



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
IN THE SUBREGION*
150,000



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME
FORM OF ASSISTANCE**
10,880



FUNDING SITUATION***
FUNDED: **\$11.34 MILLION**
REQUIREMENT: **\$ 46.36 MILLION**

Situation

- While Aruba, Curaçao and Trinidad and Tobago detected only few imported cases of COVID-19, Guyana noted a spike of 92 new cases reaching a total of 248 confirmed cases and the Dominican Republic continued to experience drastic surges, adding 14,531 more cases, reaching a grand total of 31,816 cases as of 30 June.
- Countries in the Caribbean sub-region re-opened business sectors while maintaining physical distancing protocols, since lockdowns and confinement measures had resulted in severe hardship for host populations, refugees and migrants. Many Venezuelans lost their livelihoods and faced poverty, destitution, eviction and food insecurity as well as increased protection risks. Venezuelans returned to the informal labour sector, but their search for employment proved challenging in economies adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Their vulnerability became evident to RMRP partners who were increasingly approached for assistance in food, shelter and health services. In general, in all 5 countries, governmental social programs were made available mainly to citizens and permanent residents while limited resources created gaps in processing applications for single Venezuelans, and those without children. In this adverse context World Refugee Day was marked on 20 June to highlight the needs and difficulties faced by this population and showcase how refugees and migrants positively contribute to host countries.
- In the Dominican Republic, given the increase in COVID-19 cases and the negative economic impact of restriction measures, the authorities announced that the state of emergency would continue only until 01 July. Curfew orders were amended keeping non-essential activities suspended while malls and businesses re-opened in different stages. Authorities in Guyana came under international pressure to declare electoral results. More than three months after elections day, final results had not been declared. Meanwhile, the country saw increases in confirmed COVID-19 cases, mainly in the regions of Aranka, Moruca and Santa Rosa, reaching 8 of the 10 regions and adopted restrictive measures. Consequently, numerous refugees and migrants became financially unstable, and were unable to afford basic needs such as food, rent, hygiene items and other essentials. In Hinterland, Regions 1, 7 and 9 which border Brazil and Venezuela remain closed and mining areas went into lockdown.
- Aruba recorded 3 active cases of COVID-19 since receiving humanitarian flights from Colombia. Government offices and private sector businesses fully re-opened, yet the airport remained closed to tourists yet borders re-opened with few Dutch islands. Regardless, all non-residents were required to purchase compulsory 'Visitors' health insurance' for COVID-19 medical assistance and to cover the costs of medical screenings or COVID-19 tests upon arrival. Although some Venezuelans returned to the informal labour sector, a high demand for assistance was noted. Serious challenges were seen in the housing sector, with a notable increase in eviction rates of refugees and migrants, some of whom were physically and psychologically harassed to move. Other Venezuelans started sharing accommodations to minimize expenses, abandoning physical distancing protocol while some ended-up homeless. Venezuelans who had registered on the DIMAS website for assistance to return to their home country were unable to return by the end of June 2020, due to the lack of clearance by the Government of Venezuela. Some having no means of supporting themselves protested outside the Venezuelan consulate in Oranjestad.

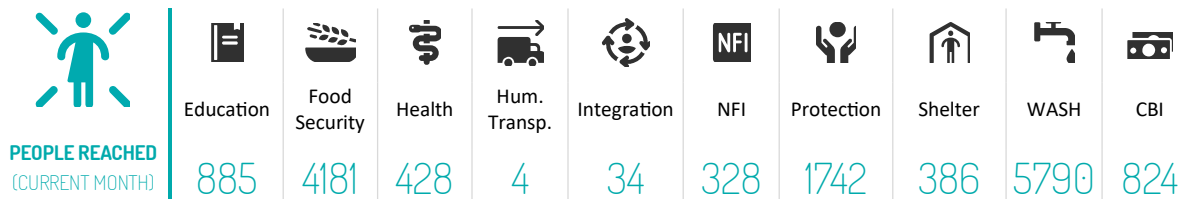


Figure 1: World Refugee Day 2020, photo © HIAS



Figure 2: World Refugee Day 2020, Aruba

- Curaçao recorded 4 new cases of COVID-19 during the month of June. In a context of profound economic downturn affecting large segments of host and Venezuelan populations, the government of Curaçao reopened all business sectors, but kept its international airport closed for passengers from all countries apart from Aruba, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and the Netherlands. The pandemic resulted in 'austerity measures' with the government announcing cuts in benefits for civil servants. The impacts of the pandemic also left 80,000 people, half of the population on the island, dependant on food aid. The 'austerity measures' were met with strikes by civil servants; demonstrations and riots ensued.
- In Trinidad and Tobago preventive COVID-19 restrictions continued to ease with part of the service sector being allowed to reopen from 8 June, and restaurants restarting activities from 22 June. Amid these developments, many refugees and migrants remained vulnerable with reduced access to basic needs. For instance, some 100 Warao Venezuelans previously reported to be living in makeshift structures in Icacos, the southwesternmost point, coastal village in Trinidad, continued to be in need of basic assistance. The Prime Minister announced that Venezuelans previously registered with the Government in June 2019, would receive a further extension of their documentation until December 2020, allowing them to stay longer in the country. Separately, attempts to access territory via irregular means continued to be noted by R4V partners.



Response
























- As needs increased due to economic hardship, RMRP partners focussed on providing temporary shelter, Non Food Items (NFIs), food assistance and cash-based interventions (CBI) to the most vulnerable refugees and migrants, including those in remote and rural areas.
- In June, 226 vulnerable Venezuelans were provided with short term accommodation solutions in Curaçao, Guyana, Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago, while partners in Aruba advocated for the extension of the moratorium on evictions and sought legal pathways to protect those under threat of eviction. In Trinidad and Tobago, R4V partners also advocated with local authorities and a local church for the relocation of the 100 Warao Venezuelans occupying makeshift households in the impoverished coastal village of Icacos. One R4V partner also facilitated discussions between Venezuelan Warao refugees and migrants and the First People's Community of Santa Rosa, a local coalition of persons of indigenous descent.
- As a priority reflected in the updated RMRP, partners delivered emergency food assistance to 4,181 people across countries in the sub-region. In Trinidad and Tobago, 3,495 Venezuelans received e-vouchers. A total of 328 NFI kits were distributed across Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. Aruba and Curaçao partners began giving referrals to the Red Cross and local food bank as US \$6 million for food assistance was provided by the Dutch government to assist locals and all refugees and migrants, including those undocumented on the islands.
- With the aim of responding to needs in a rapid, efficient and flexible way, RMRP partners in Aruba provided multi-purpose CBI in the form of one-time use credit cards to 79 Venezuelan beneficiaries while partners in Trinidad and Tobago and Aruba supplied 101 and 225 vulnerable Venezuelans with CBI respectively.
- In a context of insecurity and exacerbated hardship, protection and life-saving activities also featured prominently across the sub-region. R4V partners in **Trinidad & Tobago and Guyana** focussed efforts on supporting **child protection** and **Gender Based Violence (GBV)**, services providing **counselling** for victims of trafficking and GBV and distributing information materials related to prevention and response services. In Guyana, one R4V partner distributed condoms to 1,560 sex workers in Regions 1 and 7 and 11 and trained peer educators on GBV matters in Regions 8, 7 and 1.

- Moreover, primary health care assistance, psychosocial support and emergency health interventions were scaled-up in four Caribbean countries. One partner clinic in Curaçao served 353 Venezuelans with primary health care consultations via face-to-face and remote modalities. In Trinidad and Tobago, one partner delivered sexual and reproductive health care to 183 Venezuelans, through a static and mobile migrant clinic mission to remote villages, that treated many high-risk and vulnerable persons, as 54% were children. Remote psychological counselling sessions were also provided via telephone and videoconferencing to 27 Venezuelans in Curaçao, 26 of whom presented issues related to GBV. Additionally, in the Dominican Republic, partners assisted 37 Venezuelans with COVID-19 cases, accompanying them to hospitals and purchasing their medicines. Additionally, to enhance the Guyanese Ministry of Public Health's COVID-19 response, one R4V partner donated 48 Refugee Housing Units (RHU) that were assembled and transformed into medical/quarantine facilities by the Civil Defence Commission. Health authorities of Aruba and Curaçao also received 13 RHU.
- In Trinidad and Tobago, 806 Venezuelan students (17 new beneficiaries) were provided with remote access to education despite connectivity challenges. Partners also advocated for their inclusion in national programmes in the country. In Trinidadian coastal areas, Venezuelan children started receiving education support from facilitators living within the same communities, though this support was hindered by a lack of physical space to house these activities. In Aruba, 79 Venezuelan school aged children enrolled in educational institutions; R4V partners provided CBI to cover their education related needs.
- Operations in Aruba (DIMAS) have also continued to assist with the digitalization of data from asylum applications. In total, over 600 applicants have been indirectly assisted. Additionally, Trinidad and Tobago partners continued to operate 90% remotely with an emergency rotation system, providing case management services to 32 beneficiaries. In the Dominican Republic, 33 cases of legal assistance for persons who were evicted and lost jobs without justification were also managed remotely.
- With the aim of continuing the process towards socioeconomic and cultural integration, 21 Venezuelans in Guyana participated in two projects centred on the production of face masks and traditional hammocks, with the aim of generating income for participants, strengthening their self-reliance and improving their quality of life.
- To mark World Refugee Day 2020, R4V Partners hosted events throughout the sub-region, aimed at fostering solidarity with refugees and migrants and reducing xenophobia. Some events were shown on the [United Nations Information Centre social media](#)¹ and garnered significant positive press coverage.













¹ <https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanUN>

CARIBBEAN

Who/What/Where*

	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
PARTNERS	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR	IOM, UNHCR	Globalize Radio, UNHCR, IOM, FUNCOVERD	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF	IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF
SECTORS	   	   	   	       	       

People Reached*

SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
 EDUCATION	79				806	885
 FOOD SECURITY	62		75	136	3908	4181
 HEALTH		353	37	3	35	428
 INTEGRATION				32	2	34
 MULTIPURPOSE CBI	226	79	418		101	406
 NFI				35	293	328
 NUTRITION						
 PROTECTION	411	36	100	2194	534	3208
 SHELTER		24	162	180	20	226
 WASH				5790		5790
 HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION				4		4
 COVID-19 (CROSS-SECTOR)	178	79	418		3908	4240

PARTNERS IN THE RESPONSE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, COVID-19 HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUND, EUROPEAN COMMISSION, EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN, GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY, GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN, UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND, UNICEF NATIONAL COMMITTEE/CANADA, GOVERNMENT OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND, UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND, GOVERNMENT OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, US FUND FOR UNICEF **

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R4V- Response for Venezuela: <https://r4v.info/en/situations/platform>

FINANCIAL TRACKING SYSTEM: [HTTPS://FTS.UNOCHA.ORG.APPEALS/726/SUMMARY](https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/726/summary)