

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN  
THE SUBREGION\*

222,503

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME  
FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*\*

5,988



FUNDING SITUATION

REQUIREMENT: \$ 68.4 MILLION

## Situation

- Vaccination campaigns continued in **Aruba** with 800+ children receiving COVID-19 vaccines as part of a walk-in system at public clinics. The peak of COVID-19 cases reported at the end of 2021 decreased in January, and the Omicron variant was confirmed to be present on the island. [DIMAS](#) (The Department of Integration) denied rumours carried by local media outlets that the government planned to regularize foreigners with irregular status on the island. Flights between Aruba and Venezuela remained suspended, and R4V partners reported Venezuelans held for prolonged periods and in deteriorated conditions in detention centers while awaiting postponed deportations.
- Covid-19 cases decreased, and relaxed measures were anticipated in **Curaçao**. The pandemic continued to have prolonged impacts on the island where livelihoods have become difficult to secure and refugees and migrants from Venezuela are adversely affected. [289 stranded Venezuelans](#) who were waiting to return to their country of origin received shelter and humanitarian support from R4V partners while their flights were delayed. The last of this group left Curaçao on the 26 of January. R4V partners underscored that detentions and conditions of detention centers remained a challenge on the island.
- In the **Dominican Republic** the third phase of the regularization plan began, and R4V partners continued to support the initiative. In January, 956 temporary work visas and 97 student visas were issued by the visa office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, financed by one R4V partner, and mobile hubs were set up in provinces where there were none, where they continued to provide support for registration.
- In **Guyana**, R4V partners indicated that requests for food, shelter and NFI support had increased among refugees and migrants from Venezuela. There were gaps in food assistance provided through paper-based cash vouchers, as only two supermarkets were engaged in this program, creating additional difficulties for persons not living in Georgetown and Central Lethem, where the supermarkets are located. Additionally, 20 Venezuelan women [alleged that they were abused and robbed during a raid by members of the Guyana Police Force](#), which [the Police Force denied](#).
- **Trinidad and Tobago (T&T)** prepared for a [surge of the COVID-19 Omicron variant](#). The Central Bank [issued guidelines](#) encouraging commercial banks to implement simplified due diligence measures for basic banking accounts for vulnerable individuals in society, recommending that the banks consider using government issued registration/residency cards for Venezuelans who do not have valid national identification and want to open accounts. Registered Venezuelans [expressed concerns](#) regarding expired permits, which affect their ability to work and stay legally in the country. Their worry was based on past delays and experiences of some persons not being called to retrieve renewed stay cards. Additionally, police officials [reported](#) the identification and assistance of Venezuelan women who were reported victims of sex trafficking, some as young as 16 years old. Families continued to face challenges for reunification as a [group of 65 Venezuelans was returned](#) to Venezuela by the T&T authorities at the end of December. Among the returnees were a woman and her children who were expecting to reunite with their father. Additionally, three Venezuelan [fishermen living in Trinidad who went missing at the end of December were found](#). 18 Venezuelan nationals attempting to enter [T&T irregularly were intercepted by the T&T Coast Guard](#) during patrols, following a boat chase on the weekend of January 8.

## Response



### HEALTH

In **Aruba**, partners provided Venezuelan refugees and migrants with **treatment for chronic conditions**. **Curaçao** partners provided **primary dental healthcare** for vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela and host community members, including consultations and interventions, and delivered **primary and reproductive health care** to refugees and migrants in need. In **Guyana**, Venezuelan children received mental health and psychosocial support within the framework of their **case management** services, including weekly remote psychosocial support sessions, emergency in-person sessions, home visits and visits to hospital, amongst others.



### CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

In **Guyana**, an R4V partner implemented the Socioeconomic Support Program (SESP), a livelihoods initiative and a global model for economic inclusion which includes **six months of cash and voucher assistance (CVA)** and 12 months of follow-up. The partner will use the self-reliance index created by the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative to target and monitor households' progress in the program. In addition, during case management in **Aruba**, cash assistance was provided to Venezuelan women survivors of gender-based violence (GBV).



### EDUCATION

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, 48 facilitators from partner organizations participated in a training on transferrable skills and [Plan 12](#), an initiative that supports adolescents in designing social impact projects. In addition, one partner **donated tablets** to organisations that were providing online learning opportunities for young refugees and migrants and the host community. In **Aruba**, R4V partners supported Venezuelan children's **enrolment in formal education** spaces by providing guidance and covering associated costs. In the **Dominican Republic**, partners **donated school supplies** to children during a 'day of childcare', also providing eye examinations and delivery of medicines and food.



### INTEGRATION

Venezuelans graduated from **vocational training programmes** implemented by R4V partners in **Trinidad and Tobago**, in areas such as Basic and Advanced Make-Up, Children's Decorations, and others. Each graduate was also required to complete an empowerment programme with another partner. In **Aruba**, one partner delivered a **Socioeconomic Support Program** to promote economic inclusion and integration of refugees and migrants in Aruba, and in **Curaçao**, partners implemented an afternoon language course for adults to learn Dutch and/or Papiamentu to facilitate their integration.











*An R4V partner delivered building material to the Sustainable Agricultural Project in Sangre Grande, Trinidad and Tobago. © UNHCR/Carla Bridgal*



### PROTECTION

Counter Trafficking Unit officials participated in a **Spanish course** delivered by R4V partners in **Trinidad and Tobago**. In **Guyana**, heads of households **received information and orientation** on procedures for accessing public health and education systems, as well as on how to obtain stay permits for the first time, how to renew them and how to register newborn children. Sessions were conducted virtually with some **individual follow-up appointments**. In **Aruba**, cadets from the police were trained on identifying and responding to GBV.

## People Reached\*

	SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
	EDUCATION	86	46	160	22		314
	FOOD SECURITY				162		162
	HEALTH	7	1447	1			1455
	INTEGRATION	40	10		30		80
	CVA	56	31		354	179	620
	PROTECTION	157	92	2072	1498	502	4321
	SHELTER		23		144	20	187
	WASH		25		128		153

## Covid-19 Situation\*\*

COUNTRY	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
CASES IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	+61.3%	+74.1%	+32.6%	+51.3%	+21.4%
DEATHS IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	+6.6%	+22.8%	+1.4%	+10.8%	+18.7%
INDIVIDUALS FULLY VACCINATED IN RELATION TO TOTAL POPULATION	+74.5%	+59.2%	+52.9%	+39.6%	+49.2%

## Operational Overview\*

	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
PARTNERS	IOM, HIAS, PADF, UNHCR, VeneAruba Solidaria	IOM, UNHCR, PADF, Human Rights Defence Curaçao, Venex Curaçao Foundation, Fundashon Duna Lus, Orthodox Orthodontic Clinic, Famia Plania, Salú pa Tur Foundation	UNHCR, IOM, Venezuelan Emigrant Foundation, Diáspora Venezolana en Boca Chica, Churún Merú Association, Venezolanos en San Cristóbal, Asociación AVES, FUNCOVERD, Globalizate Radio, IDDI	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR, Blossoms Inc, Roman Catholic Bishop of Guyana, Voices Guyana, Ministry of Education, Guyana Sex Workers Coalition	UNHCR, IOM, FPATT, Living Water Community, Rape Crisis Society
SECTORS					

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R4V - RESPONSE FOR VENEZUELA: [HTTPS://R4V.INFO/EN/CARIBBEAN](https://r4v.info/en/caribbean)

\* Based on current month activities | \*\* As of 31/01/2022; Sources: [COVID Live Update Worldometer \(worldometers.info\)](https://www.worldometers.info/) and [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccinations \(Our World in Data\)](https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations)