



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN
THE SUBREGION*

224,000



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME
FORM OF ASSISTANCE**

6,766



FUNDING SITUATION

FUNDED: \$2.68 MILLION

REQUIREMENT: \$ 40.7 MILLION



Situation

- The [International Donors' Conference in Solidarity with Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants](#) was hosted by the Government of Canada on 17 June and included representatives from Caribbean countries. The RMRP 2022 planning process was officially launched at a regional level. Additionally, World Refugee Day and Pride Month were observed by R4V agencies and government counterparts subregionally.
- During the reporting period, **Aruba** saw eased COVID-19 restrictions. Area bans were lifted, masks were no longer mandatory but establishments could impose their use, and distancing protocols remained. Persons with all doses of the vaccine were no longer required to quarantine upon arrival into the country. The DVG (Department of Health) continued its vaccination campaign, although [skepticism](#) and misinformation over the effects of the vaccine and the spread of the virus continued among small sectors of the population. Partners were concerned that the focus on COVID-19 was causing the population to neglect precautions against [other diseases like dengue](#) and Zika, particularly in light of the impending rainy season when such diseases are normally on the rise. The 2021 [RMRP](#) hard copy was officially shared with Aruban authorities. Additionally, the government-assisted foodbank took over logistics and distribution of the Red Cross national food assistance program in the country.
- The **Government of Curaçao** lifted lockdown measures and removed previously imposed curfews. The tourism sector re-opened and R&Ms and host communities were able to restart work within the service sector. An R4V partner took over the former Red Cross food aid project in the country, officially kicking-off with pre-registration and verification of beneficiaries on June 24.
- The state of emergency remained in effect in the **Dominican Republic** with a permanent curfew and mobility restrictions in place. After the first phase of the regularization process in which approximately 43,000 Venezuelans requested an extension of their stay, the second phase consisting of visa applications began in late June. The visa application center opened to the public on 27 June and promoters from the information hubs (ventanillas) were the first Venezuelans to obtain their visas.
- Venezuelan R&Ms were able to access COVID-19 vaccines in **Guyana** although there is limited data available on the number of Venezuelans vaccinated to date. Vaccination campaigns remained ongoing with sites set up throughout the country, including drive-through vaccination centers at malls. However, slight delays in vaccine shipments were reported. Further, persistent heavy rainfall resulted in severe flooding in all Hinterland regions (outside Georgetown/Region 4) prompting the Civil Defense Commission (CDC) to declare a level 2 National emergency. CDC and R4V Agencies led joint relief efforts. Hinterland communities have always been difficult to access due to limited infrastructure, and the flooding has amplified an already difficult situation.
- **Trinidad and Tobago** continued experiencing spikes of new COVID-19 infections and related deaths. The state of emergency in place since May was extended until August with curfew hours on weekends and public holidays. The Prime Minister also expressed intentions to [re-open borders in July](#), removing the exemption system but with revised health protocols. The country continued to receive shipments of vaccines via COVAX and donations from foreign governments, however, these have been slow to arrive causing a slow roll-out of vaccinations in the country. Unemployment levels worsened, leaving many locals, refugees and migrants struggling to pay rent and purchase food. One partner noted requests for food support had increased by approximately 648% over the last two months. Demand for MHPSS services also saw a significant increase. Partners noted an upswing in GBV cases, as well as evictions in both the R&M and host communities. To ensure the continuity of education, parents sought support to ensure that children remained engaged in learning opportunities online. Media reports on informal surveys suggested that many Venezuelans in the country [wished to return home](#) due to the hardships being faced in T&T.

Response



HEALTH

One partner in **Aruba** provided vulnerable R&Ms with general prevention medical check-ups, **sexual and reproductive health (SRH) consultations**, laboratory services and access to medication. A **Curaçao** partner facilitated R&M access to psychosocial care, while in **Guyana** and **T&T**, **psychosocial counselling** sessions were provided to GBV survivors and VoTs under heightened emotional distress. Medical assistance in **T&T** also continued to be delivered via telehealth and in-person clinic locations. Through a hotline dedicated to refugees and migrants, another **T&T** partner prioritized medical emergencies for referral to paediatric and SRH consultations.



EDUCATION

In **Aruba**, R4V partners aided R&M children from vulnerable households with school enrollment, registration and insurance fees, and uniform costs through a ‘Back to School’ campaign. In **Curaçao** R&M children received NFI school kits for the new school year and a certificate of attendance after their participation in Dutch tutorial sessions facilitated by R4V partners. Additionally, around 1,050 R&Ms accessed remote education services through *Equal Place* in **T&T**. In the **DR**, R&Ms accessed a virtual psychoeducational meeting, “Positive Parenting”, to promote mental health and create awareness on the psychosocial effects of GBV.



SHELTER

Humanitarian actors provided short term rent subsidies to vulnerable R&Ms. In **Guyana**, R&M families and individuals at risk of eviction were supported to stay in Georgetown when they leave other regions to secure specialized health services. To prevent eviction and reduce the risk of homelessness, R&Ms in the **DR** received interim hotel accommodation support and rental payment assistance from a partner. In **T&T**, vulnerable R&Ms, including survivors of GBV, VoTs, persons living with chronic or critical diseases and those who were unemployed and facing eviction, received cash assistance for shelter and other basic needs.



INTEGRATION

Venezuelans in **Guyana**, with the support of an R4V partner, secured opportunities as agents of a private telecommunications company to sell phone cards and provide credit to phones. Partners in **Aruba** provided Papiamento and entrepreneurship courses to support R&Ms’ self-sufficiency. One **DR** partner also facilitated **entrepreneurship training** for R&Ms through evaluation of business ideas and initiatives in progress. Upon completion, participants can present their business projects with the possibility of receiving **start-up funding**.











R4V partners met with the Aruban Prime Minister and Minister of Social Affairs
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PROTECTION

R&M female survivors of GBV requiring emergency assistance received cash interventions in **Guyana**. In addition, [the Canadian High Commission in collaboration with R4V partners funded a project to provide GBV prevention and response services to R&M women and girls](#). GBV Safety Audits were conducted with Venezuelan women and girls by partners to identify gender-related risks in **Guyana** and **Aruba**, and a workshop was carried out for teens on education. A **T&T** partner supported R&M with registration and provided legal assistance with detentions. “**Know Your Rights**” workshops on divorce, custody, maintenance, and trafficking were conducted. A **DR** partner also facilitated biometric registration of R&Ms for case management.

People Reached*

SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
 EDUCATION	40	17			900	957
 FOOD SECURITY					2405	2405
 HEALTH	53	322	40	5	241	661
 INTEGRATION	26		87	20	30	163
 MULTIPURPOSE CBI	252	9	185	376	13	835
 PROTECTION	265	28	138	0	585	1016
 SHELTER		86	240	188	2	516
 WASH				213		213

Covid-19 Situation**

COUNTRY	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
CASES IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	1.3%	0.6%	10.6%	17.2%	34.9%
DEATHS IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	0%	3.3%	5.2%	19.9%	67.1%
INDIVIDUALS FULLY VACCINATED IN RELATION TO TOTAL POPULATION	55.7%	47.9%	26.7%	13.8%	6.3%

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	CCSJ, ChildLine, FPATT, IOM, Living Water Community, Rape Crisis Society, UNHCR, UNICEF
SECTORS					

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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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 | ** As of 30/06/2021; Sources: [COVID Live Update Worldometer \(worldometers.info\)](https://www.worldometers.info/covid-19/) and [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccinations \(Our World in Data\)](https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations)

Featured Story

World Refugee Day 2021: Together we Heal, Learn and Shine

Art transcends borders and languages. It is a celebration and an expression of life, through art, film, education, dance and music. If there's one thing everyone in the Caribbean knows how to do, it is how to bring plenty vibes to a gathering – of any kind. This is why R4V partners across the Caribbean Sub-region held different events to commemorate World Refugee Day, celebrated annually on 20 June, many of them as part of the [Regional Jam Festival](#), to share the feeling of togetherness with displaced persons and their host communities.

In **Aruba**, dance groups made up of locals, refugees and migrants organised [a flash mob](#) on the white sands of Eagle Beach to promote solidarity and inclusion.

To the sound of the song 'Ta Mi Hendenan', shared by artists Jeon and Rincon Boyz, this Dushi Refugee Jam sent out positive messages and called the world to stand with millions of people forced to flee.

In **Curacao**, partners carried out several workshops in the spirit of healing, learning and growing, including on mental health and livelihoods skill development. From cold ceramic to wood coupage, refugees and migrants explored different skills that would help them become self-reliant.



Flash Mob in Aruba, 2021 @UNHCR

In the **Dominican Republic**, R4V partners and the Dominican-Venezuelan Symphony Orchestra performed 'Caribe Unido', a medley that interpreted the songs 'El Diablo Suelto' from Venezuela and the Dominican song "Caña Brava" as part of the Jam Festival 2021. The musical selection responded to the spirit of integration and peaceful coexistence that exists between Venezuelans and Dominicans, who share a long tradition of mutual solidarity.

Among the [celebratory activities](#) in **Guyana**, R4V partners shared a refugee story book with children through a storytelling session. In addition, the India and British High Commissions, journalists, R4V agency representatives and other partners were able to experience the difficult choices people must face when living in their countries is no longer viable, through [a walk-in experience](#).

Moreover, authorities dedicated a mural to the host community to thank them for their support to refugees. A gastronomical event was also held where the refugee and host community came together to share exotic traditional dishes. In addition, 38 people participated in health workshops held by partners, and after accessed COVID-19 vaccines and HIV testing.

Trinidad and Tobago partners presented the human rights edition of *Watch a Movie on Us!* with the T&T Film Festival. Starting 19 June, films were made available to viewers anywhere for free for 24 hours each, including 'Lifted', directed by [Miquel Galofré](#), 'With Love from Central America', produced by an R4V partner, and 'Casa en Tierra Ajena (House in a Foreign Land)', directed by Ivannia Villalobos Vindas

In addition, an R4V partner, along with some talented musicians from Venezuela and Trinidad, performed 'Alma Llanera' (the soul of the plains), an iconic Venezuelan composition. To emphasize togetherness and cultural unity they [performed the song](#) on the national instruments of both Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela – the steelpan and the cuatro. They also played some parang, reflecting the perfect blend of Venezuelan influence on Trinidad and Tobago's culture. Because if there's one thing that can bring people together, it's music.