

Situation Report



227,100

refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the Caribbean¹



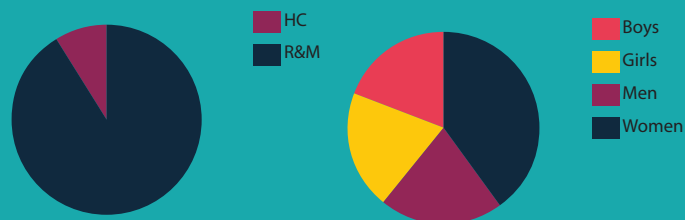
8,307

persons reached with direct assistance³



Funding Situation:

\$2.1M reported funded of **\$64.67M** required



Refugees & Migrants from Venezuela

7,565 Women 3,340 Girls 1,641

Host Communities

742 Men 1,743 Boys 1,582

People Reached by Sector



Education
895



Protection
3,783



Food Security
914



Child Protection
473



Health
987



GBV
134



Humanitarian Transportation
91



Human Trafficking & Smuggling
0



Integration
223



Shelter
284



WASH
364



Cash and Voucher Assistance

USD \$54.8K distributed to **1,635 persons** for Food, Integration, Protection, Shelter, and Multipurpose Cash.

(1) Projected population by end of 2024 (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

- A [press release](#) published in April by the Aruban government stated that the Minister of Labor, Energy, and Integration, Mr. Glenbert Croes, has announced an "Alternative Legal Pathway", allowing undocumented persons who entered the country regularly to obtain a permit in Aruba. Workforce shortages in Aruba, particularly in the growing tourism industry, have sparked recent high-level discussions among political parties and unions, including the Food and Beverages Union and the Aruba Trade and Union Association, on streamlining permit processes and updating labour laws. A study on the "[Economic Impacts of Migration](#)" in the country published in March highlighted over USD 13.7M in potential revenue if undocumented individuals can access regular stay and work permits.
- In **Curaçao**, the Ministry of Justice launched a section for combatting trafficking in persons and rebranded its PATH" initiative ([Prevention of Abuse and Trafficking in Persons](#)) to improve prevention and response efforts in this area. Abuse and Trafficking in Persons). In April 25,376 visas were stamped for workers and students in the **Dominican Republic**, with 21,691 being temporary workers and 3,685 being student visas.
- In a meeting of the Multi-Agency Coordination Committee on 11 March, **Guyana's** Central Immigration and Passport Office reported the cumulative issuance of 22,677 temporary renewable stay permits to Venezuelans since January 2018 (valid for an initial three-month period and extendable for subsequent six-month periods). This includes 1,778 new permits issued between March 2023 and March 2024.
- On 21 March, Venezuela's parliament ratified the "Organic Law for the Defense of Guyana Essequibo" territory. The United Nations Security Council issued a [statement](#) expressing "concern about the possible escalation of tensions between Venezuela and Guyana." They urged the parties to "exercise maximum restraint, reminding them of their obligations to comply with the Order of Provisional Measures issued by the International Court of Justice on 1 December 2023." **CARICOM**, the Organization of American States, and the United Kingdom rejected Venezuela's action, citing it as a threat to regional peace. The Government of [Guyana issued a statement](#) considering the above as a violation of the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and basic principles of international law. Despite political tensions with Venezuela over these territorial disputes, the Guyanese government, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, [reiterated its long-term objective to ensure the integration of Venezuelans](#) in Guyana.
- In **Trinidad and Tobago**, [a media report](#) revealed allegations of sexual violence (rape) of a Venezuelan by members of the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard while in the state's custody at the Chaguaramas Heliport for irregular entry into the country. Despite initial dismissals by senior officials, [a parliamentary](#) committee visit to the Heliport disclosed that the committee found evidence of "obscenities and sexually explicit expressions" which questioned whether any related actions occurred. Officials acknowledged the complaint of sexual misconduct and confirmed ongoing disciplinary proceedings. The urgent need for consistent intervention to protect refugee and migrant women and children from exploitation and abuse in Trinidad and Tobago has been emphasized, including by locals, with other recent incidents, including the [critical stabbing of a young Venezuelan girl](#) and the [rescue by host community members of three teenage girls from forced labour and assault](#) at a local spa in April. In the same month, a media article indicated that a Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality, and Diversity recommended [establishing a special court to handle human trafficking](#) cases and a whistleblowing mechanism to report abuses against refugees and migrants. Additionally, the Counter Trafficking Unit of the Ministry of National Security, in collaboration with R4V partners, hosted a stakeholder workshop focused on combatting human trafficking.
- In April, [a new ferry service was launched between Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago](#) to improve transportation options through regular routes.
- Recent concerns have been raised by some local media linking irregular movements and escalating crime rates, prompting calls for stronger measures to [control irregular](#) entries – demonstrating ongoing xenophobia challenges in Trinidad and Tobago.

Highlights

Across the sub-region, R4V partners initiated primary data collection surveys with Venezuelan refugees and migrants for this year's Joint Needs Assessment for the 2024 Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis (RMNA) to be launched in September. New quantitative data is being collected for all sectors, allowing decision-makers and partners to adopt policies and response activities based on identified needs and challenges.

Response

Education

In Aruba, 32 single female refugee and migrant heads of households received cash and voucher assistance totalling approximately USD 4,000 in April to cover daycare expenses. In Guyana, partners supported 105 Venezuelans with language classes, enhancing communication and integration efforts, while in Trinidad and Tobago, the Education Working Group (EWG) met on 12 March 2024 to address administrative challenges for the integration of refugee and migrant children into public schools following the government's July 2023 announcement. A subsequent meeting on 22 March of partners with the Chief Education Officer resulted in an eight-step admission guideline for Venezuelan children, including registration in the 2019 Migrant Registration Framework (MRF) and language testing. R4V partners collaborated with the Ministry of Education to refine registration processes and plan a community sensitization strategy

Food Security

In Aruba, partners supported 20 beneficiaries, including host community members, with about USD 2,000 in food vouchers in March and April. Curaçao partners provided approximately USD 3,500 in food vouchers to 87 beneficiaries, including Venezuelan refugees and migrants, enabling them to purchase items at a local supermarket. In the Dominican Republic, April distributed USD 9,000 in food vouchers to 76 vulnerable individuals, including 45 women and 31 men. In Guyana, cash vouchers worth GYD 485,100 (USD 2,300) were distributed to 39 Venezuelan households, reaching 172 individuals to assist with purchasing essential items from Coss Cutters Supermarket in Region 4 (Demerara-Mahaica).

Health

In Aruba, 162 individuals, including 107 Venezuelan refugees and migrants and 55 host community members, received primary healthcare consultations at one partner's free clinic in March and April. In addition, an Aruban partner provided approximately USD 1,500 in medicine vouchers to 14 beneficiaries through Botica Eagle pharmacy and offered up to eight sessions each of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to six Venezuelan individuals. Curaçao partners provided primary healthcare consultations to 41 Venezuelan refugees and migrants and delivered MHPSS to refugees and migrants. In the Dominican Republic, partners provided primary healthcare and ophthalmological consultations to 15 Venezuelan refugee and migrant children during these two months. In Trinidad and Tobago, R4V partners focused on advocacy efforts to improve access to healthcare for refugees and migrants, particularly related to maternity healthcare and AIDS/HIV. In March, a partner joined a consultation on the Global Aids Monitoring report to discuss Trinidad and Tobago's progress in HIV prevention and treatment, highlighting existing gaps. The session also addressed the inclusion of refugees and migrants in health programs and access barriers.

Humanitarian Transportation

In Guyana, partners offered transportation assistance to seven Venezuelans to facilitate access to their food vouchers. In Curaçao, humanitarian transportation and home visit assistance were provided to Venezuelan refugees and migrants to help them access education, goods, services, or employment opportunities in urban areas.

Integration

R4V partners in Aruba held a Flag Day celebration in March, engaging 32 children from host, refugee and migrant communities to foster social cohesion.

In April, another partner conducted a skills mapping course for 32 Venezuelan refugees and migrants, enhancing their job access and retention capabilities for better integration. Curaçao partners trained 76 individuals at a partner's charity shop funded by private donations as part of their integration program. Also, partners launched a social cohesion program in April, engaging 20 participants in art activities like painting and singing. Furthermore, after-school sports activities in swimming and soccer reached 34 Venezuelan children, promoting integration through local neighbourhood centres. In March, partners in the **Dominican Republic** recorded 1,163 users attending the free immigration information centre windows. Guyana saw a partner facilitate livelihood and economic empowerment activities for 24 beneficiaries, including 15 Venezuelans, to support self-employment and entrepreneurship, aiming at financial inclusion. In Trinidad and Tobago, the [eighth edition of the R4V Humanitarian Breakfast Series](#), co-hosted with the Canadian High Commission, took place on 15 March, focused on Asylum & Migration Systems and the RMRP 2024 launch. This event saw participation from over 60 attendees, including NGO partners, government representatives, and donor agencies.

Protection

In Aruba, a partner delivered psychological first aid training to six individuals and provided legal counselling through a helpline, helpdesk, and support with referrals to 34 refugees and migrants. Additionally, in April 2024, a partner offered case management services to 32 Venezuelan refugees and one host community member, enabling access to paralegal and legal aid services and referrals to safe shelters. In the Dominican Republic, 1,425 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were supported with guidance related to the Normalization Plan for Venezuelans (PNV) process and with referrals to access assistance with basic needs, protection services and more through a partner's information hubs. In Guyana, 438 Venezuelans received protection-related assistance and specialized services, including information and awareness sessions segmented by gender and age. In April, Guyana partners also provided informative sessions and case management to 13 new beneficiaries, promoting access to rights and specialized services. In Trinidad and Tobago, R4V partners provided legal assistance to 36 Venezuelans, supported Refugee Status Determination, and conducted several training sessions on international protection for various stakeholders, including 20 police officers and seven R4V partners' staff members. The sessions focused on capacity building and sensitization exercises support for refugees and migrants. A workshop held from 22-28 March, hosted in collaboration with the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community and other entities, focused on improving governance systems of the First Peoples, featuring cultural events to build capacity and foster integration with Venezuelan Indigenous populations in Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, a partner provided interpretation support in April for families, enabling access to legal and protection assistance.

Protection (GBV)

In Aruba, a partner conducted GBV prevention, mitigation, and response training for nine government staff members. In contrast, another partner provided USD 840 in cash assistance to support GBV survivors through a multipurpose cash assistance program. During the reporting period, the R4V GBV Working Group produced a guidance document to identify and mitigate risks for refugees and migrants in Guyana. -In celebration of International Women’s Day, partners in Guyana conducted 23 GBV awareness sessions in Region 3 and trained 23 government officials and community leaders on GBV prevention and response, aiming to promote rights and gender equality. Further, GBV case management services were provided to eight individuals in April. Additional training for 20 community leaders and key personnel from governmental institutions focused on promoting rights and gender equality. Also, safe spaces and GBV prevention programs were specifically tailored for 10 newly registered Venezuelan adolescent girls, enhancing protective environments for vulnerable individuals.

Protection (Human Trafficking & Smuggling)

In March, a partner’s training sessions in Trinidad and Tobago from 4-7 March targeted 41 individuals from NGOs and government agencies on human trafficking and smuggling, including topics like the dark web, cryptocurrencies, and prevention of online child sexual abuse aimed at parents, teachers, and community members. Additionally, in April, a specialized training workshop for 24 law enforcement officials and NGO representatives focused on strategies against human trafficking and smuggling, including a study visit to local NGOs. In April, Aruban partners conducted two online workshops on human trafficking prevention, identification, and reporting, engaging 38 individuals, including finance students at the University of Aruba and international organization representatives.

Shelter

An Aruban partner provided approximately USD 3,000 in short-term rental support to 21 vulnerable individuals, including 15 Venezuelan refugees and migrants and six host community members, to assist with housing needs in March. In Guyana, partners provided almost USD 3,400 in rental assistance over March and April to support 37 Venezuelans and host community members across 12 vulnerable households to improve living conditions, including Venezuelans and host community members, targeting those affected by unemployment and single parents.

WASH

In Curaçao, partners provided baby kits and hygiene supplies to female Venezuelan refugees and migrants, while in Guyana, partners distributed hygiene kits to 79 households in March and April. This benefitted 328 individuals, including 259 Venezuelans and 69 host community members, enhancing their well-being and quality of life.

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.

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