### **GUYANA**







PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*\* 5,043



**FUNDING SITUATION** 

REQUIREMENT: \$ 7.35 MILLION

#### Situation

- Guyana reported 8,585 total cases of COVID-19, 418 active cases and moved to 195 deaths by the end of February.
- Refugees and migrants were included in the country's national COVID-19 immunization plans; however, prioritization of specific groups had yet to be defined beyond medical staff and high-risk groups, targeted under the initial 20% to receive vaccines through the GAVI Covax facility. Vaccination timelines for Venezuelans remained unspecified even as Guyana received its first donation of 3,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from Barbados on 10 February. This was allocated to 1,400 frontline health workers while 100 was given to CARICOM.
- Additionally, the Guyana-Suriname ferry service resumed operations to documented residents. Passengers must show a negative PCR test result. Curfews and restrictions remained in place as COVID-19 infections increased.
- Reports of persons using fake tests to enter Guyana surfaced, prompting advisories against using fake COVID-19 tests, as the action could be punishable by law.
- Two fishing vessels and 12 crew members detained by the Venezuelan navy on 21 January were confirmed released and on their way back to Guyana from Venezuela in early February. The reasoning behind their release was not immediately available, but Venezuela had been subjected to significant international pressure following the detention of the vessels.



## Response

- Food assistance was provided to 2,390 Venezuelans in Region 1 (Barima-Waini) while another partner supplied 389 additional persons with food in a different region.
- Additionally, 85 Venezuelans and one host community member received NFI hygiene supplies and services that included messages, hygiene items, facilities, and menstrual products. Moreover, R4V partners provided 31 Venezuelans with temporary shelter in East Berbice-Corentyne, Region 4.
- Multi-purpose cash-based interventions (CBI) in the form of paper-based vouchers to assist with basic needs reached 57 individuals.
- Partners also delivered child protection training and provided support to Child Advocacy Centres (CACs) where 134 adolescent Venezuelans received specialized services through telephone and in-person psycho-social support, referrals and forensic interviews. These centres provide a one stop facility for reporting child rights violations, to increase response capacity for social and child protection systems in the affected regions for 500



Food distribution in Guyana - March 2021



women and 500 children. Services also extended to **GBV** counselling and support for adult women. Additionally, another R4V partner provided multi-sectoral services to support GBV survivors and implemented a feedback mechanism reaching 64 people. Advocacy initiatives were also carried out to strengthen GBV prevention and risk mitigation among Venezuelan refugees and migrants and host communities. Furthermore, 12 persons were trained in GBV prevention, mitigation and response.

- 1,065 Venezuelans received protection-related assistance and specialized services<sup>1</sup>.
- Partners also assisted with 15 primary health care consultations including TBC, COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, noncommunicable diseases, mental, sexual and reproductive health as well as psychosocial support.
- To continue delivering WASH services one partner constructed a well, Pholtovotaic (PV) solar pumping and safe water distribution system for the host community of Kurutuku in Region 7 (border with Venezuela), inhabited by 150 people including refugees, migrants and returnees.

# Partners by Sector\*

FOOD SECURITY	<b>†</b> HEALTH	CBI	PROTECTION	SHELTER	WASH
IOM, UNHCR	HIAS	IOM	Blossoms Inc, HIAS, UNHCR, UNICEF, Guyana Sex Workers Coalition	IOM	UNHCR, UNICEF, GWI

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Protection services include the strengthening of asylum systems and access to regularization, the development of temporary measures and specific legal actions to avoid deportations and to address the vulnerabilities that irregular status is generating for an increasing number of refugees and migrants and to improve access to basic services and temporary shelter alternatives, amongst other notable initiatives taken. For further information, see the RMRP 2021.

<sup>\*</sup> Based on activities reported in the current month