





Despite the adverse impact of the pandemic on the Aruban economy, 2023 saw promising signs of economic recovery with the government focusing on fiscal consolidation and structural reforms to ensure sustainable economic growth. Borders between Aruba and Venezuela continue to be officially closed since 2020 (including for travel), except for maritime trade requiring traders' permits. Visa requirements for Venezuelans visiting Aruba also remain in effect. Regardless, Aruba continues to host more refugees and migrants from Venezuela per capita than any other country globally, with approximately one in six people on the island being from Venezuela. Refugees and migrants from Venezuela undertake risky sea crossings via irregular routes in overloaded and unseaworthy boats to reach Aruba, placing them at risk of capsizing, smuggling, trafficking, detention, and possibly deportation.

Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Aruba face challenges accessing asylum procedures and regular status, with limited legal avenues for regularization. Venezuelans also encounter difficulties obtaining documents from their country due to high costs. Those in an irregular situation face the risk of being detained and deported. They are also not permitted to work in the formal economy or access basic rights and services, including the national healthcare system, leaving many without means of supporting themselves and susceptible to abuse, exploitation, and evictions, thus increasing their vulnerability. Language barriers (particularly English requirements for some jobs), limited recognition of prior studies and professional titles, restricted access to higher education, discrimination, and

xenophobia, also continue to be reported as primary concerns for Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Cases of human trafficking have been officially registered on the island. Many Venezuelans in Aruba are employed in the construction or service sectors and maintain a low profile due to fear of immigration authorities. In 2023, R4V partners worked with the government to make important changes to the work permit policy to allow international organizations to help cover the application fees (previously employers were required to cover these fees) and to allow refugees and migrants to stay on the island while awaiting the results of their work permit applications. Additionally, an Aruban R4V partner started working in partnership with the government of Aruba on a quality assurance endeavour, conducting a comprehensive examination of the country's asylum processes, with the aim of guaranteeing that the procedures are equitable, efficient, and adhere to international standards. Importantly, all children, including those of refugees and migrants, have access to education in the country.

The R4V National Platform will work with authorities and stakeholders to respond to the greatest needs faced by Venezuelans in the country, including Protection, Food Security, Integration, and Health. Through active engagement with key government bodies, institutions, and service providers, the platform will aim to enhance coordination and referrals for a more efficient response.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES

- Strengthen protection and risk mitigation, focusing on the most vulnerable, including advocacy for access to regular status, alternatives to detention and deportation, and the protection of victims of trafficking and survivors of GBV. Partners will provide information, legal aid, and specialized services like case management and support in designated protection spaces, particularly for survivors of GBV and victims of human trafficking.
- Promote socio-economic integration, by collaborating with the government to facilitate access to work permits and formal employment, ensuring labour rights fulfillment; provide language trainings; and combat xenophobia through campaigns and community-building activities with refugees, migrants and host community members. These will enhance inclusivity by promoting social cohesion and fostering coordinated, rights-based responses. Proposed activities for 2024 include vocational and entrepreneurship training for refugees, migrants, and host communities to increase access to livelihood opportunities and self-reliance.
- Enhance access to essential services and rights for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, including food, health, and mental health support (among others), with an emphasis on safety and stakeholder collaboration. Health initiatives will prioritize primary healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and sexual and reproductive health services. Partners will disseminate information to refugees and migrants on available health services and address unmet needs for surgical procedures, treatments, and medication.

NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS AND FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY ORGANIZATION TYPE

2024

	Total	International NGOs	National NGOs / CSOsi	Others ⁱⁱ	UN Agencies
Financial requirements	\$5.42 M	16.0%	5.4%	0%	78.5%
Organizations	7	2	2	0	3

i Civil Society Organizations.

ii Others include the Red Cross Movement, academia and faith based organizations. The list of organizations only includes appealing organizations under the RMRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RMRP activities.

POPULATION IN NEED AND TARGET, FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS AND NUMBER OF PARTNERS BY SECTOR

	Sector	People in Need (PiN)	PiN percentage*	People targeted	■ Targeted ■ In need	Financial requirements (USD)	Partners
	Education	3.5 K	17.0%	0.3 K	4.2%	233 K	3
***	Food Security	12.7 K	61.0%	0.6 K	2.0%	138.5 K	1
\$	Health	8.9 K	42.0%	0.8 K	4.2%	252.9K	1
	Humanitarian Transportation	8.2 K	39.0%	0.1 K	0.6%	58 K	1
	Integration	11.0 K	52.0%	2.3 K	10.3%	1.23 M	5
Ö	Nutrition	1.9 K	9.0%	0.0 K	0%	12 K	1
4	Protection**	14.7 K	70.0%	2.7 K	9.2%	1.1 M	4
\$	Child Protection	4.6 K	22.0%	3.0 K	32.5%	263 K	4
Ť	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	6.7 K	32.0%	0.8 K	5.7%	625K	2
¥	Human Trafficking & Smuggling	2.3 K	12.0%	0.0 K	0%	238.3 K	2
Î	Shelter	9.9 K	47.0%	-	0%	-	-
ب	WASH	5.6 K	27.0%	2.1 K	19.2%	98 K	3
	Multipurpose Cash Assistance	14.7K	70.0%	0.9 K	-	978.4 K	3
Ŋĸ K	Common Services***	-	-	-	-	235 K	1

^{*} The PiN calculations for some sectors (namely, Nutrition, Education and all Protection sub-sectors) are based on specific age and gender groups, at times resulting in a lower PiN percentage, considering the total population group.

^{**} This includes Support Spaces.

^{***} This includes AAP-CwC, Communication, Coordination, Information Management, PSEA, and Reporting.