

# STUDY ON THE PROTECTION SITUATION OF VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE CARIBBEAN



This report was developed to identify current protection needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Aruba, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago. The study is presented in line with the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) commitment to protection as a central responsibility of its humanitarian response.

## SOME OF THE KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE:

### KEY FINDINGS



Some of the main protection risks identified for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the Caribbean are risks of detention and deportation, violent acts from smugglers and organized crime, and lack of access to national protection systems due to irregular status.



More than 80% of refugees and migrants interviewed mentioned that they had experienced challenges because of their irregular status. Additionally, there are many Venezuelans who entered regularly and are now in situations where they are unable to extend their visas.



Social networks and mass media influence each country's public perceptions related to asylum and migration dynamics, often with misinformation, inciting xenophobia.



A comprehensive program that includes access to documentation, regularization, formal work, shelter, language inclusion and access to basic services would mitigate existing risks and bring protection to Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the Caribbean.



In the last four years, there has been a significant increase in the influx of arrivals in the Caribbean from Venezuela. Some of them had never been in these countries before and were searching for a place with more work opportunities, access to services, or better wages. Others used to travel on a cyclical or temporary basis for business, seasonal work, or leisure.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Study on the Protection Situation of Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in the Caribbean provides a series of recommendations to governments and humanitarian organizations to address protection risks faced by refugees and migrants, while promoting access to their rights.



Provide trainings on migration and human rights to police, immigration officers and asylum authorities that contribute to a better comprehension of protection needs.



Enhance cultural exchange initiatives in Caribbean host communities to promote mutual cultural understanding and combat xenophobia.



Implement alternative care options for unaccompanied children, such as foster homes.



Promote peer-to-peer English and Papiamentu language learning initiatives.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE FULL REPORT HERE.