

# Guyana

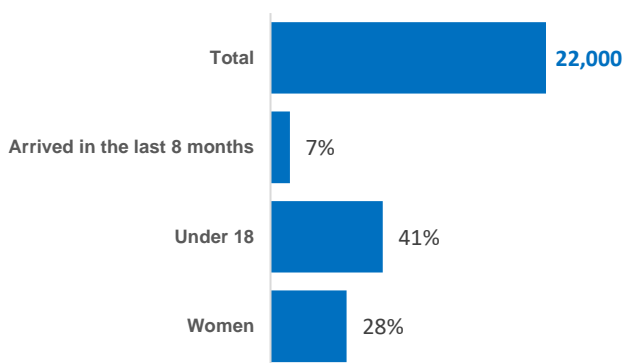
January - August 2021

Guyana hosts an estimated **22,000** Venezuelan refugees and migrants as of the beginning of 2021.

Venezuelans are issued with a Government stay permit upon arrival, which is valid for three months and requires periodic renewal.

Loss of livelihoods caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has increased, rendering many people, including refugees and migrants, as well as locals, very vulnerable and struggling to access food and pay rent.

## Population of concern

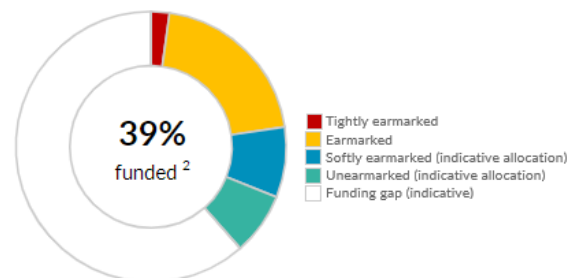


Estimates as per the RMRP 2021

## FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2021)

**US\$ 48.7 M**

requested for the Panama Multi-Country Office for 2021<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The financial requirements for the Panama MCO include requirements for the Coronavirus Emergency and the Venezuela Situation. **Guyana is part of the Panama Multi-Country Office in 2021**, along with Aruba, Curaçao, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Cuba, Panama, Nicaragua, and Belize.

<sup>2</sup> The percentage funded includes indicative allocations of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions

## CONTEXT

As of 31 August 2021, Guyana saw an increased flow, including of Venezuelan Waraos, with 1,187 people arriving at the monitored border entry points in Regions 1 and 2, despite border closures and travel restrictions. UNHCR delivered aid, including food kits and hygiene supplies, and provided interpretation support to access Government services accordingly.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to seriously hinder the access to livelihoods and employment for refugees, asylum-seekers, and host communities, who have also been impacted by the effects of widespread flooding in May and June. Furthermore, the COVID-19 crisis has also placed a prolonged burden on the health system. However, authorities have made great progress in obtaining and delivering vaccines across all regions, including to refugees and migrants.

UNHCR continues to support the Government of Guyana in the delivery of assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers (including women, children, and survivors of GBV) and to host communities, while working in coordination with partners under the [R4V Inter Agency Response Platform](#).



### UNHCR commemorates World Refugee Day inviting stakeholders to endure the refugee experience

*In the framework of World Refugee Day in Guyana, the India and British High Commissions, journalists, UN Agency representatives and other partners were able to experience the difficult choices people must face when living in their countries is no longer viable.*

## UNHCR Response and Strategy

UNHCR works with 4 partners in Guyana, and supports the State in the delivery of assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR also works in coordination with other partners under the R4V Platform to provide responses on education, food security, health, integration, protection, shelter, WASH, cash assistance among others. See the [R4V Subregional portal](#) for more information.

## Main Activities

Alongside the Government, partner organizations, civil society, faith-based organizations, development actors, and UN Agencies, UNHCR undertakes protection and solutions activities, including:



### Protection

In light of reports of gender-based violence (GBV) incidents, anxiety and depression among displaced persons and host communities in Regions 1, 2, 4, 7 and 9, UNHCR provided information and counselling on access to services. In addition, UNHCR offered interpretation support and accompanied visits to Government service providers, thus facilitating communication between persons of concern, community leaders, and officials. Between January and August 2021, 14,112 refugees and asylum-seekers have accessed UNHCR protection services.



### Hygiene and Sanitation

As part of the COVID-19 response, UNHCR delivered 1,028 hygiene and sanitation kits to staff and vulnerable populations in the hinterland regions, between January and August 2021. To increase access to information, the kits included pamphlets on best hygiene practices and other COVID-19 risk-mitigating actions. UNHCR also provided gloves and masks for Government front liners. Furthermore, in May and June 2021, UNHCR assisted the Civil Defence Commission with 500 sleeping mats, 500 mosquito nets, 5,000 bars of soap, and 5,000 cloth facemasks as part of the flood relief efforts. Additionally, in response to the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants affected by the floods and the lack of livelihoods in Regions 1 and 2, UNHCR delivered more than 201 hygiene kits, 61 sanitation kits, 12 sleeping mats, and 12 mosquito nets.



### Food & Cash Assistance

UNHCR provided food kits to high-vulnerability cases, in coordination with both national and local authorities. As of 31 August 2021, UNHCR provided food items to 2,175 individuals, and delivered multi-purpose cash assistance to 58 people in situation of extreme vulnerability for basic needs, including food and rent. Additionally, UNHCR more than 200 food bags to Venezuelan refugees and migrants affected by the floods and the lack of livelihoods in Regions 1 and 2.



### Education

UNHCR has provided guidance to parents on enrolling children into schools, supported persons to access needed services, and fostered social cohesion within and across communities through outreach and dialogue. So far in 2021, UNHCR provided online English language learning opportunities to 287 students, 70 of whom are children. 30 children who have no access to formal education benefitted from a 20-week hybrid ESL class, which was piloted in Mabaruma, Region 1. To strengthen the delivery of ESL education, 30 hours of capacity-building training was provided to 34 teachers, including 24 teachers from Government schools.



### Livelihoods

UNHCR implemented a quick-impact project to engage refugees, migrants, and host community members in the production of cloth facemasks in various regions across Guyana between January and July. With an initial donation of cloth and material, nearly 60,000 facemasks were produced and distributed to authorities and communities as part of UNHCR's contribution to the COVID-19 response. Moreover, UNHCR delivered 70 donated [sewing machines](#) to refugees, migrants, and local women to support their [self-reliance](#).

**Thanks to donors:** The UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, the European Union, and the UN Programme On HIV/AIDS as well as to the following donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Denmark | Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Holy See | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | Turkey | United Kingdom | United States of America | Uruguay | Private donors, including Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, and Sweden

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