


 REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN  
THE SUBREGION\*

224,000


 PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME  
FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*\*

9,395



FUNDING SITUATION

FUNDED: \$11.6 MILLION

REQUIREMENT: \$ 40.7 MILLION



## Situation

- Throughout the Caribbean Sub-region, refugees and migrants continued requesting food, education, health, shelter, legal and language/interpretation support from R4V partners. In **Aruba**, the COVID-19 situation stabilized. Partners noted [increased detention rates](#) and received multiple calls for legal assistance of Venezuelans in an irregular situation as the [authorities](#) ramped up [patrols](#). Two boats carrying Venezuelans [were reportedly intercepted](#), with passengers [being denied entry](#). A return flight to Venezuela took place on 31 October. Separately, challenges were identified for refugee and migrant children with special needs to access education. R4V partners liaised with the authorities regarding implementation of referral pathways for refugees and migrants living with HIV who experience difficulties in accessing treatment.
- The [application period](#) for the "[Responsible Integration programme](#)" in **Curaçao** was extended to the end of December, for Venezuelans who arrived before March 2020 and overstayed their initial visas. Meanwhile, a flight transporting both deportees and voluntary returnees also departed for Venezuela on 30 October.
- The President of the **Dominican Republic (DR)**, along with other Latin American leaders, agreed to coordinate with the USA [to establish concrete measures in stemming the flow of thousands of refugees and migrants crossing the Darien Gap](#). Separately, [of the 43,000 Venezuelans that registered in the normalization plan](#), which targets over 100,000 Venezuelans, at least 4,465 persons have already received visas in its second phase. Its third and final phase was enabled on 4 October with the publication of the requirements for temporary worker and student permits, which will facilitate access to banking, social security and education. Partners noted economic barriers to regularization as many refugees and migrants lack the means to cover the USD 200 processing fees.
- The 3rd October marked the [122<sup>nd</sup> anniversary](#) of the establishment of the boundary between Venezuela and **Guyana**. An R4V partner's [report on Labour Migration and Guyana's Emerging Economy](#) stated that refugees and migrants have "the potential to assist in driving the economy as they can be an important source of labour for the formal labour market". Former President, Retired Brigadier Arthur David Granger [cautioned about the influx of Venezuelans](#) into Region 1 and the likely challenges it will bring for Guyana. Partners, meanwhile, continued to liaise with various government ministries to solve challenges on implementation and coordination of R4V activities.
- [Food price inflation increased by 50%](#) in **Trinidad & Tobago (T&T)** and local economists cautioned to brace for more hardship as the [cost of living continues to rise](#). [A total of 13,800 Venezuelans were noted by the government of Trinidad and Tobago to have re-registered by 4 October](#), in an exercise meant to ensure "[the legal registration and protection of registered Venezuelans](#)". The government signalled intentions to strengthen national security apparatus including upgrades to coastal surveillance/border security to "[combat the influx of immigrants](#)", and [upgrade the heliport facility, one of the locations from which many deportations occur](#). Moreover, the [T&T Coast Guard reported on 3 October](#) that it was assisting its Venezuelan counterparts in [a search and rescue mission](#) after reports of a boat allegedly departing T&T for Delta Amacuro, Venezuela, did not arrive. [In their statement](#), the T&T Coast Guard noted that the boat, with about 25 passengers on board, had allegedly sunk in Venezuelan waters: there was one survivor and four bodies recovered, with 20 still unaccounted for. Furthermore, [A 26-year-old Venezuelan woman has been arrested in connection with trafficking for sexual exploitation](#) to Trinidad and Tobago, highlighting the prevalent issue of trafficking of Venezuelans into the country.

## Response

### HEALTH

The Government of **Guyana** continued to receive [support from USAID in collaboration with R4V partners for the COVID-19 response](#), to cover costs of inoculation campaigns and outreach activities to reduce vaccine hesitancy. R4V partners in **Aruba**, with various service providers, assisted R&Ms with **primary health care**, carried out an HIV awareness workshop, and supported adolescents (ages 10 to 16) with **mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)** through **art therapy workshops**. Refugees and migrants in **Curaçao** accessed **dental treatments** and in the **DR**, **primary health care** including for COVID-19. Venezuelans in **T&T** received **MHPSS** via remote counselling, and **sexual and reproductive health (SRH)** and **paediatric care services** via **telehealth** and **in-person visits**.



### FOOD SECURITY

In **Aruba**, **food vouchers/gift cards** were distributed by partners to refugees and migrants who participated in art therapy workshops, and other vulnerable Venezuelans. Further, school breakfasts/lunches were provided to refugee and migrant children in need, attending schools. Government Food voucher distributions commenced in **Aruba** during October, **emergency food assistance** via the Supermarket WiPay system was provided to refugees and migrants in **T&T** by another partner but decreased by 88% in October compared to September largely due to limited funding. In **Guyana**, refugees and migrants in regions 4 and 9 received **cash vouchers** to buy food items while **food kits** were provided in region 3.



### EDUCATION

A **Curaçao** partner donated laptops and Smart TVs to support computer classrooms of two schools that cater to Venezuelan refugee and migrant children. In Lethem Region-9 in **Guyana**, **Venezuelan children** accessed **ESL classes** and homework tutorials. Student numbers for **ESL class attendance** increased in October when compared to previous months. An **Aruban** R4V partner provided **language courses through the Social Center** to R&Ms to aid them with integrating into the host community. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, partners completed a participatory assessment that will guide strategic shifts in the education sector's response.



### INTEGRATION

R4V partners in **T&T**, in collaboration with the international community, launched a **Humanitarian Breakfast Series** to create a discussion forum amongst local and international actors on the **response for Venezuelans**. Additionally, through [videos](#) and graphic pieces, the [#GraciasDominicana](#) Campaign gave visibility to the peaceful coexistence between Venezuelan refugees and migrants and the host community, celebrating their integration into the **DR** society. R4V partners in **T&T** also donated a subscription to an **online translation service to the T&T Police Service** for use on their reporting app, allowing non-English speakers to file complaints (and receive receipts of those reports) in their preferred language.











Representative for UNHCR Multi-Country Office in Panama, Ms. Philippa Candler's visit to Aruba, 2021 ©UNHCR



### PROTECTION

In **Curaçao** and **Aruba**, refugees and migrants accessed the R4V Protection Hotline for **counselling** and information on **legal inquiries**. R&Ms, including **victims of trafficking (VoTs)** in **Guyana**, **DR**, and **T&T**, received legal assistance from partners, and were supported with **cash assistance** in **Aruba and Guyana** to mitigate protection risks, and in **Guyana** and **T&T**, to **gender-based violence (GBV) survivors** and Venezuelans unable to meet dire needs. Meanwhile, in **Guyana**, Spanish/indigenous language speaking foster families received **training in child protection** while awareness sessions on child protection, **GBV** and **SRH** were provided to rural communities, including refugees and migrants.

## People Reached\*

SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
 EDUCATION						0
 FOOD SECURITY	295		10	346	130	781
 HEALTH	57	515			185	757
 INTEGRATION					168	168
 CVA	11	13		73	18	115
 PROTECTION	90	39	21	105	515	770
 SHELTER		59		66	28	153
 WASH						0

## Covid-19 Situation\*\*

COUNTRY	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
CASES IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	+2.74%	+3.54%	+6.30%	+11.69%	+13.05%
DEATHS IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	+3.01%	+6.75%	+2.08%	+16.16%	+14.44%
INDIVIDUALS FULLY VACCINATED IN RELATION TO TOTAL POPULATION	71.60%	56.04%	48.61%	30.52%	42.88%

## Operational Overview\*

	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
PARTNERS	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR	IOM, UNHCR, Unidat di Barrio, Salut Pa Tur	UNHCR, HIAS, Dominican Institute for Integrated Development, Venezuelan Emigrant Foundation	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Protection, UNICEF	FPATT, IOM, Living Water Community, Rape Crisis Society, UNHCR, UNICEF, Panamerican Development Foundation
SECTORS					

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Francesca Tabellini, Caribbean Sub-Regional Coordination Officer, IOM, [ftabellini@iom.int](mailto:ftabellini@iom.int)

Heidi Hunter, Information Management Officer/Interim R4V Coordinator, UNHCR, [hunter@unhcr.org](mailto:hunter@unhcr.org)

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 31/10/2021; Sources: [COVID Live Update Worldometer \(worldometers.info\)](https://www.worldometers.info/covid-19/) and [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccinations \(Our World in Data\)](https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations)