



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE SUBREGION\*

224,000



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*\*

5,844



FUNDING SITUATION

FUNDED: \$8.42 MILLION

REQUIREMENT: \$ 40.7 MILLION



## Situation

- **Aruba** [observed constant increases in COVID-19 cases](#), emanating mainly [from unvaccinated persons](#). Consequently, the Government [reverted to previous COVID-19 prevention protocols](#) resulting in a ban on social gatherings, mandatory mask wearing, and curfews being reinstated, while commerce was limited to a capacity of 50%. The screening [process for the food project targeting vulnerable locals and refugees and migrants \(R&Ms\), taken over by the government of Aruba \(GoA\) from the Red Cross, became more stringent](#) and recipients of food hampers raised concerns that they had insufficient items; while *Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad Aruba* foodbank (FPNC) representative emphasized that the assistance was supplementary and emergency supplies only. The country embarked on a campaign to recognize the credentials of medical professionals within the R&M population and to work formally. Additionally, a parliamentary debate resulted in a request that [the President provide the disaggregated number of undocumented persons in Aruba](#). Further, an R4V partner [publicly stated that conditions were not adequate](#) at the moment for facilitated returns to Venezuela, due to the conditions that those returning to Venezuela might face, and noted that the return flights organized by the *GoA* were not being supported by R4V partners, particularly due to the absence of proper screening to ascertain the status of those returning.
- **Curacao** also reinstated pandemic restrictions as active COVID-19 cases increased. A curfew was restored on 13 August from 12.00 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. The food aid project funded by the Dutch government was ongoing, with the end-date of 15 September approaching, provoking uncertainties about its continuity as an agreement has not yet been reached with the *GoC* to handover responsibility after its end.
- The state of emergency and curfews in the **Dominican Republic (DR)** were relaxed and will be lifted in provinces with 70% of the population vaccinated. On 9 August, La Altagracia and the National District provinces became [the first regions to be without a curfew since March 2020](#). Additionally, Venezuelan Normalization Plan applicants with visas have been returning to Venezuela to bring other family members. The Plan is on the second stage of visa issuance and a second registration will open in early September for Venezuelans who were unable to apply previously.
- Curfews remained as the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) categorized **Guyana** as level 3 (high) for COVID-19, prompting the health minister to urge all persons in the country to be inoculated. Authorities mandated all healthcare workers and public transport operators be vaccinated to prevent further exposure to the virus, announcing [a two-week extension for their vaccination](#). Non-compliance will result in submission to regular PCR tests and the suspension of licenses for transport drivers. On 24 August, [Guyana received its first shipment of Pfizer vaccines; a donation from the USA](#) which will be administered to people between the ages of 12 and 17, including R&Ms within this age bracket in schools, with parents' consent. Additionally, 92 of some 938 public schools across the country, were scheduled to [reopen](#) for full face-to-face learning, while the remaining 846 were slated to reopen on a rotational basis. Also, Venezuelan women and adolescent girls reported to partners having limited financial resources to access menstrual hygiene products in the host country.
- **Trinidad and Tobago (T&T)** confirmed its [first two cases of the COVID-19 Delta Variant](#) on 11 August. The health minister encouraged the public to get vaccinated as [uptake for the COVID-19 vaccine slowed considerably](#). [T&T received 305,370 doses of the Pfizer vaccine donated by the USA](#), intended for people between the ages of 12 – 18. [All R&Ms inside this age group became eligible for the vaccine with some receiving the first dose](#). The MoH also [approved the Pfizer vaccine for use by pregnant women](#). A State of Emergency (SOE) with a daily 9pm to 5am curfew was [extended](#) for a [further three months](#), with phased re-openings of the retail sector on 16 August. As preparations were underway, local media reported that [6,000](#) of the 17,000 small and medium enterprises would not re-open, bearing negative socio-economic implications for many Venezuelans and locals that were previously employed in this sector. Furthermore, the Immigration Division commenced [six-month extensions on expired work and stay permits for Venezuelans](#) with the new expiry date set for mid-November. The authorities will re-evaluate Venezuelans' registrations at the end of 2021. [12 children were among 39 Venezuelans detained for irregular entry into T&T during the reporting period](#). Furthermore, the T&T Coast Guard intercepted [a pirogue carrying several Venezuelan nationals, and reportedly piloted by a Trinidadian crew](#). The vessel and its occupants were escorted to the Coast Guard base to await processing.

## Response



### HEALTH

In **Guyana**, one R4V partner facilitated individual and group **mental and psychosocial health** support sessions for Venezuelans, including GBV survivors. In **Curaçao**, an R4V partner provided **psychosocial assistance** to Venezuelan R&Ms for depression and family trauma. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, **paediatric services** reached R&M children through a mix of telehealth and in-person consultations while mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) was provided remotely. Additionally, Spanish-speaking R&Ms accessed free **sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services** through telehealth, and in-person consultations were conducted through clinic visits.



### EDUCATION

In **Aruba**, an R4V partner assisted R&M children with school enrolment through its Back-to-School Campaign. New tablets and projectors were supplied by a partner to an educational institution that caters to R&M children in **Curaçao**, while in **T&T**, partners helped refugees and migrants with **tailor-made learning** via the **Equal Place** program, which works on two globally recognized platforms offered in English and Spanish. 14 students in T&T were among the first cohort of DAWERE graduates after successfully completing all coursework and assessments.

Graduating students received the Venezuela-based high school diploma that certifies completion of secondary studies.



### WASH

In an effort to promote wellbeing and prevent COVID-19, a **Guyana** R4V partner **delivered hygiene kits** to Venezuelan women and adolescents' survivors of **GBV**, and to at-risk **individuals with specific needs** in Regions 4 and 7. The kits were delivered during a **menstrual hygiene talk, where contents of the kits were explained**. In **Aruba**, another R4V partner distributed 30 care kits to Venezuelan sex workers while a **Curaçao** R4V partner provided hygiene kits to R&Ms at high risk of experiencing GBV, particularly, Venezuelan R&M sex workers.



### INTEGRATION

One R4V partner in **Guyana** provided **individual and group information sessions to R&Ms** on how to access language services in the host country, to combat **language barriers** and to access **basic services** such as health, education, documentation, and social protection. An **Aruban** partner conducted **art therapy workshops for Venezuelan R&M adolescents** between the ages of 12 and 16, to provide them with tools to manage stress and emotions in their daily lives. **T&T** partners also supported **vaccination drives** assisting R&Ms in receiving their COVID-19 vaccines. Volunteers, including translators in multiple languages, were on hand each day to ensure a seamless process.



*Supplies provided through Entrepreneurial course in Guyana, 2021 ©UNFPA*



### PROTECTION

Capacity building training was provided by R4V partners to law enforcement and judicial officers on **international refugee protection** in an effort to reduce detention and increase freedom of movement. **Protection hotlines in Aruba and Curaçao** continue to be available to help R&Ms face pandemic challenges, and both countries saw distributions of cash and voucher assistance for vulnerable R&Ms and increased identification of persons requiring assistance. Also, **Aruba and DR** partners provided legal assistance to GBV survivors and R&Ms facing detention. **Legal assistance** was delivered in the **DR** on topics of labour rights, protection, and more.

## People Reached\*

SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
 EDUCATION	1				900	901
 FOOD SECURITY				28	1331	1359
 HEALTH	29	894	8	29	268	1228
 INTEGRATION					25	25
 CVA	157	20		2	18	197
 PROTECTION	150	18	166	413	794	1541
 SHELTER		98	107	84	194	483
 WASH				108		108

## Covid-19 Situation\*\*

COUNTRY	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
CASES IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	+24.26%	+12.29%	+2.42%	+13.43%	+15.55%
DEATHS IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	+32.73%	+14.29%	+1.14%	+14.97%	+19.87%
INDIVIDUALS FULLY VACCINATED IN RELATION TO TOTAL POPULATION	64.89%	52.50%	42.53%	20.37%	28.44%

## 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, Venezuelan Emigrant Foundation	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Protection	FPATT, IOM, Living Water Community, Rape Crisis Society, UNHCR, Panamerican Development Foundation
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 30/08/2021; Sources: [COVID Live Update Worldometer \(worldometers.info\)](https://www.worldometers.info/) and [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccinations \(Our World in Data\)](https://www.ourworldindata.org/)