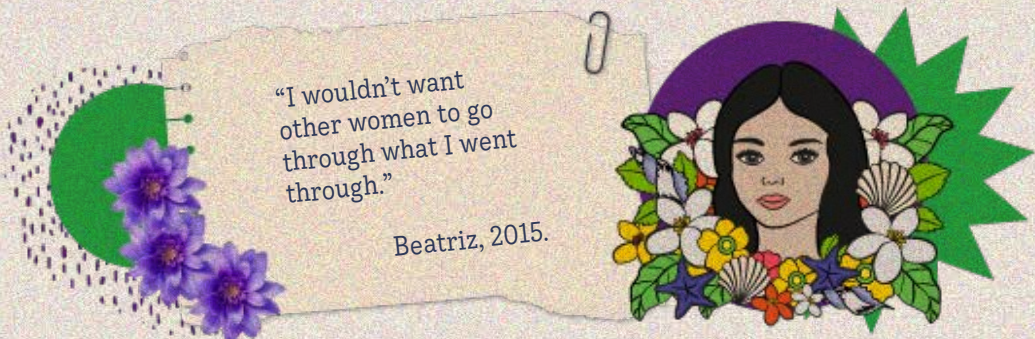
Confidential is violated, in accordance with international human rights standards and evidence—including an example of one such case presented before the Constitutional Court of Colombia.

- *Amicus curiae* on the obligation of States to guarantee the provision of safe abortion services in cases of denial of legal abortion services presented before the Constitutional Court of Colombia.



Ipas LAC presented arguments during the historic [Beatriz vs El Salvador](#) case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) on March 22nd and 23rd, 2023, during the [public hearing](#) in San José, Costa Rica. We presented information on sexual and reproductive rights standards as well as clinical evidence in briefs submitted to the IACHR.

We also played a key role in identifying four experts who provided relevant technical information for the case's defense. This included preparing a clinical expert admitted by the IACHR to testify at the hearing. Additionally, we helped form a team of clinical SRH experts that remotely provided technical advice to the defense's legal staff during the hearing.







To garner public support for the case, we led the design and launch of a 360-communication strategy that allowed us to reach a total of **3,790,397** people through our publications on Facebook; **1,531,297**, on X; **1,814,642** on Instagram; and **41,602** impressions on YouTube. Our videos about the hearing reached more than **48,000** views and the website accumulated **62,627** visits by **45,231** people, in addition to **15,523** signatures supporting the case. We contributed content for **198** publications in digital and traditional, state, national and international media.







## 4. POLICY AND LEGISLATION

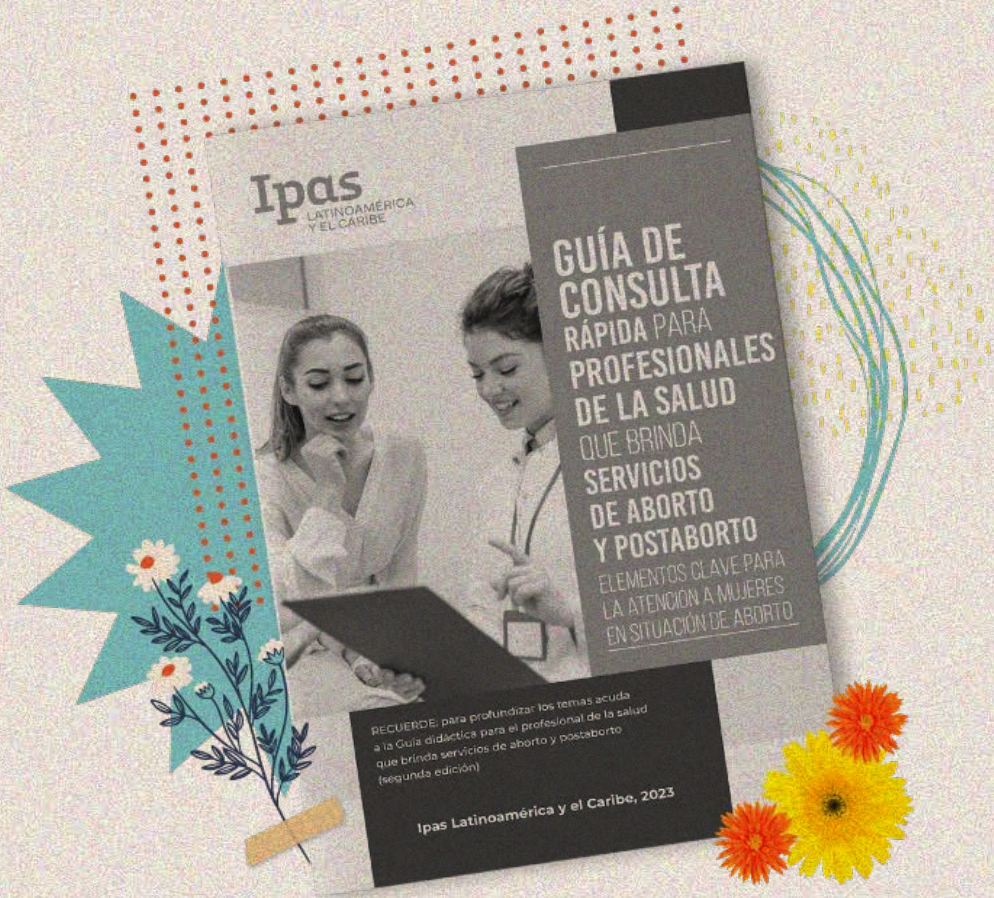


Rights-based policies and regulations on abortion is a fundamental pillar of any abortion ecosystem. In 2023, we worked closely with local partners to promote abortion-related policies:





In Argentina, we provided technical inputs to the Ministry of Health to update their “Quick reference guide for health professionals” based on the country’s Legal Abortion protocol. This guide is a tool for health professionals, as it provides quick and accurate guidance on legal abortion, with the aim of improving the quality care and protecting the reproductive rights of women and people who can become pregnant.



In Colombia, we supported efforts toward the country’s official adoption of a single regulation on abortion. This effort included presenting research-based evidence and advocating for reproductive rights.





In Ecuador, we provided medical and technical support to the Ministry of Health for the development and publication of Ecuador's official guidelines for caring for survivors of sexual assault, including safe abortion care. This guideline is mandatory in establishments of the National Health System. We also helped develop a Clinical Practice Guide for Therapeutic Abortion, a fundamental clinical tool to guide health personnel in the implementation of evidence-based abortion care. The document includes medical criteria for abortion procedures and references to updated techniques and protocols grounded in reproductive rights.



In El Salvador, we supported the development and dissemination of protocols regarding obstetric complications and patient confidentiality. We prepared a summary and tools for disseminating the protocols prepared by the Ministry of Health. These were presented at an event that we supported in collaboration with the Salvadoran Medical Union for the Health and Life of Women and the Association of Gynecology and Obstetrics of El Salvador (Asogoes).



In Guatemala, we collaborated with the National Reproductive Health Program (NRHP) to update the national "Comprehensive Abortion Care Manual", thereby ensuring the provision of quality services based on updated evidence. This manual -expected to be launched in 2024- is being reviewed by the NRHP. Its renewal highlights the inclusion of mifepristone as part of the protocol indicated for medical abortion, reflecting the availability of this essential abortion medication in the country. Previously, the protocol only included abortion with misoprostol.



In Honduras, we contributed scientific evidence and technical input for development of information materials on intrauterine devices (IUDs), the subdermal hormonal implant, and vasectomy in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. We reached approximately **9,000** health system users with clear and reliable information for making informed decisions about contraception.





In Mexico, we provided technical assistance at the state level in **8** of the **12** states that have decriminalized abortion during the first twelve weeks of gestation (Mexico City, Oaxaca, Hidalgo, Veracruz, Baja California, Guerrero, Baja California Sur, Quintana Roo). We contributed to the review and interpretation of laws and the coordination of the health ministries in these states.



In collaboration with the National Center for Gender Equity and Reproductive Health of Mexico (CNEGySR) we developed the document “Integrated Model for Attention to Family, Sexual and Violence against Women,” 2023 edition. This document provides guidance for abortion in cases of sexual violence based on World Health Organization recommendations.



We carried out the first workshop to Update the Legal Framework for Safe Abortion Care and Clarification of Values for legal representatives of the Ministries of Health in Mexico. During the meeting, Ipas trained lawyers on the legal framework for safe abortion care in MX, including recent Supreme Court rulings decriminalizing abortion.







## 5. FINANCING



Financing for the abortion ecosystem includes mechanisms that ensure resilient, affordable, equitable access to abortion care across the entire health system. As part of our support model for these, we focused on strengthening the processes for assessing needs, costing, allocating funds, and procuring supplies for abortion services.



In 2023, we developed a new course on Supply Chain Management of medicines and supplies for safe abortion care on our virtual platform. This course is designed to provide individuals involved in this process with the opportunity to strengthen their skills asynchronously, thereby ensuring that the funds necessary for the purchase of abortion supplies are allocated effectively.





# 6. COMMODITIES





For local health systems to provide safe abortion and contraception services, it is also essential that they have supplies, medications, and the necessary technology. The sustainable supply of these commodities requires a supply chain where local systems are committed to having commodities available at the right place, at the right time, in the right quantity and in the right condition. Therefore, this year:



We continued to strengthen abortion services in the public health system in Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador and Mexico through the donation of abortion medications, contraceptive supplies, instruments and training models. These contributions facilitate the establishment of sustainable and safe abortion and contraception services.



In Argentina, we collaborated with the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of La Plata, the Ministry of Health of the Province of Buenos Aires and the Concept Foundation organization to develop the required tests for the local production of mifepristone.

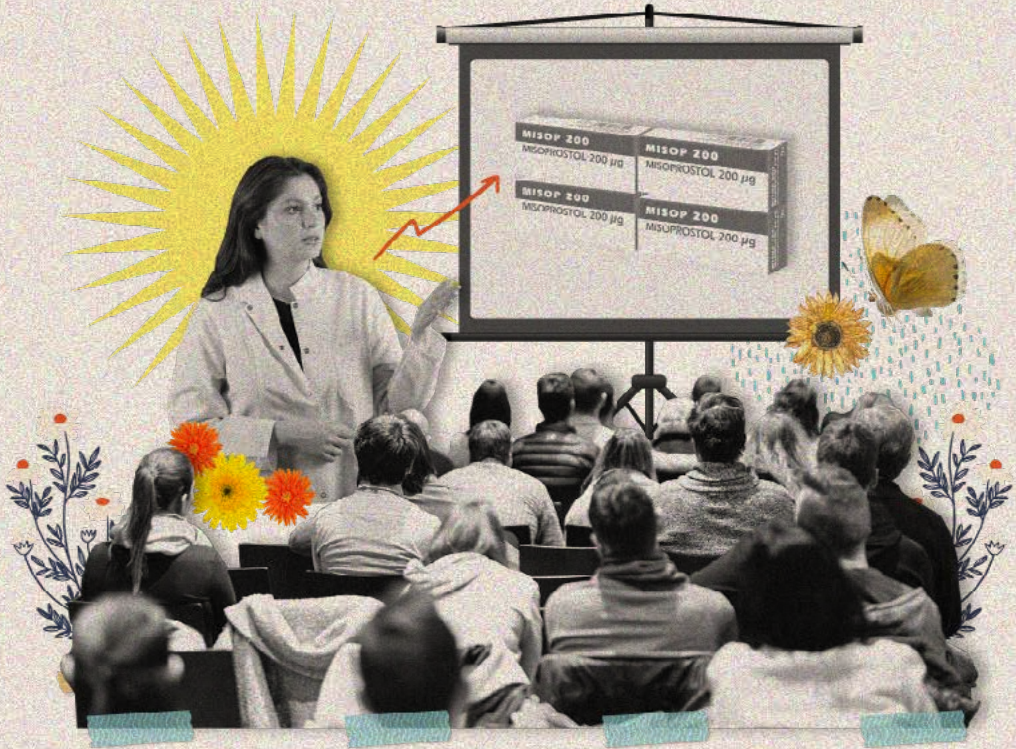


In Ecuador, we collaborated with the Ministry of Health with the inclusion of mifepristone in Ecuador's list of essential medicines. At Ipas LAC we contributed by providing updated scientific evidence that demonstrated the effectiveness of the medication. Other regional partners such as Clacai and ForoLAC supported this process.





## 7. HEALTH WORKFORCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY



Abortion will only be safe when countries guarantee universal access with adequate supplies, a trained workforce that meets established clinical guidelines, and stigma-free services that respect human rights and address the needs of the community.

As part of our strategy to advance the implementation of abortion services during 2023:









Likewise, we co-facilitated the first meeting of obstetricians with participants from five countries in the region: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru. This event's purpose was to reflect on these professionals' vital role in guaranteeing safe abortion services. 32 obstetricians attended, which contributed to the discussion and exchange of knowledge about the importance of their work in this crucial area of reproductive health.



We implemented a clinical exchange program focused on the provision of abortion services during the advanced stages of pregnancy in Argentina, Chile, El Salvador and Honduras, training a total of 64 obstetrician-gynecologists.



We successfully graduated **14** Argentinian Centers of Good Practices (CGP) as part of the support we provide to the health system and the strengthening of the capacities of health professionals in the country



We provided technical assistance to the REDAAS, in Argentina to develop a guide that strengthens the role of nursing in legal abortion care, with a focus on human rights and gender. In collaboration with the Center for State and Society Studies (CEDES), we developed the series of documents “Obstetric Work in Sexual and Reproductive Health”, for the enactment of a national law that regulates their professional practice and



can prescribe medications. Additionally, during 2023, we collaborated in the preparation of the document on Fundamental Tasks of Obstetrics: recommendations for the regulation of the prescription, use and dispensation of medication and Contribution of residencies to the training of obstetricians in Argentina.



Based on our experience in creating the regional safe abortion chatbot with Sofía and the design of “Te acompaño”, we offered technical and technological assistance to CEDES for the development of [ERA](#). This virtual assistant provides reliable and trustworthy clinical and legal information for the comprehensive approach to legal abortion. We also contributed to the development of a series of fact sheets on key aspects in legal abortion for health professionals in training.



We trained **119** health providers and **148** gender violence advisors on safe abortion, in collaboration with the Miles Corporation in Chile.



In coordination with Profamilia in Colombia, we worked with five universities in Cartagena, Bogotá, Bucaramanga and Neiva, to promote the right to safe abortion through six seminars on legal abortion, health and SRH, where we trained **413** individuals.



In collaboration with the University of El Salvador, we trained **39** medical students in SRH. In addition, we trained **22** teachers using the Training of Trainers (ToT) methodology, focused on issues of Human Rights and Sexual and Reproductive Health.



We strengthened access to contraceptive services in primary care settings in El Salvador, through the training of **48** direct health service providers and **40** community promoters, which made it possible to provide contraceptive services to a total of **34,384** users.





We conducted two visits to exchange experiences and a discussion with the Ministry of Health of Baja California Sur and Hidalgo, in Mexico, to strengthening the provision of safe abortion services in these states, where abortion is legal until twelve weeks of gestation.



We reached **239** health professionals who enrolled in the [Ipas LAC virtual classroom](#) for self-managed learning, mainly from Mexico, Argentina, and Panama. We developed four new courses; Clinical protocols for Uterine Evacuation, Provision of SRH Services from a human rights approach, Supply Chain, Codes of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), which offer a technical update in a self-managed modality, focused on essential topics that the staff health care for women and people who can become pregnant must know to guarantee timely access and quality care. The content of these courses was designed to cater to regional audiences and diverse legal frameworks.







We recorded a total of **8,362** visits to our [Ipas LAC Web Platform for health professionals](#), including **4,244** individuals. Visitors hailed mainly from Mexico, USA, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela. Of these users, **140** chose to register on the network of abortion providers, which, until the end of 2023, has more than **1,949** professionals committed to the health of women and people who can become pregnant. This network received information to strengthen the provision of safe abortion and sexual and reproductive health services.



Our [Safe Abortion App Ipas Mx](#), recorded **19,895** active sessions by **4,658** individuals. This application offers clinical and technical support to health professionals (general medicine, gynecology, obstetrics, nursing, and midwifery) with information about safe and legal abortion that is applicable in Mexican territory.





## 8. HEALTH INFORMATION



A sustainable abortion ecosystem considers the use of reproductive health data and information systems to identify needs, develop care programs, and achieve optimal outcomes for pregnancy termination services.



Within our support model, we continue supporting ministries of health at the regional level in strengthening their registration systems. This will allow them to have complete information for timely review and decision-making, which is reflected in continuous improvement in the quality of abortion services.



Throughout this year, we encountered various obstacles, but we also celebrated significant achievements thanks to the steadfast efforts of everyone involved. Together, we overcame barriers and established strategic alliances that have allowed us to closer to our goal of reproductive justice for women, girls, and people who can become pregnant in Latin America and the Caribbean.



In 2024, we will reaffirm our purpose: to transform the world so that all women and people who can become pregnant can make reproductive decisions with freedom and enjoyment. We will continue to carry out advocacy, capacity strengthening, and accompaniment work while we accompaniment work while we move forward together to eradicate unsafe abortions and ensure access to comprehensive SRH care.



We thank each of you for your dedication and unwavering commitment to this cause. Let us move forward with hope, with the awareness that our efforts are making a significant difference in the lives of many women, girls, and people who can become pregnant throughout the region.

**Thank you  
for being part  
of Ipas Latin  
America and the  
Caribbean!**

**FOLLOW US ON OUR  
SOCIAL NETWORKS!**



Ipas LAC, 2024.