

# Situation Report



**217,130**

refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the Caribbean <sup>1</sup>



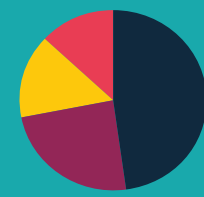
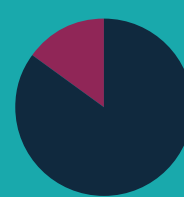
**10174**

persons reached with direct assistance <sup>3</sup>



Funding Situation:  
**\$962.4K** funded of **\$72.65M** required <sup>2</sup>

1.3%



Boys  
Girls  
Men  
Women



Refugees & Migrants from Venezuela

8665 Women 4864 Girls 1506

Host Communities

1509 Men 2447 Boys 1358

## People Reached by Sector



Education  
2475



Protection  
6058



Food Security  
1791



Child Protection  
117



Health  
865



GBV  
1619



Humanitarian Transportation  
4



Human Trafficking & Smuggling  
155



Integration  
488



Shelter  
725



WASH  
1822



### Cash and Voucher Assistance

USD \$37K distributed to **1592 persons** for Food, Health, Integration, Protection, Shelter, and Multipurpose Cash.



### Capacity Building

**34** persons trained on prevention, mitigation and response to GBV amongst refugees and migrants.  
**73** persons trained on the prevention, identification, assistance, protection and prosecution of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.



### Campaigns

**21** persons reached with awareness sessions to prevent GBV against refugees and migrants and affected host communities.

(1) Projected population by end of 2023 (2) Source: FTS. Funding can take some months to update, and does not include funding provided at regional level, so the actual figure may be higher. (3) All assistance figures are cumulative for the year to date.

## Situation

- The governments of Aruba and Curaçao signed treaties with Venezuela, and on 3 April, their maritime borders re-opened. On 1 May, borders [were officially re-opened](#) for small aircrafts to facilitate trade between Aruban importers and Venezuelan exporters. The Aruban Ministry of Economy aims to [expand commercial relations between Venezuela and Aruba](#), to improve food security and stabilize basic commodities prices. On 8 May, a [shipment of fruits from Venezuela to Aruba](#) marked the re-commencement of trade between the two nations. Reopening the borders to boats with fresh produce was important to reduce the high cost of food for refugee and migrants as well as host community members.
- [The Cabinet of the Prime Minister of Aruba revised the policy for obtaining residency and work permits on the island](#). Many work permits will be needed with numerous hotel projects underway on the Dutch-speaking island; a sector where many refugees and migrants secure work. The Ministry of Justice in **Curaçao** announced that they are developing [a migrant registration policy](#) called, “riba luga” (meaning “in your place”)<sup>1</sup>. [The Kingdom of the Netherlands' new ambassador in Washington also met with a delegation from the Ministry of Justice in Curaçao](#), and discussed issues related to people in an irregular situation in Curaçao, including Venezuelans, and actions against human trafficking.
- In the **Dominican Republic**, the General Migration Directorate (DGM) had issued 20,200 residency cards and 24,048 student visas to Venezuelans by May. Partners also met with the government regarding the potential renewal of the Normalization Plan for Venezuelans (PNV). Finally, partners and government agencies jointly supported the "inclusive cities" project in Boca Chica, emphasizing dignified housing for refugees and migrants.
- In his address to the 2023 Cities Summit of the Americas, the Mayor of Georgetown, **Guyana**, urged the national government to develop policies to manage the arrival and integration of refugees and migrants. The National Assembly of Guyana passed the [Combatting of Trafficking in Persons Bill 2023](#), which establishes minimum sentences for the crime of human trafficking and mandates the President to establish a Ministerial Task Force involving various sectors to combat human trafficking. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security's domestic violence hotline, which caters to refugees and migrants with Spanish-speaking operators, has so far this year received about 4,000 calls, including 200 sexual offense cases and 500 school-related issues.
- **Guyana's** Permanent Representative to the United Nations outlined the country's [priorities for its tenure on the Security Council](#), emphasizing a focus on food security, conflict prevention, women, peace and security, and the protection of children and youth, all of which are topics that impact Venezuelans in the country.
- The [Guyanese media applauded two Venezuelan biomedical technologists](#) who, with support from R4V partners, started a company called ElectroBio that now employs others and offers technical services.
- In May, multiple needs assessments were conducted in settlements of Venezuelan indigenous Waraos in Regions 1 and 2 of Guyana. Main protection concerns identified included limited access to livelihoods, food, hygiene items, essential supplies, potable water and electricity. Some children were pending school

---

<sup>1</sup> The “riba luga” project/migrant registration policy will focus on official research regarding undocumented individuals on the Island, focusing on their numbers, origin, and activities, with the primary goal being registration; it was clarified that participants would not face detention or deportation, as many undocumented individuals desire integration rather than living in secrecy, often driven by concerns related to residence and work permits.

enrollment. In Guyana, [a man was charged with human trafficking](#) for allegedly trafficking 16 Venezuelans between the Mazaruni River (Region 7) and Georgetown from November 2022 to May 2023. Following the victims' reports to the police, an investigation was initiated, leading to legal charges.

- In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the 2023-24 RMRP was launched during the Humanitarian Breakfast Series on 19 May, hosted by the Ambassador of Spain, which also included discussions on Child Protection.
- The Government of Trinidad and Tobago granted another [work permit extension until 31 December 2023 to Venezuelan nationals](#) registered under the Migrant Registration Framework. In Trinidad and Tobago, the media reported that a [19-year-old Venezuelan woman was allegedly kidnapped and forced into prostitution](#), under circumstances which amounted to human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The victim escaped and reported to the police; the Counter-Trafficking Unit was informed of the incident. Partners also reported that food was the most requested type of assistance during the month, followed by requests for rental assistance.

## Response

### Food Security

In May, partners in **Aruba** provided food assistance to vulnerable Venezuelan refugees and migrants and host community members. In **Guyana**, partners distributed food kits to refugees and migrants in the hinterland areas, where a voucher system was not feasible. Meanwhile, households across two regions received cash vouchers worth GYD 250,000/USD 1,202.50 each to purchase food and non-food items in Region 4. Also, a joint mission involving R4V partners and Guyana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to remote communities in Region 1 saw 508 indigenous refugees and migrants benefit from food distributions and miscellaneous, essential non-food items (NFIs) such as blankets, towels and more.

### Protection

In May, R4V partners provided an international protection induction training related to refugees and migrants to Anglican Church leaders in **Trinidad and Tobago**. Workshops on international refugee protection were also held for the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), both remotely and in person, reaching 68 participants. Partners also provided legal counselling to refugees and migrants for case closures, voluntary repatriations, and information relevant to human mobility in Trinidad and Tobago.

Partners in **Curaçao** also conducted information sessions, one legal and protection orientation session reaching 19 refugees and migrants, and two capacity-building workshops related to human rights for 27 community leaders. In Georgetown, **Guyana**, a partner provided information sessions and case management to refugees and migrants in Georgetown, **Guyana**, disseminating information on rights, responsibilities, and essential services to prevent exploitation and abuse. Partners in **Aruba** carried out a joint protection monitoring exercise to identify protection needs and gaps in access to services for refugees and migrants, to facilitate the identification of target populations, and to allow informed programming for humanitarian assistance. Two partners conducted two training sessions with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (1 remote and 1 in-person) while another partner conducted a cybercrime assessment in **Trinidad and Tobago** to evaluate national policies, programs, and capabilities in preventing and combating online child sexual abuse and exploitation, including of refugees and migrants. The findings were presented to partners and various authorities such as the Office of the Attorney General, Judiciary, Police Service, Telecommunications Authority, and Media Association. The assessment measured national, sub-national, and regional institutional mechanisms to address human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. Separately, two partners conducted two training sessions.

## Education

In May, partners supported educational initiatives in the Dominican Republic, Aruba, Curaçao, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago. In **Guyana**, English as a Second Language (ESL) programs were strengthened through a new cooperative agreement between a partner and the Guyana Ministry of Education. As a result, ESL teachers received training and [four schools received stationery donations](#) to support these programs. Additionally, partners offered entrepreneurship courses to refugees and migrants in Georgetown and Vreed en Hoop. Partners in **Aruba** provided linguistic support and adult language courses for Venezuelans, while partners in **Curaçao** offered after-school language support and tutoring, including a conversational Papiamentu course. Furthermore, Education Sector partners in Aruba agreed with the education department to provide diplomas to Venezuelan refugee and migrant graduates with provisional identifications if they have expired passports. Partners also provided financial assistance to refugees and migrants to access provisional IDs from their consulates. Finally, partners in **Trinidad and Tobago** organized a digital literacy workshop for Venezuelans and host community members, aiming to enhance educational and employment opportunities and 121 newly enrolled refugee and migrant students engaged in the Daware and Heroes Development platforms.

## Health

Partners in Aruba, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominican Republic, and Curaçao supported Venezuelan refugees with mental health counselling, medication coverage, primary healthcare, clinic referrals, laboratory services, and cash-based interventions for health services and medicines and in-house visits. In the **Dominican Republic**, a medical brigade assisted Venezuelans in La Romana, while in **Curaçao** partners supported vulnerable youth through mental health and psychosocial counselling sessions by social workers, and pregnant women were given general check-ups through in-house visits, while partners supported with medication to other vulnerable refugees and migrants. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, partners helped 121 Venezuelans to access primary healthcare services. A partner also delivered 926 health services and 70 medical consultations for refugees and migrants from Venezuela, with telehealth services accounting for 57% of these. Also, Venezuelan refugees and migrants and their host communities were assisted with essential non-food items. R4V partners' medical outreach programs also reached Venezuelans in Tobago and San Fernando, and health services were provided to children as young as two years old. In Georgetown, Bartica, and Mabaruma (**Guyana**), a partner distributed dignity kits, provided health support, cash and voucher assistance (CVA), dignity kits with menstrual supplies, and delivered information on health, protection, hygiene, reproductive health, GBV matters, and available health services (and more) for women, girls, and GBV survivors.

## GBV

In **Aruba**, partners provided case management support to GBV survivors while **Curaçao** R4V partners supported GBV survivors through cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and in Georgetown, Bartica, and Mabaruma (**Guyana**), a partner distributed dignity kits and delivered information on health, protection, hygiene, reproductive health, GBV matters, and available services for women, girls, and GBV survivors. Additionally, Guyana partners identified and assisted survivors of GBV in Region 7 and workshops on gender, gender violence, and sexual and reproductive health were conducted in Guyana. **Dominican Republic** partners convened its fourth support group for Venezuelan women, with a total of 13 participants, focusing on prevention, mitigation, and response to sexual and gender-based violence among refugees and migrants and provided essential services to survivors of GBV.

## Active Partners\*

**Aruba:** HIAS, PADF, *VeneAruba Solidaria*

**Curaçao:** IOM, PADF, *Human Rights Defence Curaçao, Salú pa Tur Foundation, Venex Curaçao Foundation*

**Dominican Republic:** UNHCR, UN Habitat, Fundación de Emigrantes y Refugiados Sin Fronteras Para El Mundo (FERFM), *Dominican Institute for Integrated Development, Heartland Alliance International, Venezuelan Emigrant Foundation (FEV)*

**Guyana:** IOM, HIAS, UNHCR, *Blossoms Inc, Guyana Sex Workers Coalition, Ministry of Education*

**Trinidad and Tobago:** UNHCR, UNODC, UN Habitat, PADF, *La Casita, Women's Institute for Alternative Development, Family Planning Association, Living Water Community*

\* Appealing Partner, Implementing Partner. Based on partners reporting monthly activities to the R4V Platform.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Janine Hutchison**, R4V Co-coordinator, IOM, [jhutchison@iom.int](mailto:jhutchison@iom.int)

**Maria Chiara Massetti**, R4V Co-coordinator, UNHCR, [massetti@unhcr.org](mailto:massetti@unhcr.org)

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