

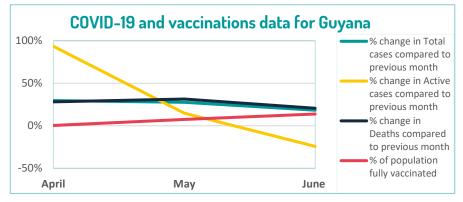






## Situation

Between April to June, Guyana saw a decline in active COVID-19 cases while the rate of total infections and deaths associated with the virus remained steady, and restrictions remained in place. Venezuelan refugees and migrants (R&Ms) have been able to access COVID-19 vaccines through public health systems, and national vaccination campaigns were ongoing with sites set up throughout the country,



including drive-through vaccination centers at malls. However, slight delays in vaccine shipments were reported.

- Joblessness caused by pandemic measures was heightened, leaving many host community members and R&Ms grappling to access food and pay rent. Amid these hardships, reports of gender-based violence (GBV) incidents, and anxiety and depression among R&M populations and host communities continued to be noted.
- Persistent, <u>heavy rainfalls resulted in severe flooding</u> in the Hinterland regions where many refugees and migrants reside (outside Georgetown/Region 4). The CDC declared a <u>level 2 National emergency</u>. The Hinterland communities are generally difficult to access due to limited infrastructure; the flooding amplified an already difficult situation.
- Some R4V projects to address Trafficking in Persons and separately, activities related to Integration were completed with one partner wrapping up a three-month cosmetology course related to entrepreneurship with a graduation ceremony in June. Partners also embarked on the RMRP 2022 Planning process and the Canadian High Commission inked a contribution agreement for a new project aimed at GBV prevention and response with an R4V partner entitled "Increasing protection and awareness for vulnerable Venezuelan women and adolescent girls in Guyana who are survivors or at-risk of gender-based violence (GBV)."
- World Refugee Day was celebrated on 20 June. To mark the occasion, R4V partners held an experiencial exhibit of the plight of refugees, shared a refugee story book with children, and along with the authorities dedicated a mural to the host community to thank them supporting R&Ms in the country. Pride Month was also held virtually for the second year, supported by both R4V and government organizations.



# Partners by Sector\*\*\*

EDUCATION	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH	INTEGRATION	СВІ	PROTECTION	SHELTER	WASH
UNHCR	IOM, UNHCR	HIAS, UNICEF Blossoms Inc	MOI	HIAS, IOM	HIAS, UNHCR, UNICEF Blossoms Inc, UN Women	IOM	IOM, UNHCR

[Appealing Partner, Implementing Partner]

<sup>\*</sup> Estimated population at end of 2021. | \*\* Cumulative for 2021 Year-to-Date. For further data, please see our dashboard <a href="here">here</a>. | \*\*\* Based on activities reported in the current month. Dashboard with further information <a href="here">here</a>.



### Response



#### **Education**

R4V partners ensured safe return to school post COVID-19 for children across all levels in 367 schools providing personal protective equipment kits, WASH programme and retrofit for schools, across levels, hosting R&M children in all regions. Additionally, partners provided ESL Classes to R&M children not attending formal educational institutions, and to R&M adults separately. Special educational support was also delivered to R&M children from Venezuela, including through after school and other language activities.



#### Shelter

R4V partners continue to provide mediumand long-term accommodation to R&Ms and host community members through rent subsidies. They also provided temporary **shelter accommodation** support in collective centers for a period of three months on a case-by-case basis, while mid- to long-term solutions are found for R&Ms, particularly in the hinterland areas. Furthermore, families and individuals at risk of eviction were assisted to stay in Georgetown with accommodation in hotel rooms as a temporary individual shelter solution. R4V partners targeted those who come from other regions to the capital to receive specialized health services.



Combatting food insecurity amongst the vulnerable Venezuelan population and host communities was prioritized. Food kits were distributed, particularly in the hinterland areas where a voucher system was not possible. Some regions had beneficiaries receiving food assistance through vouchers from identified suppliers while others, including returning Guyanese, received food kits. R4V partners also delivered cash-based **assistance** to Venezuelan and Guyanese families in need of emergency support to cover their basic needs, such as food and hygiene products. Most of these households comprise of female survivors of GBV and women with health needs.



### Integration

One R4V partner implemented a socio-economic support program where at-risk families accessed basic services and support networks to integrate them in the host country while meeting survival-level needs through cash-based interventions. Furthermore, R&Ms participated in the "Cloth Mask Programme", through which an R4V partner provided technical training and the required supplies to produce cloth masks, later bought back by the partner and distributed to vulnerable communities.



Cosmetology course graduation day.

The project ran for three months,
between March and June 2021.

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R4V partners facilitated access to psychosocial support and referral systems for R&M families, focusing on women and children, within the Child Advocacy Centers, including shock responsive cash transfers for those in need. Outreach missions were done to meet and engage with R&M and host communities in Takatu, Puruni Landing and Tiger Creek providing information on GBV<sup>1</sup> and PSEA<sup>2</sup>. Partners facilitated birth registration outreach initiatives in isolated border locations in affected regions for both R&M and host community children. One partner also led support groups for women at risk or survivors of GBV to improve mental health and well-being. R4V partners collaborated with the authorities providing relief in the form of food, NFIs, and accompanied a shelter assessment mission with CDEMA3.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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