


 REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN  
THE SUBREGION\*

224,000


 PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME  
FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*\*

4,978



FUNDING SITUATION

FUNDED: \$8.42 MILLION

REQUIREMENT: \$ 40.7 MILLION



## Situation

- Aruba** no longer required the use of masks and lifted some restrictions, but physical distancing measures remained intact. The Department of Health (DVG) started a vaccination campaign targeting young people between the ages of 12 and 16, with parental permission, in response to an increase in critical COVID-19 cases among children. Registration was done via a health app, except for refugee and migrant (R&M) children who must **pre-register through an R4V partner**, or directly with the DVG. Additionally, the Aruban Food Bank indicated food baskets would replace food cards previously issued by the Red Cross. R&Ms expressed concerns to R4V partners that the change would limit their choices, not fulfill special needs (including of babies), and further impact housing arrangements, since the cards were previously accepted by landlords in lieu of rent payments. Gaps remained in the delivery of tablets and internet connectivity to all R&M children, due to limited funding.
- Curaçao** maintained COVID-19-related travel restrictions but welcomed travelers at the height of the tourist season. Curfews were lifted and nonessential businesses re-opened, despite the Delta variant being detected. The effects of the last lockdown continued to affect the livelihoods of R&M, noticeable in the increase of food aid requests; one partner noted that approximately 3,500 households had registered for food aid over the past months. Separately, young people between the ages of 12 and 17 were targeted for **vaccinations** in government campaigns, with no parental permission required for persons 16 and over wishing to receive COVID-19 vaccines.
- Dominican Republic** authorities announced plans to [ease COVID-19 restrictive measures](#), and proposed to reopen all provinces that registered a vaccination rate of 70%. [Bars, restaurants and the entertainment sector saw respite with the country's de-escalation plan](#), and the authorities [raised the minimum wage by 24%](#). They also announced a reduction on visa application fees, including for Venezuelan children, while Notary Lawyers' tax payments for processing the legal documentation were removed, making the **regularization process** for Venezuelans more accessible. Additionally, the government ordered [the resumption of merchandise exports to Haiti](#) to prevent greater social instability.
- COVID-19 cases increased in **Guyana**, including among children. Curfews remained in place, while the Minister of Health advised that all variants of the COVID-19 virus might be present in the country and urged all persons to get vaccinated. Skepticism and fear acted as a deterrent for locals and refugees and migrants to receive the vaccin among all populations, prompting the [GoG to consider enacting penalties](#) for unvaccinated people. The private sector commission called on businesses to endorse stringent measures on unvaccinated employees.
- The **Trinidad and Tobago (T&T)** authorities responded to decreased COVID-19 cases [by re-opening the construction sector](#) and associated businesses. Restaurants re-opened [for delivery and curbside pick-up of meals only](#). The state of emergency remained in effect through August, with the retail sector staying closed, impacting R&Ms' and nationals' livelihoods. However, the country [re-opened borders in July](#), removing the exemption system but with revised controls. [Non-nationals including Venezuelan R&Ms were among those vaccinated in the country's mass vaccination exercise](#). As a result of negative socio-economic pandemic impacts, [700 Venezuelans returned home on 17 July](#) via a commercial ferry; the **largest return exercise from T&T to date**. The trip was organized by the Government of Venezuela as part of its assisted repatriation plan from South American and Caribbean countries. The departure tax of TTD 75.00 was waived by the T&T Ministry of Finance for each passenger. The country was also affected by [flooding and related damages](#) rendering at-risk groups more vulnerable. Additionally, partners throughout the Sub-region commemorated World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July through various activities including the publication of an [Opinion Editorial discussing the evolving nature of child trafficking using new technologies](#) in the Trinidad and Tobago Newsday and anti-TiP webinars held in Guyana.

## Response



### HEALTH

R4V partners in **T&T** and **Aruba** facilitated remote **psychosocial counselling services** to R&Ms including GBV survivors and victims of trafficking (VoTs). **Sexual and reproductive health services** were also provided to R&Ms in **T&T**, **Aruba** and **Curaçao**. In **Aruba** Sexual and reproductive care kits were distributed to a group of vulnerable Venezuelan sex workers. Telehealth consultations and paediatric care were delivered to R&M children in **T&T**, and in **Guyana**, one partner began working on HIV prevention measures and a roll-out of PREP clinics in collaboration with authorities. Venezuelan women who did not have check-ups for years accessed specialized gynecological consultations.



### EDUCATION

In **T&T**, R4V partners continue improving access to primary and secondary education for R&M children through summertime **supplemental activities** for current students and launched a comprehensive **review of the program** that includes participatory assessments. In **Aruba**, one R4V partner provided laptops to one school to support R&M children. School supplies were also distributed in **Curaçao**. Additionally, R&M children and adults accessed Papiamentu and Dutch language courses to help their local integration within schools and host communities.



### SHELTER

In **T&T**, one partner provided multipurpose cash-based assistance to **vulnerable R&M households** who were unemployed, unable to meet their basic needs, and were facing an **imminent risk of eviction**. In **Curaçao**, one R4V partner facilitated **cash for rent** for R&Ms in need of **short-term individual shelter** while in the **DR**, another partner provided **rental payment support** to R&Ms at risk of homelessness and evictions. One partner in **Guyana** ensured short term accommodation to R&Ms at risk of eviction to secure their safety while looking for a new place to live.



### INTEGRATION

In **T&T**, one R4V partner conducted Migration & International Protection training for host community youths (19-29) and held the monthly Community Outreach Member meeting to discuss and plan activities, including communications, information sharing, and identification of protection needs. Outreach support continued through R&M daycare and community garden projects. GBV training was provided to Community Outreach Members, geared towards **raising awareness** and **sensitization** among the host community. In **Aruba**, an R4V partner collaborated with a local school to host a **cultural and science fair** promoting inclusion of different cultures and nationalities of students, with a large percentage of participants being Venezuelan R&Ms.











*School supplies provided through Education Support Project in Curaçao, 2021 ©IOM*



### PROTECTION

In the **DR**, **Aruba** and **Guyana**, multi-purpose **cash** was provided by R4V partners to vulnerable R&M households to mitigate protection-related risks. In **Aruba**, one R4V partner conducted **GBV training** to frontline service providers and members of a **partner organization**. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, registration, legal orientation, and resettlement assistance was provided remotely to R&Ms, and support continued for VoTs and survivors of GBV. In **Curaçao**, one R4V partner aided R&Ms through the **Protection Hotline** and noted increased requests for food and economic assistance.

## People Reached\*

SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
 EDUCATION	19				900	919
 FOOD SECURITY					1003	1003
 HEALTH	47	710	15	5	235	1012
 INTEGRATION	12				25	37
 MULTIPURPOSE CBI	41	10	246	163	14	474
 PROTECTION	153	20	110	0	809	1092
 SHELTER		86	168	64	45	363
 WASH				78		78

## Covid-19 Situation\*\*

COUNTRY	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
CASES IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	+5.3%	+10.4%	+5.1%	+12.3%	+18.3%
DEATHS IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	+2.8%	0.0%	+3.6%	+15.3%	+27.1%
INDIVIDUALS FULLY VACCINATED IN RELATION TO TOTAL POPULATION	61.5%	50.2%	38.8%	16.5%	13.9%

## Operational Overview\*

	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
PARTNERS	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR	Famia Plania, IOM, UNHCR, Unidat di Bario, Salut Pa Tur	UNHCR, HAI, Dominican Institute for Integrated Development	Blossoms Inc, HIAS, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, Ministry of Education	FPATT, IOM, Living Water Community, Rape Crisis Society, UNHCR, UNICEF
SECTORS					

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R4V - RESPONSE FOR VENEZUELA: [HTTPS://R4V.INFO/EN/CARIBBEAN](https://r4v.info/en/caribbean)

FINANCIAL TRACKING SYSTEM: [HTTPS://FTS.UNOCHA.ORG/APPEALS/1021/SUMMARY](https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1021/summary)

\* Based on current month activities | \*\* As of 31/07/2021; Sources: [COVID Live Update Worldometer \(worldometers.info\)](https://www.worldometers.info/) and [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccinations \(Our World in Data\)](https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations)

## Featured Story

# Language training brings refugee, migrant and local children together in Curacao

Samanta Rodriguez could not be more excited as she heads to Prins Bernhard school to her language course in sunny Curacao, a place where refugee and migrant children have found the opportunity to learn and integrate.

“At first it was hard to fit in and learn. I didn’t know Dutch, so it was difficult,” said the eleven-year-old Venezuelan who had to rely on classmates to translate all her lessons. Samanta is one of 22 refugee and migrant children who has been receiving in-person language training since February 2021.

Thanks to an agreement between Prins Bernhard and an R4V partner, this project has helped children enroll into schools and bridge the language barrier between Venezuelan children and locals.



*Education Support Project in Curaçao, 2021 ©IOM*

Samanta has been in Curaçao for four years now. She left widespread insecurity and shortages of basic services and items in her native town of Coro, Venezuela, with her mother and two brothers. They found renewed hope just 40 miles away in the neighbouring island of Curacao, along with an additional estimated 17,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants, including school-aged children

Although officially they can access public education, in practice, many challenges remain, including administrative, financial and cultural barriers. For Samanta and schoolmate Derek, 12, language was a major obstacle.

“I feel much more comfortable around my classmates now,” said Derek, who dreams of one day becoming a surgeon. “I feel like now I belong, that I can have new friends and do better at school.”

The students were divided into two groups as per their ages and reading levels, when they embarked on the three-month journey to learn Dutch.

“Now, at least I can talk a little bit and understand more,” said Samanta, who has been studying Dutch for three months. “Dutch is now my favourite subject at school.”

Upon completion of the term, refugee and migrant students received a certificate of participation and a school kit with various supplies to help them in their next school term. The parents of all 22 children are grateful that their kids had this opportunity to learn the local language and bridge the gap in this land they now call home.

“As a child, being forced to flee your home is a life-changing event that often leads to negative impacts,” said one of the parents. “This course helps reduce the trauma and negativity by helping them become included among their peers - after all language will bring us together.”