

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN  
THE SUBREGION\*

224,000

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME  
FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*\*

9,811



FUNDING SITUATION

FUNDED: \$2.19 MILLION

REQUIREMENT: \$ 40.7 MILLION



## Situation

- The R4V Regional Sectors held a series of virtual high-level side events in the lead-up to the [International Donors' Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants](#), hosted by the Government of Canada on 17 June. The Caribbean Sub-Region was successfully represented in the Protection and Integration side events, highlighting challenges of Venezuelan refugees and migrants (R&Ms). Additionally, the European Union [approved humanitarian assistance](#) totalling US\$3.3 million, to be implemented for the protection, education and health of Venezuelan R&M children in Trinidad and Tobago and the Dominican Republic, among other countries in the region. Some [R4V partners](#) in Caribbean countries will receive these grants.
- The **Government of Aruba** loosened COVID-19 restrictions following a steady decrease in cases, and announced that starting 1 June, persons travelling out of Aruba, especially among the ABC islands would [not need to take a COVID PCR test](#) provided they are fully vaccinated against the virus, in the hopes of promoting the vaccine. A second “[Vacunathon](#)” (vaccination drive) at the end of May [reached 8,474 persons](#), including R&Ms. Drastic [increases in food prices](#) were observed, with experts believing the trend will continue. This has directly impacted the food security of R&M, at a time when [the Red Cross announced](#) their food distribution program will cease at the end of June. Additionally, an inter-agency rapid labour market assessment was conducted to identify opportunities for R&M's integration in the local labour market.
- The **Government of Curacao** lifted the lockdown in place since April. The nationwide food aid project in Curaçao – funded by the government and implemented by the local Red Cross – officially ended on 30 April, and was phased out with two final rounds of e-voucher top-ups in May. R4V partners noted that a group of unemployed R&Ms who had incurred months of debt were on the verge of eviction, including a single mother of three children. Partners also received increased requests for psycho-social support, including among children. An R4V partner began data gathering and analysis on population mobility and needs in May in view of the RMRP 2022 planning process.
- The **Dominican Republic** prolonged their state of emergency and renewed curfews including mobility restrictions, yet [tourist arrivals](#) increased. [Foreigners](#) living in the country and holding legal documents were allowed to receive vaccinations. Phase 1 of the regularization process was successfully concluded on 12 May with 42,000 Venezuelans registering under the plan, including over 3,200 children.
- COVID-19 cases rose amid concerns that the "P.1" Brazilian variant was present in **Guyana**. The authorities continued delivering vaccinations to all persons including R&Ms in irregular status. Curfews and restrictions remained. Partners reported a jump in unemployment rates, affecting the host community and R&Ms alike.
- **Trinidad and Tobago** experienced a [significant COVID-19 spike](#) in May. Authorities responded by introducing a [state of emergency](#) and curfew [measures](#), including the closure of non-essential businesses until August. The authorities highlighted that [Venezuelans were not to blame](#) for spreading the Brazilian COVID-19 variant while emphasizing that [border/port patrols](#) would be prioritized, and the Commissioner of Police advocated for [harsher measures](#) against irregular entries. Lockdowns resulted in partners halting in-person consultations. One partner noted that requests for food assistance increased over 600% from April to May, causing a backlog and requiring a pre-screening tool to identify critical cases. Moreover, partners noted an upswing in gender-based violence (GBV) cases and evictions due to the economic instability faced by R&Ms.

## Response



### HEALTH

In **Curaçao**, 3,755 R&Ms in an irregular status received their first shot while 2,099 received their full vaccination through an R4V partner clinic. Free transportation to vaccination sites was also provided. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, one partner provided counselling to R&Ms, including survivors of GBV. Sexual and reproductive healthcare (SRH), and pediatric healthcare was provided, and psychosocial support was also delivered to victims of human trafficking. R&M children in **Guyana** received general healthcare, COVID-related support and cash assistance via R4V-run Children Advocacy Centers. **Aruban** partners provided SRH, lab services and purchase of medicines.



### EDUCATION

In **Aruba**, Venezuelan and host community children received back-to-school support that included lunches over the 3-month period they access a blended education program (in-school & online classes) provided by partners. Additionally, R&M children received assistance with uniforms, registration, and insurance fees, through R4V partners' Back to School Campaign. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, R4V partners facilitated access to primary and secondary education for R&M children through the online learning platform, Equal Place Program.



### SHELTER

In **Curaçao**, one R4V partner provided temporary accommodation assistance to Venezuelans and host community members, prioritizing unemployed R&Ms with rental debt and at-risk of eviction. In **Guyana**, homeless Venezuelan R&Ms, those at risk of eviction, and survivors of GBV were assisted by one R4V partner with accommodation in hotel rooms or open homes as temporary shelter solutions. In the **Dominican Republic**, R4V partners also paid rental debts for R&Ms at risk of homelessness and eviction due to the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic.



### INTEGRATION

One R4V partner in **Guyana** continued to provide cash and voucher assistance, as well as workshops to R&M families to aid with basic needs and strengthen self-reliance. In **Aruba**, one R4V partner provided Dutch and Papiamentu classes at a Social Center to R&Ms. Additionally, R&M families in Aruba accessed livelihood and entrepreneurship skills training through an online course, facilitated by an R4V partner in Ecuador. A **Trinidad and Tobago** partner also provided cash for work opportunities to Venezuelans as programme and auxiliary staff.











*Handover of donations to one R4V partner in Guyana for their response to flooding during the rainy season in the country, May 2021 ©UNHCR/Muslim Assaubayev*



### PROTECTION

**Aruban** partners provided cash and medical assistance to mitigate protection risks for vulnerable R&M households. Additionally, R&M GBV survivors accessed support for the mitigation of risks, and referrals to internal and external services. **Aruba** and **Curaçao** partners provided information and counselling to R&Ms on legal, humanitarian, and health assistance via a Protection Hotline. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, one R4V partner provided legal assistance to R&Ms for the registration of births, evictions, and GBV inquiries. In the **Dominican Republic**, R4V partners provided cash transfers to cover basic needs and facilitate protection-based recovery through "Quédate en Casa".

## People Reached\*

SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
 EDUCATION	26				942	968
 FOOD SECURITY	84			53	1247	1384
 HEALTH	51	810	25	136	170	1192
 INTEGRATION	14				30	44
 MULTIPURPOSE CBI	242	2	393	184	23	844
 PROTECTION	248	471	2779	48	914	4460
 SHELTER		92	228	165	84	569
 WASH	102			248		350

## Covid-19 Situation\*\*

COUNTRY	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
CASES IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	3%	0.5%	9.7%	26.5%	116%
DEATHS IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	8%	11%	4%	30.5%	189.5%
INDIVIDUALS FULLY VACCINATED IN RELATION TO TOTAL POPULATION	48%	42%	10%	8%	0.1%

## Operational Overview\*

	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
PARTNERS	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR, VenAruba Solidaria	Famia Plania, IOM, UNHCR, Unitat di Bario, Salut Pa Tur, ADRA	FUNCOVERD, IOM, UNHCR, HAI, Dominican Institute for Integrated Development	Blossoms Inc, HIAS, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, Ministry of Education	FPATT, IOM, Living Water Community, Rape Crisis Society, UNHCR
SECTORS					

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R4V - Response for Venezuela: <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 | \*\*For 31/05/2021 - For real time and previous data on COVID-19 cases for each country please access [COVID Live Update Worldometer \(worldometers.info\)](https://www.worldometers.info/) and [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccinations \(Our World in Data\)](https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/) for vaccination data

## Featured Story

## Assistance kits provide a lifeline to refugees and migrants in Trinidad and Tobago amid COVID-19 restrictions

Lucibel Mendoza waited patiently until it was her turn to receive one of the boxes being offered in Moruga, a small, rural town 93 kilometers away from Trinidad's capital Port of Spain. Here, refugees and migrants like her had been struggling to get by alongside local communities after restrictions were put in place to curb the spread of COVID-19. This box was a lifeline for many of them.

*"I give you all a million thanks for your support for us. It's a blessing," she said as she walked out, carrying her box in her arms. "We all appreciate this," she added.*

Lucibel left her native Venezuela with her young son and 80-year-old mother to reach Trinidad and Tobago in early 2020. She settled in Moruga, a village along Trinidad's southern coastline, determined to support the family, her son who stayed behind. Arriving in Trinidad and Tobago just as the COVID-19 pandemic began made that goal nearly impossible to attain.

"It has been challenging because I haven't been able to get a steady job. The little that I earn, I send it to him," Lucibel said. Like her, many refugees and migrants from Venezuela come to Trinidad and Tobago fleeing rising insecurity and lack of access to basic items like medicine and food. Many are struggling alongside Trinbagonian nationals to find or keep steady employment during the pandemic.

Trinidad and Tobago is estimated to host 30,800 Venezuelan refugees and migrants according to the R4V platform. They are part of the over 5 million Venezuelans who have left their homes in one of the largest displacement situations worldwide. Many have sought safety and a new beginning in nearby countries.

As Lucibel settled in Moruga, the community saw scarcity rise as movement restrictions were put in place and COVID-19 infections began to increase. "As it stands, their life is in limbo; they are between a rock and a hard place. They want to survive and be able to work," said the founder of the Poverty Reduction Centre, a local organization that reached out to R4V partners to request additional support for Moruga residents, as rising unemployment among locals and migrants had put greater demands on the center to provide relief.

Over 1,000 hygiene kits were delivered to both Venezuelans and host community members in extreme vulnerability. Boxes of essential sanitary items like toothpaste, deodorant, and laundry detergent, among other items, together with information on public services, helped them stay safe during the pandemic.

The hygiene kit distribution project was a collaborative effort that began in May 2020 between R4V partners, NGOs, community and faith-based organizations, and schools that identified people in their communities who needed support. The Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard helped during the distribution by enforcing COVID-19 protocols and managing the numbers of people in the venue.

Like Lucibel, many people in need who were able to receive short-term assistance through such distribution drives expressed their gratitude for the initiative, for helping to ease the strain they are experiencing during the pandemic.



*Lucibel Mendoza (left) and her son arrived in Trinidad and Tobago in early 2020. (Photo: IOM, Port of Spain)*