

Bridging the Gaps



A YEAR OF SAVING LIVES

RET AMERICAS
2025 ANNUAL REPORT

WHO WE ARE

In a world where crises and conflicts disrupt millions of lives, RET stands as a beacon of hope and transformation.

Founded in 2000, we have spent the past quarter century supporting communities afflicted by violence, armed conflicts, and disasters. Our journey spans 35 countries and more than 460 projects, positively impacting the lives of over 2.5 million individuals.

Our approach is holistic and community centered. We engage with adolescents, youth, young mothers, and families in refugee camps, as well as displaced communities in both urban and rural settings. By providing critical protection and education programs, we bridge gaps and promote resilience, empowerment, and community transformation.

We believe that young people are not merely beneficiaries but partners and future leaders of their communities. Our commitment extends beyond immediate relief.

We focus on building the capacity of youth to be positive changemakers and eliminate communities' dependency on aid. This includes formal and non-formal educational initiatives, as well as programs in food security, nutrition, economic empowerment, and entrepreneurship



LETTER FROM THE CEO

A Mission that Matters More than Ever



Remi Mannaert
President & CEO

Dear friends and supporters of RET Americas,

RET Americas is a registered 501(c)(3), headquartered in Washington, D.C., with over twenty years of history behind us. We are, at our core, an institution dedicated to a simple but consequential belief: that stable, safe, and prosperous communities are good for everyone — for the families who live there, for their regions, and for the international partners who are invested in a more secure and prosperous world.

Our work is currently concentrated in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the scale and urgency of need is significant. The crises unfolding across the hemisphere do not stop at borders. Organized crime, narcotrafficking networks, and the systematic trafficking of people — including children — are not isolated problems. They are regional and global ones, feeding on the vulnerability of communities where opportunity is scarce and institutions are weak. Young people, without education or economic prospects, become targets for recruitment into illegal armed groups. Families are displaced. Trust erodes. And the costs, in human suffering, in regional instability, in lost economic potential, fall on everyone.

Latin America and the Caribbean is also a region of extraordinary opportunity. Its demographics, its resources, and its proximity to major markets make it one of the world's most promising frontiers for trade, investment, and partnership. But that potential remains largely locked behind instability. Stabilizing communities, keeping children in school, and building the conditions for peaceful civic life is not just humanitarian work. It is the foundation on which



1 in 70

**People globally
are forcibly
displaced,
around 117M**

shared prosperity can be built and international partners across sectors have a direct stake in seeing it succeed.

Investing in prevention, in protection, and in the resilience of communities at risk is not charity. It is strategy.

What makes RET Americas effective is the depth of experience we bring to that strategy. As a member of the RET Alliance, a network of independent organizations with field presence across some of the world's most fragile environments, from the Americas to Africa to the Middle East, we draw on more than two decades of expertise in peacebuilding, education in crisis settings, and community stabilization. That global knowledge base makes us stronger and our programs more effective, wherever we work. RET Americas remains fully independent, governed by its own board, and committed to the highest standards of transparency and accountability to all of our partners and donors.

Our flagship initiative in 2025 was *Aprender Sin Barreras* (Learning Without Barriers) a multi-year program in Peru that reaches vulnerable children and their families with quality, holistic education. The program's innovative School Reinforcement Strategy, known as *DIVERTICLASES*, transforms learning into an experience children want to be part of. It has trained migrant teachers as community anchors, and it is steadily building toward its goal of reaching 50,000 children and adolescents.

This program reflects a conviction that drives everything RET Americas does: that education is protection.

It protects children from abuse, exploitation, and recruitment into violence. Communities where young people have access to quality learning are measurably safer, more stable, and more resistant to the forces that generate crisis. This is not idealism. It is something we have seen, consistently, across twenty years of work in some of the world's most challenging environments.

None of this is possible without the partners who believe in this work. To our individual donors, foundations, and private sector supporters: thank you. To the governments, multilateral agencies, and institutional partners whose sustained engagement reflects a shared understanding that principled, results-driven programming on the ground makes a tangible difference: we are grateful, and we do not take those partnerships lightly.

As we look ahead, RET Americas is deepening its engagement with public and private partners across the hemisphere and beyond. We are committed to demonstrating, with clarity and evidence, the return on investment that sustained, community-centered programming delivers: crises averted, families strengthened, futures preserved. Wherever communities face crisis, RET Americas stands ready to be part of the solution.

Thank you for being part of it with us.

With gratitude and determination,

Remi Mannaert
President & CEO



LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Consolidating Impact in a Year of Upheaval

Across Latin America and the Caribbean, we were forced to make sharper choices. Funding constraints, rising migration flows, and weakening public systems meant that doing “everything everywhere” was neither possible nor strategic.

Instead, we focused on protecting children and adolescents in high risk mobility corridors, strengthening inclusive education systems, and reinforcing cross border responses where institutional gaps widened.

21M

**Displaced
people across
the region in
2025**

In Peru, where displacement and inequality continued to disrupt learning, we strengthened migrant teacher and remedial learning models instead of expanding to new regions. Through *Aprender Sin Barreras* (Learning Without Barriers), our Multi-Year Resilience Program made possible by Education Cannot Wait, we re-launched *DIVERTICLASES* and helped thousands of students recover foundational skills, with 76% demonstrating improved competencies in math and communication.

FROM MIGRATION TO INCLUSION



In Peru, our program *Aprender Sin Barreras* is making an impact. Andrea and Rossy's story is just one example.

Andrea and Rossy fled Venezuela and rebuilt their lives in Peru, eventually becoming teachers within *Diverticlases*, part of *Aprender Sin Barreras*, a Multi-Year Resilience Program made possible by Education Cannot Wait. Through tutoring, emotional support, and safe learning spaces, they help refugee and migrant children adapt to a new school system and feel a sense of belonging.

Today, both women see their work as more than instruction. It is a way of restoring dignity to children who have faced displacement, giving them the chance to feel safe, valued, and heard. Their story shows how migration, often defined by loss, can also become a source of resilience, integration, and hope for the next generation.



RET AMERICAS BOARD MEMBERS

RET Americas is a member of the RET Alliance, a global network composed of three independent organizations (RET International, RET Americas, and RET Germany), that coordinate to implement projects and bridge the gaps. Board Members are listed alphabetically.

Anne-Shelton Aaron, Board Member

Co-founder of the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Geneva

Alan P. Dye, Secretary

Partner at Webster, Chamberlain & Bean, LLP, specialized in the representation of organizations

Zeynep Gündüz, Chair

President and CEO, RET International

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RET International



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