

Overview

2021 was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccination campaigns to mitigate its impacts. During this year, **R4V partners’** work revolved around supporting refugees and migrants to meet their basic needs and to aid them in **coping with increased vulnerability caused by the pandemic**. Partners also focused on ensuring refugees’ and migrants’ **access to COVID-19 vaccinations and related health treatments**, adapting activities to **remote modalities and continuing activities and projects** mapped out in the [RMRP 2021](#).

Partners estimated the population in need within the Caribbean sub-region which consists of Aruba, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, had increased by almost 13% as of December 2021, when compared with [the previous year](#). Although needs kept rising, funds remained limited and [the Caribbean RMRP received less than 30% of its funding requirements](#). Nevertheless, partners **responded to the needs of refugees and migrants and host community members, reaching almost 70,000 persons in need** with various forms of direct and indirect assistance across the **Caribbean** between January and December 2021. Nonetheless, constrained funding compelled R4V platform partners to **prioritize those who would be assisted** through a needs-based approach which channelled aid to **the most vulnerable**.

68,246

Total Beneficiaries of the Year

Aruba	Curaçao	DR	Guyana	T&T
5001	8205	21900	19901	13239



People reached with direct and indirect assistance in the Caribbean Sub-Region through R4V activities carried out between January and December 2021

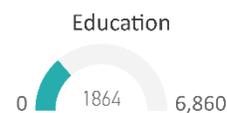
Sectors¹

CROSS CUTTING SECTORS: CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE, FOOD SECURITY, SHELTER AND WASH

Crosscutting with other sectors, **food and WASH kits** were distributed in most countries, as well as **food assistance through vouchers** from identified suppliers. Refugees and migrants were more prone to request food assistance as a form of support throughout 2021 in the sub-region, and food security activities reached over 18,000 refugees and migrants and members of host communities, or **86% of the targeted population** in 2021. R4V partners also delivered **cash and voucher assistance (CVA)** to persons in need of **emergency support** to cover basic needs, with more than 4,000 people receiving multipurpose cash assistance, or nearly **61% of the targeted population**. To prioritize the distribution of limited CVA funds to persons most in need, targeted recipients included female heads of households, survivors of gender-based violence, VoTs and women and children with health needs. In addition, partners provided shelter assistance through rental subsidies, CVA, and emergency accommodation for those at risk of eviction and in other vulnerable situations. Additionally, partners provided **shelter assistance targeted at refugees and migrants** for quarantine purposes and to help with distancing protocols. In 2021, partners reached approximately 57% of the targeted persons for shelter activities.



EDUCATION



R4V partners reached roughly **27% of the targeted population** with education programmes. The five Caribbean R4V countries – Aruba, Curacao, the Dominican Republic, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago – reformulated educational programmes to cope within the context of the pandemic, with a continued focus on virtual classes. To promote integration into public education systems, partners offered **after-school remote remedial classes** and other training programmes, assisting families with **cash-based interventions** and distinct levels of **second language classes** which reached Venezuelan children and adults separately. **School kits and material assistance** were provided to Venezuelan families most in need, to bridge financial gaps that prevented their children from attending school. **Online schooling** enabled more stable attendance in 2021 as most schools had closed due to the pandemic, and **online university-level courses** were offered through



Language classes in T&T for indigenous refugees and migrants ©UNHCR

¹ Graphs in the beginning of each sector refer to the response by R4V Partners regarding the following numbers: *People targeted for 2021 vs people reached with assistance from January to December 2021.*

collaborations between R4V partners and online educational platforms in one Caribbean country. Due to the prolonged impact of the pandemic, R4V partners offered **tele-counselling psychosocial support services** to refugee and migrant children and their caregivers. A complete overview can be found in the [Education Sector Background Notes](#).

HEALTH



R4V partners **promoted access to health services** as a priority across all five sub-regional countries, reaching approximately 73% of the targeted population in 2021. They maintained **successful telehealth initiatives** in Aruba and Trinidad and Tobago, **secured testing and treatment** of persons with chronic, complex, and life-threatening diseases, and assisted pregnant and lactating women, through cash and voucher assistance. **Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)** featured prominently as a priority area of intervention, with some countries focusing their services on survivors of gender-based violence, victims of trafficking and other 'at-risk' groups, whose access to healthcare is often compromised. Access to **preventive and primary health assistance** for refugees and migrants in vulnerable conditions, regardless of their status, was facilitated by R4V partners in Aruba and Curaçao, whereas in Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic and Guyana, these services were available publicly. Support to refugees and migrants living with HIV was also prioritized by partners, especially in Aruba where access to treatment was not available, and where partners advocated for inclusion of this population in public HIV treatment plans. Services included general check-ups, health screening fairs, and MHPSS assistance in Spanish which narrowed language barriers. In some Caribbean countries, partners purchased medicines and other supplies, including durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs for those in need. They also facilitated lab tests and dental services via specialized clinics. Furthermore, partners carried out **sensitization campaigns** on contraception and family planning to expand access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH).



Vaccination campaign in Guyana ©IOM

Specifically, on the pandemic and vector-borne diseases, R4V partners in the Caribbean sub-region **implemented basic disease control measures** to raise awareness on illnesses and available corresponding services, while advocating for inclusion of refugees and migrants in COVID-19 **vaccination plans**. Partners provided **language support services** to encourage refugees and migrants to get tested for COVID-19, and also helped with **registration efforts** during vaccination campaigns. Telehealth **hotlines remained available** for partners to provide support to refugees and migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic. For an in-depth overview of the Health Sector and other cross-cutting RMRP activities, please refer to the [Health Background Notes](#).

INTEGRATION

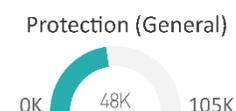


Throughout 2021, R4V partners fostered the socioeconomic, linguistic and cultural integration of refugees and migrants in the Caribbean. **Promoting livelihood options, access to work, recognition of foreign diplomas and degrees, vocational training, language courses**, activities to **reduce xenophobia** and **promote co-existence** between refugees, migrants and host community members took precedence. With the aim of incorporating Venezuelans into the fabric of host societies, R4V partners continued to advocate for the **regularization of refugees and migrants** and the **development of policies** conducive to their integration in Caribbean host countries. These efforts were complemented by other priority activities, including labour market assessments, skills mapping amongst the Venezuelan community, dissemination of guidelines on sponsoring job permits, sensitization on labour rights and against labour exploitation, and ensuring that the response to integration needs was development-oriented, with a view towards maintaining stability. **normalization campaign** in the Dominican Republic, which received support from R4V partners to establish and operate information centers that helped Venezuelans to register. In Curaçao, meanwhile, the government announced a possibility of regularizing certain eligible refugees and migrants, however, access for Venezuelans remained uncertain due to stringent requirements. Finally, in Trinidad and Tobago, in the beginning of 2021, Venezuelans registered in a June 2019 exercise were called to re-register and received extensions on their stay permits through the end of the year. Further details on all programmes and achievements for the Integration Sector are available in the [Integration Background Notes](#).



R4V team visits the Normalization Plan information windows in the DR ©IOM

PROTECTION



With the pandemic deteriorating the protection setting in the Caribbean, R4V partners strengthened **case management**, *inter alia* **registration assistance**, the **provision of legal advice, advocacy**, and **capacity development**, often through remote modalities. Details on legal frameworks in place for international protection and regularization in the Caribbean are available in the [Legal Framework Factsheet](#). Protection interventions benefitted over 47,000 refugees, migrants and host community members or about **45% of the targeted population** in 2021. In some countries, R4V partners conducted **refugee status determination for Venezuelan refugees and resettlement** of those most at-risk. In addition, capacity-building sessions were delivered to partners and collaborating agencies. For example, bilingual trainings (Spanish/English) were delivered on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). On **Gender-Based Violence** specifically, partners provided information, prevention and response services to

refugees and migrants and members of the host community, as well as relevant trainings across the sub-region. Sensitization sessions and support groups were facilitated, with some health services delivered through telehealth.

At the beginning of the year, Caribbean sub-regional partners launched the [2020 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons \(TiP\)](#) which highlighted issues related to **human trafficking**, regional trends and profiles, and data related to this issue. Partners worked throughout 2021 to **support victims of trafficking** identified in the region, through MHPSS and direct assistance such as food, non-food items, vocational trainings, provision of emergency shelter, cash and voucher assistance, and support regarding access to justice. Partners in Aruba coordinated with the task force on solutions and on case management for Victims of Trafficking (VoTs), while partners in Trinidad and Tobago delivered TiP-related capacity-building for key stakeholders. In Curaçao, partners in collaboration with the authorities provided extensive training to frontline workers on the identification, referral of and assistance to VoTs. For more information on this topic, refer to [Trafficking in Persons Background Notes](#).



Community-based protection activities delivered to indigenous refugees and migrants in T&T ©UNHCR

Way Forward

In 2022, the Sub-regional Platform will continue **advocating for the inclusion** of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in national development and social protection plans. This includes promoting access to essential services and assistance, registration and documentation, the adoption of **measures to regularize their stay, suspension of evictions**, and advocacy on legal frameworks. On the pandemic, partners will continue national support efforts to facilitate access to COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination, while continuing to advocate for inclusion of refugees and migrants in national social protection systems. R4V partners will **prioritize the delivery of direct assistance** and focus on supporting education and integration actions that were resumed in the second semester of 2021.

The **RMRP 2022** was **launched** in December 2021 and related [activities in the Caribbean](#) will be monitored throughout the year. Support will be provided to ensure the smooth running of planned programmes and activities for the 27 partners in the Caribbean, aiming to reach 111,000 persons in need within the Sub-region.

[R4V Caribbean Website](#) for further information, statistics, and reports
