

Situation Report



217,130

refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the Caribbean ¹



23,194

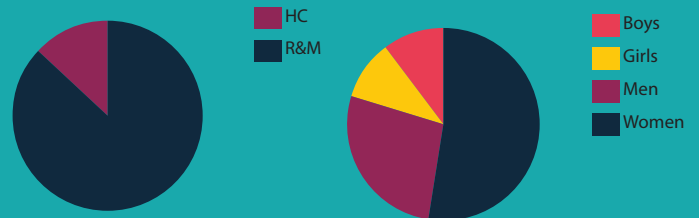
persons reached with direct assistance ³



Funding Situation:

\$962.4K funded of **\$72.65M** required ²

1.3%



Refugees & Migrants from Venezuela

20,275

Women

12,155

Girls

2,395

Host Communities

2,919

Men

6,337

Boys

2,306

People Reached by Sector



Education

3,089



Protection

15,689



Food Security

2,780



Child Protection

231



Health

2,725



GBV

3,112



Humanitarian Transportation

65



Human Trafficking & Smuggling

516



Integration

775



Shelter

1,587



WASH

2,101



Cash and Voucher Assistance

USD \$96K distributed to **6,288 persons**

for Food, Integration, Protection, Shelter, and Multipurpose Cash.



Capacity Building

109 persons working with refugees and migrants trained on prevention, identification, assistance, protection and prosecution of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

30 persons trained to strengthen the protection environment.



Campaigns

475 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

Aruba

In December 2023, [Aruba's Higher Appeal Court ruled on a case where a Venezuelan citizen was deported](#) despite a pending asylum appeal and a request from the United Nations Human Rights Committee to the Government of the Netherlands¹ to refrain from deporting the individual due to refoulement concerns. The Court held that lower courts failed its duties, resulting in the applicant's harm, and recognized the emergency resettlement efforts by an R4V partner. The case was returned to the General Court, and the Minister of Justice was instructed to cover appeal costs. Partners and media reports indicated that four boats attempted to enter Aruba during the reporting period. Two boats capsized, [resulting in four confirmed fatalities](#) and at least six persons unaccounted for. Additionally, it was verified that two boats from Venezuela arrived on [2 November](#) and [19 December](#), carrying 21 refugees and migrants from Venezuela. All passengers were taken into custody.

Curaçao

On 26 December, [a boat carrying 34 Venezuelan passengers, including a 2-year-old child](#), was intercepted, and passengers were detained while attempting to enter Curaçao.

Dominican Republic

By end-December, 24,973 Venezuelans in the Dominican Republic had received residency cards issued by the General Migration Directorate (DGM) as part of the Normalization Plan for Venezuelans (PNV). This included 21,341 temporary worker visas and 3,596 student visas.

Guyana

In late 2023, the [ICJ addressed](#) the Guyana-Venezuela territorial dispute, granting provisional measures to maintain the status quo and prevent exacerbation of the situation. Guyana and several other international actors opposed Venezuela's internal referendum on annexing disputed territory. Subsequently, on 14 December, [Venezuela and Guyana committed to not resorting to force](#) or making threats in their longstanding dispute over the border region with substantial oil reserves. Amidst these tensions, restrictions on the movements of Venezuelans in Guyana have been reported by partners, as well as more difficulties in obtaining stay permits.

Trinidad and Tobago

A [landmark conviction](#) under the Trafficking in Persons Act in Trinidad and Tobago marked progress in human rights enforcement. One man was [found guilty](#) in absentia on five charges, including human trafficking, stemming from a 2015 raid. Separately, a [significant judicial decision awarded compensation to Venezuelans](#) detained in 2020, marking a milestone for refugee and migrant rights. Conversely, three [Venezuelan women with children born in Trinidad and Tobago lost appeals to deportation orders](#). Also, 22 Venezuelans were rescued from the water by the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard and crew members of the Tobago ferry 22 after their [boat capsized](#). Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of National [Security acquired advanced technology from Germany to enhance immigration document verification](#). This included new equipment which would enable quicker detection of falsified passports and other forged identification documents. Separately, a cultural integration of Mexican and Venezuelan communities was showcased through the [celebration of the Day of the Dead \(Dia de los Muertos\) in Trinidad](#), featuring music, poetry, and traditional dishes from both countries.

Response

Education

In November and December, an R4V partner in **Curaçao** provided afterschool language support to 89 Venezuelans and 40 host community members, including 8 men, 3 women, 60 girls and 58 boys. They received instruction in Dutch, Papiamentu, and English and additional subject assistance as required. In **Guyana**, 950 refugee and migrant children (472 girls and 480 boys) benefitted from English as a Second Language (ESL) after-school classes in 6 regions, promoting inclusion with the host community and fostering integration. Additionally, 167 Venezuelan adults attended ESL Community-Based Classes in 3 remote indigenous villages of Region 1, Guyana

Food Security

In **Curaçao**, partners distributed food vouchers (coupons) to 188 vulnerable refugees and migrants in November. In December, the same partner reached 37 refugees and migrants with food vouchers. A **Dominican Republic** partner also distributed food vouchers to 13 Venezuelan families in vulnerable situations, in November, while they reached five Venezuelans with food vouchers in December.

Protection

In November, four Venezuelan newborns in **Curaçao** received essential baby kits, ensuring access to necessary provisions for their well-being. Also, 116 Venezuelans received combined assistance, including legal orientation and information related to refugee/asylum rights for some, and support from partners' jurists and social workers to address their legal and protection-related needs. Partners there also assisted 67 individuals with legal and social support. R4V partners there also carried out a protection monitoring exercise and an R4V Participatory Assessment, while in December, 438 individuals participated in one partner's data collection exercise to provide vital insights into refugee and migrant challenges, guide targeted assistance, and improve understanding of mixed movements' dynamics on the island.

An R4V partner provided cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to 24 vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela in **Trinidad and Tobago** to address protection risks and basic needs. This assistance targeted primarily single female-headed households with children under 5 years old. Of the households receiving assistance, 57% included children. R4V partners also held a refugee protection workshop featuring a psychological first aid session for Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) members. In December, partners provided CVA totalling USD 18,680 through transfers to 26 households, benefiting 81 vulnerable individuals.

In December, **Aruban** partners reached 7 Venezuelan boys with support groups through their safe spaces, while **Guyana** partners supported 16 Venezuelan women through their safe spaces. R4V partners in Guyana partners also provided case management and information sessions to 195 Venezuelan.

GBV

As part of the 16 Days of Activism, an R4V partner organized a screening of the movie "In the Time of the Butterflies" in Curaçao in November. The event, which also included a dialogue on GBV and women's empowerment (including for refugee and migrant women), highlighted the historical and ongoing efforts to combat violence against women.



NOCHE DE CINE

30 de noviembre | 18.00 - 21.00 | The Movies Curaçao Punda

Acompáñenos en la proyección de una película y en un diálogo para conmemorar los **16 días de activismo para poner fin a la violencia contra las mujeres y las niñas**. La película se proyectará en inglés con subtítulos en español.

Evento gratuito!

Para registrarse, escanee el código QR



In **Trinidad and Tobago**, 64 Venezuelan were assisted through the advocate support model in November and December. GBV survivors were given psychosocial support, while the remaining beneficiaries received general support based on their indicated needs through an online intake form. Partners reached 34 Venezuelans through awareness raising on topics related to GBV and the vulnerability of refugees and migrants. In December, Trinidad and Tobago partners provided psychological support for survivors of sexual and GBV through counselling services, including crisis counselling with 4-5 sessions per survivor. They offered services for individuals with specific needs, including safe identification, case management, psychosocial support, medical care, and referrals to other services. In **Guyana** a partner distributed dignity kits to 116 refugees and migrants from Venezuela to enhance physical well-being and promote awareness about hygiene, reproductive health, GBV-related issues, and available GBV services. The same partner conducted GBV outreach activities and provided information and case management, reaching 119 Venezuelans and 10 host community members. Other community awareness activities, including brochure distributions, workshops, and events to ensure survivors have the necessary information to access services and know their rights, reached 81 individuals in December. During the 16 days of activism, events commemorating the campaign were organized in Guyana, including a cinema forum tailored for refugees and migrants and host community members to raise awareness about GBV, an art canvas workshop to empower adolescents through artistic expression and raise awareness about GBV risks, and collaboration with the National AIDS Programme Secretariat for on-site HIV and STI testing, along with the distribution of hygiene kits. Moreover, GBV case management was provided to Venezuelan women in Guyana. In **Aruba** GBV outreach activities during the 16 days of activism included the GBV awareness posters and distribution of GBV brochures on the main street, reaching 475 people with information on GBV, types of violence, and support resources. In addition, CVA and GBV case management was provided to Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

Health

In **Aruba**, an R4V partner provided 48 individuals with cash support for healthcare. In **Curaçao**, a partner provided primary healthcare to 18 vulnerable refugees and migrants in November. They extended services to 70 individuals in December, including 27 Venezuelans and 43 host community members. R4V partners conducted 989 primary health consultations and offered psychological support to 24 individuals. Another partner provided psychological support to 13 Venezuelans, referred 29 individuals for dental care, and supported 6 with eye care. An emotional resilience workshop; a training program aimed at helping refugees and migrants cope with adversity and adapt to challenges or change by developing emotional regulation, stress management, and healthy coping skills, benefited 50 refugees and migrants in December, and 54 Venezuelan women received medical care. Meanwhile, partners in the **Dominican Republic** supported health treatment for 5 Venezuelans through bank transfers. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, an R4V partner provided 751 primary health consultations to 128 refugees and migrants in November, with 37.5% being new beneficiaries. Outreach services were held in San Fernando and Chaguanas, with home visits for families unable to

access the clinics. In December, specialized services, including medical care and psychosocial support, were provided to 61 individuals. Out of these, telehealth accounted for 40% of the doctor consultations.

Integration

In November and December, an **Aruban** partner supported pre-employment training by an Entrepreneurship School for Refugees and Migrants, reaching 15 Venezuelans. Also, 12 refugees and migrants participated in Skill Map software training with the host community. In the same month, **Curaçaoan** partners conducted Conversational Papiamentu language courses and cosmetology training, reaching 44 adults.

In the **Dominican Republic** 23 Venezuelans facing financial challenges received support via mobile money transfers in December. R4V partners also assisted 1,826 Venezuelans enrolled in the Normalization Plan for Venezuelans (PNV) through the Free Migration Orientation program, with over USD 10,000 distributed via bank transfers. Further, refugee and migrant information hubs, facilitated by partners in the Dominican Republic continued assisting Venezuelans with registration processes, with 21,642 Venezuelans served as of the end of December. Separately, two partners conducted a livelihoods assessment in **Guyana**, evaluating the socio-economic capacities of refugees and migrants from Venezuelan in 22 villages across Regions 1, 3, 4, and 7 to understand opportunities, barriers, and challenges, with 200 households and 343 individuals in 40 focus groups actively participating, aiming to formulate recommendations for successful integration into the host country. Separately, a partner launched a document, "Starting Over," to raise awareness about integration challenges and rights of refugees and migrants, mainly focusing on Venezuelan refugees in Trinidad and Tobago.

Shelter

In November, **Curaçao** partners provided rental subsidies through bank transfers to support 13 Venezuelans with short-term individual shelter. Additionally, one partner's charity shop provided 68 Venezuelans free access to clothing and other items, while in December, they assisted 25 Venezuelans. In the **Dominican Republic**, rental assistance was also provided to 10 Venezuelans who were significantly affected by heavy rains, with the aid delivered through bank transfers. In **Guyana**, R4V partners provided rental assistance to 20 Venezuelans in six vulnerable households. The assistance provided was based on criteria including unemployment and single parenthood. Rental assistance in December supported an additional 10 individuals in three vulnerable households, including 6 Venezuelans and 4 host community members, delivered through vouchers. As well, from November to December, two R4V partners in Guyana jointly conducted a distribution in 6 of the country's 10 Administrative Regions, reaching approximately 4,000 vulnerable refugees and migrants with NFIs, including solar lamps, sleeping mats, jerry cans, tarpaulins, hygiene kits and baby kits, among other items.

Trafficking in Persons

In November, an R4V partner conducted four cybercrime trainings in Trinidad and Tobago, including workshops on cybercrime and digital evidence, reaching 109 stakeholders including officials, NGOs and refugees and migrants for anti-trafficking efforts. In December, a partner screened the short film "[The Twelve Thousand](#)," based on a true human trafficking story. This was followed by a panel discussion involving government officials, diplomats, UN representatives, civil society, academics, and youth ambassadors addressing human trafficking.

WASH

Hygiene kits were given to 67 vulnerable beneficiaries in **Curaçao** while continuous distributions of hygiene kits took place across **Guyana** during the reporting period.

Feature Article

"WE SPEAK" Podcast, launched by an R4V partner During 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in the Caribbean (November 2023)

During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, several Caribbean R4V countries joined forces with Spotlight Initiative partners, including *Aruba, Curacao, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago*.

The campaign's highlight was unveiling the groundbreaking podcast series, "WE SPEAK," now available on Spotify. The podcast tackled crucial topics, including technology-facilitated gender-based violence, the imperative for human rights-based policies, the profound impact of Caribbean women-led organizations, fostering private sector partnerships, and empowering adolescents to become catalysts for change. The podcasts also shared impactful refugees' and migrants' stories covering resilience, life skills building, mental health support, challenges in accessing SRH services, refugee policy needs, HIV support services access, and support for persons with disabilities.

"WE SPEAK" provides a platform for stakeholders to share insights and issue calls to action, all united in their commitment to eradicating gender-based violence. The R4V organizing partner expressed profound gratitude for the invaluable support received and reaffirmed its dedication to ongoing collaboration throughout the wider Caribbean, fortifying the fight against gender-based violence.



Active Partners*

Aruba: HIAS, PADF, *VeneAruba Solidaria*

Curacao: 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

Maria Chiara Massetti, R4V Co-coordinator, UNHCR, massetti@unhcr.org

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