



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE SUBREGION*
150,000



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE**
3,816



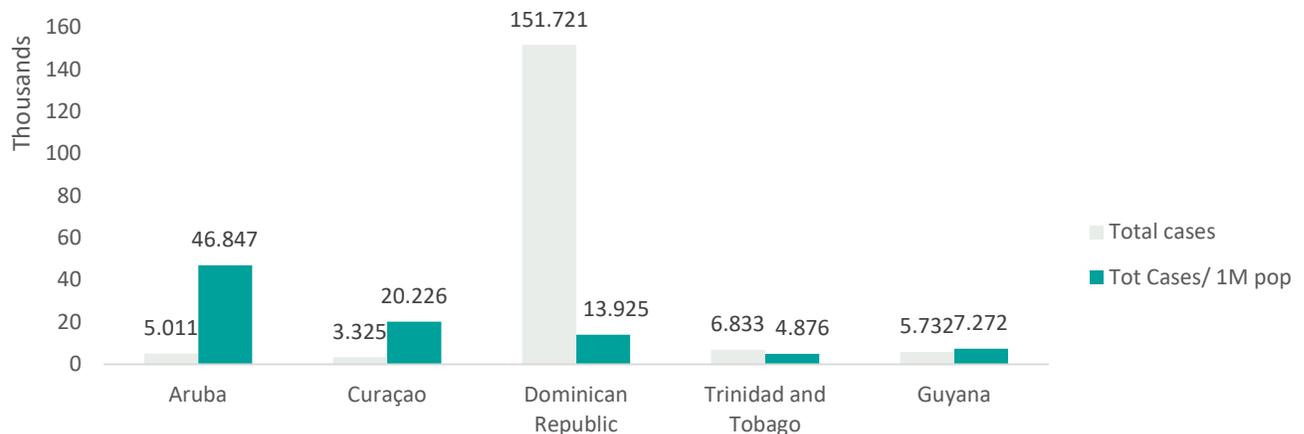
FUNDING SITUATION***
FUNDED: \$35.66 MILLION
REQUIREMENT: \$ 46.36 MILLION



Situation

- By November 30, **Aruba** had a total of 4,845 COVID-19 cases, 108 active cases and 45 deaths. **Curaçao** COVID-19 infections doubled reaching a total of 2,379 cases including 1,224 active cases and the death toll moved to four. **Trinidad and Tobago** reached 6,669 cases, 778 active cases with 120 deaths. **Guyana reported** 5,406 total cases, 863 active cases and moved to 150 deaths. The **Dominican Republic** stood out at 143,988 total confirmed cases, 26,438 active cases with 2,331 deaths.

COVID-19 cases Caribbean Sub-region November 2020



Source: Worldometer. Nov 30 2020.

- Aruba** removed curfews, yet reinforced area bans from 12.00a.m.-5.00am in public. COVID-19 testing, quarantine and insurance requirements were removed for travelers from Bonaire and Curaçao, as the government opened COVID-19 testing one day for unregistered refugees and migrants having referrals from the Red Cross. Subsequently, testing was freely opened to reach this population. [Foreign Affairs Dutch Minister Stef Blok, visited Aruba, Curaçao and St. Martin, and evaluated the introduction of a visa system for Venezuelans](#) entering these territories. As food insecurity continued, particularly among this population, 495 Venezuelans remained on a waiting list for humanitarian flights to Falcon State in Venezuela. Individuals not registered with the Red Cross were unable to access food e-vouchers. [The Central Bank of Aruba concluded a survey that yielded negative results on the Business Perception Index](#) with local businesses showing little improvement and slow recovery, creating concerns about livelihoods for refugees and migrants and the host community. Consequently, Aruba signed a country package with the Netherlands that included aid with liquidity to restart the economy while [the AZV¹ received 2,777,826.00 USD less in their budget](#), impacting healthcare on the island, as stakeholders remained unwilling for Venezuelans to access healthcare, even as psychological health issues continued to rise. A number of Venezuelans were unable to secure uniform, registration and insurance for their children's return to school and one partner disclosed having insufficient funds for CBI distributions and shelter assistance. A survey "[Sentiment on Immigration](#)" was circulated among the Aruban population by an unknown petitioner, but the use of the term "illegal migrants" led to negative responses, skewing the results.
- Curaçao**, saw a reissuance of pandemic measures including curfew extensions which negatively impacted the economy. There was also a [breakout from a refugee and migrant holding facility on 17 November](#). The escapees fled via a hole in a concrete wall. [Four were re-captured while the others remained at large](#). Undocumented Venezuelans remained in the barracks with the government [planning their return, by air, on 1 December](#). Additionally, Curaçao partners engaged

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in mediation efforts regarding shelter, as Venezuelans reached out due to pending evictions. The Red Cross continued topping up food vouchers for host community members and Venezuelans. COVID-19 cases increased, prompting travel advisories against visiting the island and the anticipation of another island wide lockdown.

- In the **Dominican Republic** curfews and COVID-19 protocols remained intact. Food and other basic needs increased while public health services remained strained due to the pandemic. [The DR President indicated an interest in raising the quality of health care and increasing the per capita capacity of members of the National Health Insurance](#). Registered Venezuelans who have access to public services will benefit from this initiative.
- **Guyana's re-opening of airports resulted in the entry of persons that tested positive for Covid-19**. Although negative tests were required to enter the country, results were available 24 hours after landing. All returnees were expected to self-quarantine for seven days after return. Additionally, Venezuelans requests for rent subsidies increased, and unemployment rates escalated even as businesses operated at limited capacity, fuelling more demands for food security and shelter. [Public schools which also serve refugees and migrants, reopened countrywide to facilitate students for exam preparations](#), even as the pandemic continued to plague all ten regions of Guyana. The need for proper hygiene, and funding remained priority, and health facilities were overwhelmed with medical professionals stretched to capacity. Discrimination and xenophobia against Venezuelans continued to be reported.¹
- In **Trinidad and Tobago**, pandemic restrictions were further loosened, and new guidelines surrounding the repatriation of nationals implemented. Rental, food support, and birth registrations (for Venezuelans born in T&T) faced constraints. Deportations of Venezuelans continued in

November with over 200 persons recorded as returned by authorities from Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) to Venezuela. In one instance, it was widely reported that a group of 29 persons inclusive of [16 children were escorted out of T&T waters](#) with some of these Venezuelan nationals returning to T&T shortly thereafter and subsequently being detained by authorities. This particular deportation led a number of local and international human rights organizations to write another [open letter](#) to the Prime Minister, urging for the upholding of the country's obligations under international law and T&T's Trafficking in Persons Act, to identify potential trafficking victims and to provide them with protection and reparation. Additionally, the UN Human Rights Office issued a [statement](#) encouraging T&T to respect its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Meanwhile, [authorities continued to express their intention to apply laws and do everything possible to secure T&T borders](#). Subsequent media reports highlighted that 160 Venezuelans who had entered irregularly were [deported](#) on 28 November while legal challenges to their deportation remained in process. The Ministry of National Security responded that returns were carried out in conjunction with the Venezuelan authorities as a [measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and deter trafficking](#). The [Venezuelan Government invited Trinidad and Tobago Government officials to discuss](#) issues of [maritime security](#), human mobility, the fight against crime and drug trafficking. Separately, as the end of the year draws closer, R4V partners continued to receive large numbers of applications for assistance and need to prioritize recipients of aid due to limited economic resources. Among the large number of applications received for cash assistance, 67% were not able to pay rent and 52% had debts of more than TTD 1500.00. 64% indicated that either they or their children/household members had reduced the quantity of their food intake and 62% had reduced the quality of their food intake. 47% of the extremely vulnerable applicants were survivors of GBV and 29% were living with serious medical conditions.

¹ Refer to the *Guyana Monthly Summary of Activities November 2020* for more information. See link: [Documento - Guyana Monthly Update of R4V Activities - November 2020](#)

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Response

- Partners continued to provide vulnerable refugees and migrants with much needed assistance in November. DR partners provided **long-term accommodation** support to 123 Venezuelans lacking the rental requirements requested by landlords. Additionally, 12 individuals in Curaçao and 16 in Trinidad and Tobago received **short-term, emergency, shelter solutions**, including rental assistance to prevent homelessness.
- **NFIs** including **dignity kits** were provided for women and girls in Aruba, while vulnerable Venezuelans in Guyana received **hygiene** and **baby kits**. One T&T partner distributed 2,243 **protection kits** containing **hygiene** items and basic supplies, **information kits** containing guidelines on COVID-19, legal minimum wage rates and educational activity packets for children in remote areas of the country. Of this number, 1,593 were Venezuelans. Additionally, **multi-purpose cash** electronic transfers were provided to 392 Venezuelans in Aruba, Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic to meet basic needs of persons unable to achieve self-reliance.
- Over 1,100 persons were reached with **food assistance** in the Caribbean as 25 Venezuelans received **food vouchers** in Aruba, 66 benefitted from targeted emergency **food distribution** in Guyana and 89 persons received **non-perishable food items** through social organizations. Although the Red Cross maintains the lead in the food sector in Curaçao, backlogs and late distributions resulted in partners assisting nine beneficiaries. After a brief hiatus, T&T partners expanded their food assistance using WiPay QR coded e-vouchers and the community supermarket systems, reaching 1,074 persons. The supermarket network continued to grow with the addition of three supermarkets in Tobago.
- In Curaçao the R4V partner clinic carried out 936 **primary health consultations** for 532 beneficiaries. DR partners assisted 38 Venezuelans with **medicines, x-rays, and post-accident** assistance. In Guyana, as an ongoing activity between R4V partners and the Ministry of Health, 536 individuals received **vaccinations** against MMR, Yellow Fever and DT. In Trinidad and Tobago, health services were delivered through a combination of **telehealth** and **static clinic** modalities including 11 **pediatric** consultations. Furthermore, 216 individuals received information on **sexual and reproductive health (SRH)** including **gender-based violence (GBV)**, information on prevention of COVID-19 transmission, diet and nutrition, pre- and post-natal care. A virtual education series on **life-saving skills** was also rolled-out.
- Partners in the Caribbean provided psychosocial counselling and other types of support to 1,260 people in the sub-region. Separately, partners in Guyana referred some 64 children and adolescents who had experienced violence for expert caseworker services. Of this number, 32 were Venezuelans. In addition, a referral center covered by DR partners supported 51 refugee and migrant children on issues related to immigration status, requests for certification from the Venezuelan embassy and travel letters.
- To boost livelihoods and self-reliance, 40 participants started a **virtual entrepreneurship** course, to support business initiatives in the DR. Upon completing, participants will present business proposals, and 10 initiatives will be chosen for support with seed capital amounting to \$ 500 USD each. In Guyana 56 Venezuelan women engaged in the production of cloth masks, benefitting from income-generating activities.
- In Guyana, 98 Venezuelans adults received **English classes**, and 28 Venezuelan children in grades 6 and 10 attended **educational** support classes. Separately, 15 individuals participated in **ESL instruction training**. Moreover, T&T Partners supported 1,009 refugees and migrant students through **remote study** sessions continuing throughout the term to ensure school attendance. Connectivity issues persist and the **education** team continues explore creative ways to foster effective and sustained online engagement and to support with **“at-home” learning** challenges. Efforts to transition refugee and migrant children into the local school system remain stagnated, pending final governmental approvals.
- DR partners carried out 2 webinars on the Prevention and Response to **Gender-Based Violence** reaching 25 participants. In Guyana, 340 sex workers participated in support group meetings and/or virtual sensitization sessions and received **GBV** information, prevention, and response. As refugees and migrants presented for clinical and other humanitarian services in Trinidad and Tobago, they received a wealth of information on gender-based violence.

Trinidad and Tobago Partners provide support to Venezuelans



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People Reached*

SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
 EDUCATION				98	1009	1107
 FOOD SECURITY	25	9	89	66	1074	1263
 HEALTH		532	38	536	216	1322
 INTEGRATION			40	56		96
 MULTIPURPOSE CBI	41		252		99	392
 NFI	13			27	2243	2283
 PROTECTION	64		71	725	400	1260
 SHELTER		12	123		15	151
 WASH						
 COVID-19 (CROSS-SECTOR)	41		252	44	975	1312

Operational Overview*

	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
PARTNERS	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR	Famia Plania, IOM, UNHCR	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, HIAS, IOM, PADF, UNHCR, UNICEF, PAHO/WHO	FPATT, IOM, Living Water Community, Rape Crisis Society, UNHCR, LWC
SECTORS					

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)