


 REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN
THE SUBREGION*

224,000


 PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME
FORM OF ASSISTANCE**

7,527



FUNDING SITUATION

FUNDED: \$11.6 MILLION

REQUIREMENT: \$ 40.7 MILLION



Situation

- The [2022 Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan \(RMRP\)](#) appeal was [launched on 9 December](#) via a virtual event with featured speakers including the Director General of IOM, Antonio Vitorino; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi; and the UNHCR-IOM Joint Special Representative for Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants, Eduardo Stein. In addition, 10 December marked the final day of [the 16 Days of Activism](#) to end violence against women, where R4V partners across the Caribbean Sub-region raised awareness on the subject and delivered support to vulnerable refugees, migrants and members of host communities.
- In **Aruba**, [border closures with Venezuela continued](#) despite exemptions for return flights organized via the Aruban and Venezuelan authorities. [Walk-in COVID-19 vaccinations were extended](#) for all, including refugees and migrants. [Host communities protested a 12.6 % salary reduction](#) which the government indicated would be applied to social aid for unemployment and to help companies. Since this aid is no longer forthcoming, workers demanded a reversal of salary cuts. Venezuelans were also affected due to reductions in temporary jobs and work hours.
- [289 refugees and migrants from Venezuela based in Curacao requested assistance from the Dutch Prime Minister](#), in a letter delivered to the Governor's office, as their attempt to be repatriated was thwarted with flight cancellations at the last moment, since Venezuelan authorities did not grant permission to land. The group also requested financial support, as some had given up their houses and jobs to return to Venezuela. Meanwhile, [33 Venezuelans](#) in detention centres on the island went on hunger strike over suspended return flights resulting in prolonged detention, indicating they were being held in inhumane conditions, together with people who have committed serious crimes, and face health problems due to unsanitary conditions. The group appealed to Human Rights Defense Curacao to help find a solution to their situation.
- The **Dominican Republic** (DR) ended 2021 with [COVID-19 cases on the rise](#) and on [omicron alert](#). Additionally, according to an ultimatum issued by the National Immigration Council, the grace period for hiring irregular foreign workers was over and employers would be subject to [fines ranging from five to 30 times the minimum wage \(US\\$1,500\)](#), with the Vice Minister of Migration Management and Naturalization clarifying that this was not meant to provide a pathway to regularize employees' immigration status, but rather to ensure the hiring of foreign workers who have work authorization, or to employ Dominicans instead. Furthermore, the Dominican Army embarked on [border management initiatives](#) to strengthen territorial control and interdict foreigners who try to cross Dominican land in an irregular manner. Separately, Venezuelans in the third phase of the regularization process received their stay permits, while banks considered allowing Venezuelans with expired passports to open accounts.
- The Health Minister of **Guyana** said that [more than 67 Venezuelans \(at least 25 children and 42 adults\) in Anabisi were treated for skin rash and diarrheal diseases](#) associated with a lack of potable water and unhygienic conditions, while others were afflicted with malaria, and some children were chronically malnourished. A [World Bank report released in December](#) identified Guyana among the Caribbean countries with the most worrisome levels of food insecurity.
- The **Trinidad and Tobago** (T&T) Minister of National Security indicated the country has no long-term plans to respond to the situation of Venezuelans, apart from re-registering them annually. He reiterated that the Ministry would comply with the government's policy related to out-of-school Venezuelan children, but reaffirmed that [the "law would be applied" to Venezuelans entering the country](#) irregularly. Separately, the Minister of Agriculture underscored the global increase in food prices, and stated that [Trinidad and Tobago's agricultural production was saved because of the availability of less expensive Venezuelan labour](#).

Response



HEALTH

Warao indigenous peoples from Venezuela in **Guyana** were equipped with jerrycans and filters to purify water. In **T&T**, R4V partners conducted an **outreach mission** to the Icacos Government Primary School to provide refugees and migrants with sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing, pap smears, and physician consultations. In **Guyana**, gender-based violence (GBV) survivors accessed remote psychosocial services with an R4V partner's psychologist to build additional psychosocial support skills to cope with displacement and the side effects of the violence experienced.



FOOD SECURITY

R4V partners in **Guyana** collaborated with the government to [provide food kits, transportation to hospitals and medical care](#) to about 250 Warao indigenous persons in Anabisi from neighbouring Venezuela, including many malnourished children. Partners also distributed food kits to vulnerable persons residing in Eteringbang, Region 7. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, supermarket food assistance was given to several refugee and migrant households using the WiPay system. Partners also collaborated with community groups to provide food hampers. In **Curacao**, meals were provided in a temporary shelter for vulnerable migrants.



SHELTER

R4V partners supported Venezuelan refugees and migrants with **food and shelter** in Georgetown, **Guyana**, at hotel rooms and in Airbnb open homes. These **temporary shelter solutions** were provided to persons who were evicted, persons with health problems requiring specialized care in the capital and GBV survivors. Some were also supported with **cash and voucher assistance (CVA)** to help them **gain access to adequate housing** and cover the value of the initial deposit plus first month's rent. In **Curacao**, CVA was given to refugees and migrants to ensure short-term individual shelter in vulnerable cases.



INTEGRATION

R4V partners in the **DR** carried out an information tour and outreach exercise in six parts of the country where information hubs for the Regularization Plan were previously unavailable to refugees and migrants. In addition, R4V partners in collaboration with other social organizations organized a day for **school supply deliveries** and Christmas activities in Santiago de los Caballeros, which included recreational games during health check-ups. In **Aruba** [KIWANIS RIDE4KIDS raised more than 15 million florins for the fund for school fees](#) for disenfranchised school-children, including refugees and migrants from Venezuela.











Caribbean Sub-Regional Coordination Team completed a one-month mission to National Platforms (Aruba, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Guyana) to participate in and observe activities being implemented, as well as coordinate actions for 2022. ©IOM



PROTECTION

An R4V partner led a [training with 40 members of the T&T Coastguard](#), including officers, focusing on International Protection, Protection at sea, registration and specific needs. Also, a local partner continued to conduct **Refugee Status Determination** processes. In **Aruba**, legal assistance was provided to GBV survivors and to labour exploitation victims. **CVA** was given as a protection mechanism to vulnerable refugees and migrants in all countries. An R4V partner began a pilot project in **T&T** to support small business ventures for **survivors of GBV**, which will include training on business planning and financial management and disbursement of cash or in-kind support.

People Reached*

SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
 EDUCATION	51		30	464	416	961
 FOOD SECURITY	27	3	74	495	207	806
 HEALTH			7	7	84	98
 INTEGRATION	77	39		63		179
 CVA	51		30	464	416	961
 PROTECTION	90	39	21	105	515	770
 SHELTER		59	57	118		234
 WASH				569		569

Covid-19 Situation**

COUNTRY	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
CASES IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	25.11%	22.55%	2.83%	4.49%	28.78%
DEATHS IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	4.02%	6.18%	1.02%	6.04%	32.95%
INDIVIDUALS FULLY VACCINATED IN RELATION TO TOTAL POPULATION	73.70%	58.62%	52.03%	37.37%	47.67%

Operational Overview*

	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
PARTNERS	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR	IOM, UNHCR, Unidat di Barrio, Salut Pa Tur	UNHCR, HAI, Dominican Institute for Integrated Development, Venezuelan Emigrant Foundation	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Protection	FPATT, IOM, Living Water Community, Rape Crisis Society, UNHCR, UNICEF, Panamerican Development Foundation
SECTORS					

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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R4V - RESPONSE FOR VENEZUELA: [HTTPS://R4V.INFO/EN/CARIBBEAN](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 31/12/2021; Sources: [COVID Live Update Worldometer \(worldometers.info\)](https://www.worldometers.info/) and [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccinations \(Our World in Data\)](https://ourworldindata.org/)