

# CARIBBEAN



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE SUBREGION\*  
**150,000**



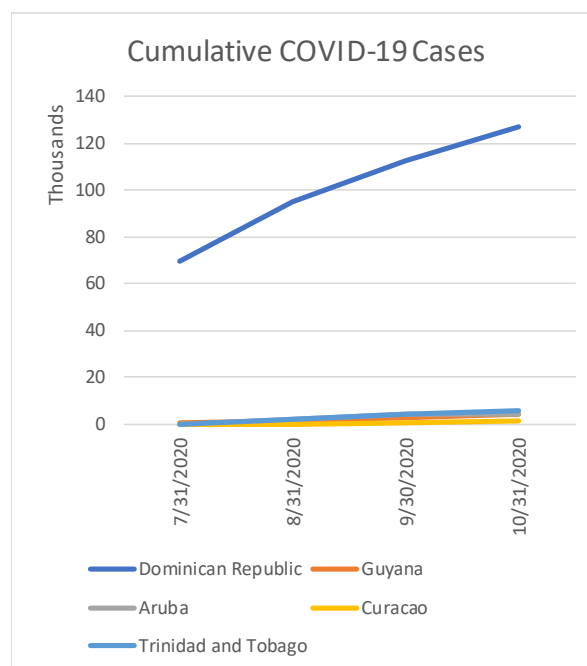
PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*\*  
**5,358**



FUNDING SITUATION\*\*\*  
**FUNDED: \$35.66 MILLION**  
**REQUIREMENT: \$46.36 MILLION**

## Situation

- During October, the sub-region experienced continued arrivals of Venezuelans via irregular routes. [Detention](#) and [deportation](#) of Venezuelans, including children, were reported in [Trinidad and Tobago](#) and both Aruba (30 September) and Curaçao (16 October) organized flights to return Venezuelans to Venezuela. **Aruba**, **Curaçao** and the **Dominican Republic (DR)** opened more routes via air borders to travellers and tourists to boost their economies. **Trinidad & Tobago (TT)** [loosened restrictions](#) on inter-island flights and opened the way for nationals to return while **Guyana** announced the re-opening of the country's borders to [international traffic](#), closed since March. The **Dominican Republic** extended its curfew, mobility restrictions and state of emergency. Hygiene and distancing protocols remained imposed in all Caribbean countries even as numbers of daily COVID-19 positive cases reportedly slightly decreased. In **Aruba**, an "area ban" was introduced for beaches and other public spaces. In **Curaçao**, the [curfew](#) was extended until 21 October while other COVID-19 restrictions were eased. **Trinidad and Tobago** announced [minor relaxation](#) of some measures, including increased numbers for public congregations moving from 5 to 10 persons and increased inter-island flights, but churches, restaurants and bars remain closed. **Aruba** and **Curaçao** resumed face to face classes for all grade levels at schools on a shift basis, while remote classes continued in the other countries. Some Venezuelan parents were unable to pay registration fees, for uniforms or insurance. Economic sectors continued operating at reduced capacity, contributing to [continued job loss](#), leaving many Venezuelans with reduced access to basic needs and resulting in dramatic surges in requests for **cash assistance, food, shelter security and hygiene items**.
- R4V partners in **Aruba** observed some of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, reporting some instances of host community and Venezuelans begging on the streets and in need of financial support for rent and utilities. Job loss owing to COVID-19 and subsequent loss of guarantors accounted for reduced applications for residence status, as the Government of Aruba recorded only half the number of applications compared to 2019. This translated to lost healthcare for previously registered Venezuelans. [Two hundred restaurants are in danger of closing](#) down due to COVID restrictions, threatening more livelihoods including those of Venezuelans.
- The **Curaçao** Red Cross announced a verification of all beneficiaries (approx. 6,000) assisted in the previous rounds of the Kingdom of the Netherlands government's food/non-food aid, while **Curaçao R4V partners** renegotiated their involvement in this activity, carded to restart in November. On 15 October, [a boat carrying 26 Venezuelans en route to Curaçao](#) was intercepted. Additionally, the Government of Curaçao has facilitated the repatriation of Venezuelans and a flight left on 16 October. Meanwhile, the island re-opened to foreign travelers with flights re-allowed to the USA, St. Maarten and Aruba.
- Limited equipment and COVID-19 tests to meet needs were reported in the **Dominican Republic**. On 2 October, [206 Venezuelans were voluntarily repatriated](#). In the humanitarian field, shelter persisted as a main concern, as many Venezuelans remained unable to pay rent and were on the brink of eviction. Grave job loss and inability to meet basic needs increased protection risks as well as the need for direct assistance and cash. Physical education spaces remained closed, however classes continued via internet, radio and television with teachers being trained in Online Teaching. The Government implemented "[operation covi-curb](#)", a joint effort by the Police and Defence Force to distribute masks and educate the public on COVID-19 Guidelines, and signed up with the Global Vaccine Alliance (GAVI) to procure COVID-19 vaccines.



Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>

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- With reduced operations continuing for certain economic sectors in **Trinidad and Tobago**, many Venezuelans continued facing economic challenges as demonstrated by applications for cash assistance to cope with their increased needs. 98 percent of cash applicants reported being unable to meet their basic needs, particularly rent and food. 63 percent attributed their application to job loss or reduced working hours due to pandemic measures. 75 percent indicated that either they or other household members were reducing the quantity of their food intake. [Detentions](#) and [deportations](#) to Venezuela also continued, even after an [open letter](#) was written to the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago from a number of local and international human rights organisations, urging a more humanitarian disposition. Government authorities continue to reiterate their position that borders have been closed since the outbreak of the pandemic, but indicated that Venezuelans registered with the Government in June 2019 are likely to have their documents extended into 2021, pending a cabinet decision on this matter.

## Response











- Partners in the sub-region continue to provide direct emergency assistance to vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela. Cash assistance was provided in Trinidad and Tobago to 296 refugees and migrants and 540 persons in the DR received **multi-purpose cash-based transfers** while **non-food items (NFIs)**, including hygiene kits for women and girls were provided to 1,101 Venezuelans in a 'drive through' event in **Aruba**. The distribution of hygiene kits and face masks to 176 persons was carried out in region 9, in Guyana while Curaçao and Trinidad and Tobago also did small-scale NFI distributions.
- Curaçao partners provided **food assistance** to 49 Venezuelans while they awaited the re-start of Red Cross distributions nationwide by mid-November. Two hundred and sixty-two individuals benefited from food hampers in Guyana while food baskets were distributed to 152 individuals in Aruba. Twenty Venezuelans were assisted in Trinidad and Tobago and 51 persons received food baskets containing rice, flour, pasta, and non-perishable canned foods in the DR.
- Sixty-seven Venezuelans received rental support through direct deposits in the Dominican Republic while 118 received individual short-term emergency accommodation in Guyana. Additionally, 11 individuals in Trinidad and Tobago and 10 new beneficiaries in Curaçao received shelter assistance.
- Partners continued to offer **medical and psychosocial services** to refugees and migrants. In the DR, 900 individuals benefitted from COVID-19 health activities where products like soap, masks, gloves and disinfectant alcohol were distributed to 522 women and 378 men. Separately, 16 people received **check-ups and prescription assistance** and 36 women received **gynaecological services**. Thirteen Venezuelans received **dental care** in Aruba, and in TT, partners conducted 228 consultations on **sexual and reproductive health** for 183 refugees and migrants. Additionally, 11 **paediatric health consultations** were delivered for refugee and migrant children. Counselling sessions were provided to 33 Venezuelans, some of whom reported issues related to GBV. In **Curaçao**, the partner that provides first-line medical care also produced a series of [informational videos](#) to enhance outreach to the community regarding COVID-19.
- Partners provided information on referral pathways and **protection services** to refugees and migrants. During the reporting period, 553 Venezuelans were supported with orientation and information on access to services and protection needs. In Aruba, one partner provided indirect legal assistance to 504 Venezuelan refugees and migrants by providing data entry and digitalization staff to assist government departments. Under **protection monitoring**, Dominican Republic partners disseminated self-administered surveys to nearly 300 Venezuelans to assess their needs. Additionally, 377 vulnerable persons benefited from protection activities in Trinidad and Tobago.
- In **Aruba**, the National Day Against Human Trafficking took place on the 18 October and the Aruba Task Force organized the **Week Against Human Trafficking**, with a series of webinars, raising awareness on the issue.
- A total of seven **mental health and psychosocial assessments (MHPSS)** were held with **victims of trafficking (VoTS)** including six women and girls, while 53 MHPSS follow-up sessions were conducted with VoTS during the month of October. Additionally, 23 VoTs and their two dependents received accommodation assistance and 38 more received food vouchers and non-food items. Several incidents of **GBV** were noted and survivors were provided with counselling services and psychosocial support. A total of 224 Venezuelans accessed support information regarding GBV prevention, mitigation and response.
- In **Education**, online classes continued to be provided to 1,017 primary and secondary school students in Trinidad and Tobago, while in Guyana 91 Venezuelans were provided with adult literacy and conversational English language classes, and 29 Venezuelan children were provided with educational support classes for children in grades 6 and 10.

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- In the Dominican Republic partners, provided grant support for small businesses for 20 Venezuelans to

enhance integration through **self-employment** or **entrepreneurship initiatives**.

## People Reached\*

SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
 EDUCATION	1			72	1017	1090
 FOOD SECURITY	152	49	51	260	20	532
 HEALTH	13		900	6	183	1102
 INTEGRATION			33			33
 MULTIPURPOSE CBI	42		540		296	878
 NFI	1101	12		176	11	1300
 PROTECTION	512		297	586	377	1772
 SHELTER		10	67	100	11	188
 WASH				2291		2291
 COVID-19 (CROSS-SECTOR)	1101	12	900	206		2219

## Operational Overview\*

	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
<b>PARTNERS</b>	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR	Famia Plania, IOM	AVES, Churun Meru, Diáspora Venezolana, Duendes de Vino Tinto, FUNCOVERD, Globalizate Radio, Heartland Alliance, IDDI, INM, IOM, UNHCR, UN-Habitat, Venezolanos en San Cristóbal	Blossoms Inc, Guyana Water Inc, HIAS, IOM, PADF, UNHCR, UNICEF	FPATT, IOM, Living Water Community, Rape Crisis Society, UNHCR
<b>SECTORS</b>					

**PARTNERS IN THE RESPONSE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF:** GOVERNMENTS OF AZERBAIJAN, CANADA, ESTONIA, GERMANY, GREECE, IRELAND, NORWAY, SPAIN, SWEDEN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; COVID-19 HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUND; EUROPEAN COMMISSION INCL. EUROPEAID DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION & HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT; UNICEF NATIONAL COMMITTEE/CANADA; US FUND FOR UNICEF; WORLD BANK \*\*

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R4V- Response for Venezuela: <https://r4v.info/es/situations/platform/location/7493>

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