

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN
THE SUBREGION*

222,503

PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME
FORM OF ASSISTANCE**

8,731



FUNDING SITUATION

FUNDED: \$3.85 MILLION

REQUIREMENT: \$ 68.4 MILLION

Situation

- In June, [Aruba R4V](#) partners celebrated World Refugee Day at the Centro di Bario in Playa Pabao, coming together in similar fashion as they have for the past four years. Refugees and locals celebrated the day with expositions of refugee stories from all over the world, among other activities.
- A judge in [Curaçao](#) ordered the immediate release of a Venezuelan woman who had been imprisoned with criminally convicted women in the [SDKK](#) prison as a form of immigration detention, without herself being charged, in violation of her human rights, and reprimanded the law enforcement officers responsible.
- In the [Dominican Republic](#), a round table [Dialogue](#) took place with the Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce (CADOVEN) and the Santo Domingo and San Cristobal Chambers of Commerce. There, representatives of commercial banks, companies in the tourism sector, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Venezuelan entrepreneurs agreed to jointly evaluate opportunities generated for the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population based on the status normalization plan. They also agreed to another meeting to review scenarios, proposals and new initiatives for economic activities of key actors.
- In [Guyana](#), R4V partners in collaboration with the Caribbean Community Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS) hosted a meeting to draft legislation to curb the smuggling of migrants, which is said to be on the rise in the Caribbean region. Meanwhile, refugees and migrants from Venezuela continued to request assistance from R4V partners, primarily for food, shelter and livelihood opportunities. On 4 June 2022, the Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Guyana [met with Guyana government officials](#) to [discuss bilateral agreements](#), mutual interests, and potential collaboration on the response to the arrival of Venezuelans in Guyana. Discussions also focused on bilateral security cooperation, particularly to address transnational crimes and criminal networks. Meanwhile on 8 June, Prime Minister Phillips of Guyana reiterated that Guyana would honour its international humanitarian obligations regarding refugees and migrants and would continue to provide healthcare, food, shelter, and work to integrate children into the education system. [The Chief of Mission of a lead R4V agency publicly acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the Ministry of Education and the Government's efforts](#) to support and accommodate increasing numbers of refugee and migrant students in Guyana. On 6 June, [law enforcement officials held a public meeting in Letham with Venezuelan refugees and migrants and members of the host community](#) to address reports of increased cross-border alcohol smuggling. The meeting provided a forum to discuss refugees' and migrants' challenges and to improve relations between the police and the Venezuelan community. Moreover, the Guyana Police launched an investigation into a human trafficking ring after 15 foreign women, all of whom were believed to be Venezuelans, were discovered during a search operation in a West Coast Demerara nightclub. Since then, [three people were detained](#) by the police on suspicion of human trafficking, and the police planned to continue closely monitoring nightclubs for possible human trafficking.
- On World Refugee Day, R4V partners in [Trinidad and Tobago](#) honoured the courage and resilience of people forced to leave their home countries by [advocating for a refugee policy](#) that could aid in their protection, define roles and responsibilities of all actors and reduce irregular entries (and smuggling and trafficking networks). Meanwhile, in two separate incidents, Venezuelan women were violently abducted from their residences; one person allegedly responsible was subsequently [arrested](#) in connection with one incident. Additionally, a local businesswoman who was arrested by police and charged with human trafficking [sued the State](#). Further, the [British High Commission in Port of Spain funded a month of advocacy training for refugees and migrants](#) from Cuba, Cameroon, Mexico and Venezuela, delivered by one R4V partner. The programme, from 4 May-4 June, aimed to empower refugees and migrants to actively participate in decisions affecting their lives, including efforts for integration and leading their own humanitarian responses.

Response



On World Refugee Day, an R4V partner hosted a [health fair](#) and family day which attracted close to 200 participants in **Trinidad & Tobago**. Refugees and migrants and host community members received free blood pressure and diabetes testing and women's health advice, in collaboration with Red Cross volunteers who also assisted young women who turned out to have their concerns answered. **Aruban** partners also provided primary health consultations, including on tuberculosis (TB), COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, mental, sexual and reproductive health and psychosocial support. Refugees and migrants in an irregular situation in **Curaçao** requiring secondary health care (such as lab work, specialist consultations, and radiology for acute and chronic illnesses) and other primary conditions requiring secondary care were referred to health services and financially covered under an agreement managed by an R4V partner. The **Guyana** Medical Relief Council (GMRC) undertook outreach to provide general medical, dental, and optometry check-ups, HIV testing, and counselling services to the host community and refugees and migrants. Also, in the **Dominican Republic**, community-led medical brigades and R4V partners assisted vulnerable refugees and migrants with the purchase of medicines to treat health conditions such as spinal problems and type 2 bipolar disorder.



Guyana partners provided food assistance to vulnerable refugees and migrants on a case-by-case basis. Some R4V partners also provided food stipends to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and persons with specific needs.

In **Trinidad & Tobago**, R4V partners approved an increased number of food assistance applications in May, including requests made through an R4V partner's virtual chatbot. Other partners distributed food baskets in locations across the country in monthly health fairs, which make up part of a broader service provision effort with the refugee and migrant community.



Aruban partners provided after-school support to refugee and migrant children through a homework program.

One partner in **Curaçao** provided an informational workshop for parents and guardians about children's right to education in Curacao, with information on the school system, enrolment processes, education services offered at the Casa del Venezolano, and best practices for identifying bullying and managing children's emotions. Another partner provided training for teachers, school administrators, parents, and guardians to guarantee a safe environment for vulnerable Venezuelan and local children and adolescents.

In **Trinidad & Tobago**, a multifunctional mission was undertaken to Tobago to search for alternative education programs. While Equal Place classes were suspended, students continued receiving support from their facilitators in preparation for final examinations/assessments in May/June. More Child Friendly Spaces, supported by R4V partners started emerging out of sheer need.



INTEGRATION

An R4V partner in **Curaçao** supported two vocational training workshops in beauty services and began enrolling refugees and migrants for sewing workshops for June. Separately, partners supported women entrepreneurs to participate in baking classes at the Jacques Ferrandi Institute. These vocational courses will be complemented with business skills trainings to start this summer.










R4V partners in the **Dominican Republic** facilitated dialogues with local businesses to include refugees and migrants and the local population in productive and commercial activities. Among the topics discussed were integration plans for professionals and professional technicians, access to the banking system, and access to financing for small Venezuelan microentrepreneurs.





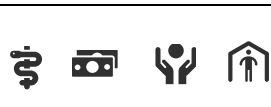


PROTECTION

In **Aruba**, partners conducted gender-based violence (GBV) outreach campaigns through four sessions with local service providers and partners on GBV prevention and response, while another partner hired a consultant to provide training on positive masculinity. Additionally, refugees and migrants received legal orientation and representation via helpdesk officers and lawyers organized by R4V partners, for detained persons, GBV survivors, and those requiring court representation. **Curaçao** partners provided psychosocial and emotional support to vulnerable persons at the Casa del Venezolano, as well as engaged individuals in group therapy and psycho-emotional resiliency workshops. Partners also facilitated (monthly) community orientation sessions for newly arriving refugees and migrants to learn about their rights and protection services available from partners in Curaçao. Refugees and migrants also received support through screening, case management, distribution of protection information, and referrals to assist Venezuelans with access to territory, registration, and documentation.

People Reached*

| SECTOR | ARUBA | CURAÇAO | DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | GUYANA | TRINIDAD & TOBAGO | TOTAL |
|---|-------|---------|--------------------|--------|-------------------|-------|
|  EDUCATION | 197 | 204 | | 725 | 1,932 | 3,058 |
|  FOOD SECURITY | | | 9 | 185 | | 194 |
|  HEALTH | 28 | 542 | 149 | | | 719 |
|  HUMANITARIAN TRANSPORTATION | | | | 10 | | 10 |
|  INTEGRATION | | 127 | | 53 | | 180 |
|  MPC | | 2 | 32 | 310 | 405 | 749 |
|  PROTECTION | 493 | 398 | 1,941 | 2,057 | 987 | 5,876 |
|  SHELTER | | | 21 | 61 | | 82 |
|  WASH | 9 | 167 | | 344 | | 520 |

Operational Overview*

| | ARUBA | CURAÇAO | DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | GUYANA | TRINIDAD & TOBAGO |
|----------|---|--|--|---|---|
| PARTNERS | IOM, ILO, HIAS, PADF, UNHCR, <i>VeneAruba Solidaria</i> | IOM, UNHCR, ILO, PADF, <i>Human Rights Defence Curaçao, Venex Curaçao Foundation, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Salú pa Tur Foundation</i> | IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, ILO, UNICEF, UN Habitat, <i>Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral, Asociación Aves, HAI, Fundación duendes y ángeles, Globalízate radio, Fundación de Emigrantes y Refugiados, Venezolanos en San Cristóbal, FUNCOVERD, Asociación churun meru.</i> | HIAS, IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, ILO, UN Women, <i>Voices GY</i> | UNHCR, IOM, UN Habitat, PADF, UNICEF, UNFPA, PAHO/WHO, UN Women, <i>Living Water Community, La Casita</i> |
| SECTORS |  |  |  |  |  |

APPEALING PARTNERS, IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

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

R4V – CARIBBEAN MONITORING: [HTTPS://WWW.R4V.INFO/EN/CARIBBEAN/MONITORING](https://WWW.R4V.INFO/EN/CARIBBEAN/MONITORING)