

# Situation Report



**217,130**

refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the Caribbean <sup>1</sup>



**4456**

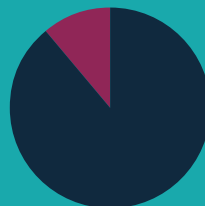
persons reached with direct assistance <sup>3</sup>



Funding Situation:

**\$812.6K** funded of **\$72.65M** required <sup>2</sup>

1.1%



Refugees & Migrants from Venezuela

3,949

Host Communities

507

Women

1839

Girls

999

Men

723

Boys

895

## People Reached by Sector



Education  
**1906**



Protection  
**1,892**



Food Security  
**618**



Child Protection  
**64**



Health  
**202**



GBV  
**751**



Humanitarian Transportation  
**0**



Human Trafficking & Smuggling  
**59**



Integration  
**232**



Shelter  
**495**



Nutrition  
**0**



WASH  
**234**



### Cash and Voucher Assistance

**USD \$84K** distributed to **615 persons** for Food, Health, Integration, Protection, Shelter, and Multipurpose Cash



### Capacity Building

**54 persons** trained to strengthen the protection environment. **27 persons** trained on the prevention, identification, assistance, protection and prosecution of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.



### Campaigns

**205 persons** reached with awareness-raising and integration-promoting messages

(1) Projected population by end of 2023 (2) Source: FTS. Funding can take some months to update, and does not include funding provided at regional level, so the actual figure may be higher. (3) All assistance figures are cumulative for the year to date.

## Situation

- [A UN Country Team mission to Aruba involving representatives from 11 UN agencies conducted a needs assessment](#) from 2-3 February and met with UN and R4V organizations. The mission identified potential areas for collaboration with the government and people of **Aruba** to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which have guided R4V partners' activities. The team consulted with various stakeholders, including government, civil society, trade unions, journalists, and university students.
- During the reporting period, the authorities used checkpoints to detect persons entering irregularly, including Venezuelans, who were then detained by the Guardia nos Costa.-R4V partners could not confirm whether all Venezuelans were given the option to seek asylum or other forms of international protection in Aruba prior to their deportation.
- **Curaçao** [received a delegation from the Venezuelan government](#) at the end of January for consultations about re-opening the borders. The Curaçaoan government subsequently announced its intention to [reopen its air and maritime borders with Venezuela on 3 April](#) for commercial traffic.
- By February, 23,725 visas had been issued for Venezuelans in the Dominican Republic, who were registered in the country's Normalization Plan for Venezuelans (PNV). R4V partners continued to emphasize the need to complete the process promptly with the Venezuelan community. Failure to complete phase three (to receive an ID card) after visa expiry might result in losing initial temporary permits.
- On 8 February, Venezuelan singer-songwriter Carlos Julián Martínez released the [song "SOMOS"](#), featuring Dominican singer Lu Polanco. The song celebrates the peaceful coexistence between Dominicans and Venezuelans, depicting the story of a young Venezuelan arriving in Santo Domingo and discovering the shared bonds between the two nations with the help of a Dominican friend. Separately, the General Direction of Migration (DGM) reduced visa overstay fees to those whose residency expired 3+ years ago: 40% for 3-6 years expired and 50% for over six years. The deadline to renew and apply this discount was March 30, 2023.
- In **Guyana**, in February, the National Assembly approved the 2023 Budget worth \$781.9 billion, including the allocation of \$4.7 billion for the development of infrastructure, health, and education sectors in the hinterland regions' indigenous communities, home to many Venezuelans in Guyana. Funds were also allocated by Guyana's Ministry of Education to improve indigenous education, including a study on displaced children, an ESL program for preschoolers and a school mapping study. Venezuelan refugees and migrants will benefit from all these initiatives. Further, on February 16, an R4V partner in Guyana released a study entitled [Invisible Movements: Recommendation for Facilitating the Cross-Border Migration of Indigenous Peoples in the Caribbean](#).
- In December, according to the media, over [1,000](#) Venezuelans in **Trinidad and Tobago** returned to Venezuela, reportedly due to high living costs and difficulty enrolling their children in schools. Meanwhile, the Minister of National Security of Trinidad and Tobago announced a [one-year extension of Venezuelan registration permits](#). According to media reports, incidents involving [Venezuelans as either victims or perpetrators of criminal activity](#) contributed to xenophobia and fear among host communities as well as refugees and migrants.
- Also in Trinidad and Tobago, the [Administration of Justice \(Indictable Proceedings\) Amendment Act](#) fast-tracked prosecutions for certain sexual and human trafficking offenses to reduce the adverse effects of delay on victims and witnesses. At the same time, according to R4V partners, refugees and migrants showed reluctance to report gender-based violence (GBV) concerns to state authorities. [In media interviews US Ambassador](#) to Trinidad and Tobago Candace Bond promised to collaborate with Trinidad and Tobago on human trafficking and the welfare of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

## Response

### Education

In **Aruba**, an information session was held for parents and guardians to educate them on children’s rights and access to education for refugees and migrants. The afterschool program “Sinja Merdia” also offered Dutch language classes and support for other courses as needed to 27 Venezuelan children. In **Curaçao**, partners offered language and vocational courses to adult refugees and migrants to improve integration and employment prospects. Learners were provided with English, Dutch, and Papiamentu language lessons and vocational and technical training, acquiring the ability to hold basic conversations and learn local colloquialisms and customs. The first cohort of language classes was completed in January. Additionally, the ongoing after-school program “Coquito” focused primarily on Dutch language classes, but also provided tutoring to children struggling in other subjects. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, formal online classes within the [Equal Place](#) Program resumed on 9 January, with daily in-person activities in Icosos and Monday activities in Siparia. Emphasis was placed on English as a second language (ESL) and preparing secondary level students to transition to Dawere Global programme.

### Food Security

In **Curaçao**, R4V partners provided food vouchers for refugees and migrants to purchase supplies at a local supermarket on the island. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, food vouchers were distributed by partners to refugees and migrants, and the host community in vulnerable situations. A total of 366 Venezuelans and host community members received vouchers, with a total value of USD 17,957.35.

### Health

An **Aruba** partner facilitated emotional resilience workshops and offered individual support with an in-house social worker, reaching 37 Venezuelans. A partner’s clinic in **Curaçao** provided primary health care to Venezuelans and members of the host community. Another partner offered prenatal care through three visits to a midwife for each expectant mother. Another partner provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, with up to 8 consultations per person. Refugees and migrants without healthcare insurance were also provided with dental care. In Curaçao primary healthcare was provided to Venezuelan and host community members through outreach sessions, house visits, and in-clinic care. Meanwhile, Guyana partners provided information sessions on “Menstruation and hygiene”, “papillomavirus” and “Myths of romantic love” to refugees and migrants in an initiative focused on empowering women and girls and reducing risks of GBV. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, in January, MHPSS counselling sessions for refugees and migrants were paused during the first half of the month while counsellors were retrained. Sessions resumed in the third week of January. **Trinidad and Tobago** partners also provided MHPSS services, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and diagnostic services to Venezuelans in need. An R4V partner expanded the provision of counselling sessions to refugees and migrants with the onboarding of a new counsellor and provided more refugees and migrants with counselling sessions. In January, refugees and migrants had their health needs addressed with the provision of - specialized medical services such as cardiology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, and paediatrics, to address refugee and migrants' health needs adequately. Another partner provided quality healthcare services to those in need, with 10% of clients receiving support via telehealth services.

### Integration

In **Aruba**, a partner organized a legal workshop based on four themes suggested by refugees and migrants during their legal orientation sessions. The themes included obtaining Venezuelan/Aruban visas, family reunification

methods, and permits for stay, work, tourism, study, and marriage. A **Curaçao** partner provided vocational training from beginner to advanced levels in baking, sewing, and cosmetology. Upon completing the first cycle, training participants received business coaching and could apply for seed capital. In **Guyana**, a partner supported Venezuelans with accessing public services such as hospitals, school enrollment, vaccination, documentation, and access to justice. Partners in Trinidad and Tobago also provided Venezuelan children with ESL classes and coaching on life skills, character development, financial literacy, and advocacy. In the **Dominican Republic**, the first edition of the [Creative City Festival](#) was held on 28 January at the Fray Antonio de Montesinos Monument. This intercultural meeting brought together entrepreneurs and artists from the Commonwealth of Greater Santo Domingo that have been supported during the implementation of the R4V "Inclusive Cities, Communities in Solidarity" initiative.

### Protection

In **Curaçao**, a partner provided individualized legal assistance through an in-house attorney, reaching a total of 21 Venezuelan refugees and migrants and eight host community members. Twenty-eight participants attended two workshops on refugees and migrants' rights and international protection mechanisms organized by the same partner. Another R4V partner's help desk provided legal orientation to Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Partners also delivered legal orientation on documentation, registration, medical insurance, GBV, and protection mechanisms available to refugees and migrants on the island. **Dominican Republic** partners completed biometric registrations for Venezuelans and provided legal assistance to the Venezuelan population through protection assessments, including referring some recognized refugees for resettlement screening. In January, partners in **Trinidad and Tobago** conducted registration of asylum-seekers via in-person or remote WhatsApp videocalls, prioritizing those with specific needs for expedited RSD (Refugees Status Determination) interviews to assess their eligibility for international refugee protection. Partners continued to issue asylum-seeker certificates (rather than ID cards) until February 2023, following-up on the 2022 four-phased approach to address the backlog of pre-registered persons due to COVID-19 and expired ID cards. By mid-February, registered asylum-seekers instead received ID cards and appointment slips. Pre-registration concluded in March 2023, with in-person verification, and with first-time asylum seekers receiving ID cards upon registration. R4V partners also provided case management services and information sessions on "Documentation and regularization in the host country" and "Access to rights and services". Additionally, partners in Trinidad and Tobago in February advocated for resettlement opportunities for refugees and migrants and the observance of the principle of non-refoulement in the case of people facing deportation. Guyana R4V partners' support, representatives from Guyana's Immigration division helped 16 refugees and migrants obtain new stay permits or renew expired ones.

### GBV

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, a partner provided psychosocial support to Venezuelan refugee and migrant GBV survivors through the advocate support model. Partners also provided general support to Venezuelans including - **Dominican Republic** partners provided assistance to survivors of GBV. R4V partners organized outreach with Venezuelan indigenous women in **Guyana's** Region 1 to raise awareness on sexual health, family planning, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). In Region 8, 44 women participated in sensitization sessions on GBV, HIV, STIs, psychological first aid, and hygiene care. -

### Child Protection

In January, R4V partners in Trinidad and Tobago together with government authorities, strengthened interagency coordination on Child Protection matters with the establishment of a Best Interest Determination (BID) Panel, including the Children's Authority and the Children's Court. Active Partners\*

**Aruba:** HIAS, IOM, Panamerican Development Foundation, *VeneAruba Solidaria*

**Curaçao:** IOM, Panamerican Development Foundation, *Fundashon Duna Lus, Fundashon Perspektiva i Sosten Integral, Human Rights Defence Curaçao, Orthodont Orthodontic Clinic, Salú pa Tur Foundation, Stima Foundation, Venex Curaçao Foundation*

**Dominican Republic:** UNHCR, UN Habitat

**Guyana:** HIAS, UNHCR

**Trinidad and Tobago:** IOM, Rape Crisis Society, UNHCR, UNODC, UN Habitat, *Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees, Families in Action, Family Planning Association, Living Water Community*

\* Including both appealing partners in the RMRP and implementing partners, based on monthly activities reported via ActivityInfo to the R4V Platform.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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