

Situation Report



217,130

refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the Caribbean ¹



8086

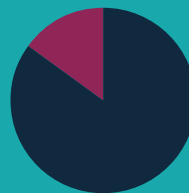
persons reached with direct assistance ³



Funding Situation:

\$962.4K funded of **\$72.65M** required ²

1.3%



Refugees & Migrants from Venezuela

6847 Women 4030 Girls 1231

Host Communities

1239 Men 1688 Boys 1137

People Reached by Sector



Education
2234



Protection
4128



Food Security
1227



Child Protection
117



Health
693



GBV
1478



Humanitarian Transportation
4



Human Trafficking & Smuggling
124



Integration
392



Shelter
642



WASH
1627



Cash and Voucher Assistance

USD \$85K distributed to 1267 persons for Food, Health, Integration, Protection, Shelter, and Multipurpose Cash.



Capacity Building

114 persons trained on prevention, mitigation and response to GBV amongst refugees and migrants. 38 persons trained on the prevention, identification, assistance, protection and prosecution of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. The Caribbean sub regional team also provided protection related capacity training to 60 key stakeholders.



Campaigns

273 persons reached with awareness sessions to prevent GBV against refugees and migrants and affected host communities.

(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

- The [2023 International Conference in solidarity with Venezuelan refugees and migrants](#) took place in Brussels between 16-17 March. Among attendees were Caribbean representatives including the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic in Belgium and Guyana's Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister. Pledges totaling €815 million were made.
- In April, the maritime border between **Aruba** and Venezuela reopened. Ships are required to adhere to proper documentation procedures. Venezuelan crews are restricted to the port, and an agent will handle the distribution of goods within Aruba, aiming to combat contraband and human trafficking. Meanwhile, Aruba's Government approved the "National Action Plan 2023-2025," [aiming to transition to a sustainable and inclusive economic model](#). The plan focuses on improving the quality of life, fostering economic, social, and environmental development, and reducing import dependency. As well, on 21 April, nearly 60 officials from the judiciary, Government, policymakers, key national practitioners and R4V partners participated in [UNHCR's legal symposium in Aruba](#) in relation to the application of European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).
- Partners in **Curacao** organized a round table with the participation of International Labour Organization (ILO), aiming to enhance labour opportunities and inclusion. The participants included government, parliament, trade unions, employers' groups, and civil society. Furthermore, the aviation and the maritime borders between Curacao and Venezuela reopened, requiring ships to adhere to trading pitch concessions, which needs to be requested 8 weeks before arrival date.
- Regarding the [Normalization Plan for Venezuelans in the Dominican Republic](#) (DR), as of March, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed R4V partners that 20,936 temporary worker visas and 3,609 student visas had been processed under the non-resident category. Meanwhile, during the 52nd UN Human Rights Council, the Dominican Republic's Foreign Minister affirmed [the country's commitment to safeguard human rights through international standards and collaboration with the Council's special mechanisms](#). Efforts such as their involvement in the Universal Periodic Review mechanism are significant for Venezuelans in the country. Additionally, at the XVIII Ibero-American Summit, the government participated in a declaration concerning safe migration, the human rights of displaced persons, migration management, socio-economic integration, support for host communities, and combating crime and trafficking networks, which is relevant to Venezuelans' rights in the country.
- **Guyana's** Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister chaired a Multi-Agency Coordinating Committee (MACC) meeting with the participation of partners, other UN agencies and government institutions. Among other topics, the Committee mentioned that a vocational training proposal for Venezuelans that the Ministry of Labour has been discussing with an R4V partner is still in the approval process. Additionally, a boat carrying refugees and migrants from the border with Venezuela reportedly disappeared, resulting in one confirmed death of a Guyanese returnee and six missing Venezuelans. Meanwhile, the authorities redoubled efforts to sensitize the public on human trafficking issues after [reports](#) of the conviction of a wildlife trader for trafficking two Venezuelan men to work on his farm. Local media included hotline numbers to report suspicions of human trafficking, including a number for Spanish speakers.

- The Commissioner of Police in **Trinidad and Tobago** initiated investigations into human trafficking based on concerns raised in a 2022 US Department of State report, which implicated "senior government officials" from the country. In response, a government representative refuted allegations of government officials' involvement in human trafficking. Meanwhile, sources in the Trinidad and Tobago Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU) reportedly stated that the majority of trafficking activities occur in central Trinidad, while most refugee and migrant victims of human trafficking enter the country through planes or boats from Venezuela. The media also featured a story of a Venezuelan girl under the age of 18 who was forced into prostitution after entering Trinidad and Tobago irregularly. On a separate note, refugees and migrants continued to experience difficulties and face barriers in applying for driver's permits.

Response

Food Security

In March 2023, food continued to be the most requested form of aid, accounting for 92% of all processed requests by one partner in Trinidad. Partners in **Trinidad and Tobago and Aruba** supported refugees and migrants from Venezuela with food vouchers while **Dominican Republic** partners offered electronic transfers to refugees and migrants for emergency needs, including food. In **Guyana**, food kits were distributed to indigenous communities in March, resulting in increased assistance to the most vulnerable Venezuelans.

Protection

Partners independently carried out comprehensive needs assessments and information sessions in Georgetown and Mabaruma, **Guyana** targeting both Venezuelans and the host community. Case management activities were undertaken to provide personalized care plans for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), addressing various issues such as physical assault, psychological abuse, and sexual assault. Dignity kits were also distributed. Furthermore, community empowerment sessions, migration information assistance, and support for school enrollment were provided. In **Curaçao**, partners engaged in discussions on priorities and Terms of Reference (TORs) for 2023, with a specific focus on addressing Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection, particularly for Venezuelans. Identified needs included collaborative advocacy, raising awareness about GBV prevention, and updating referral pathways and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). In **Trinidad and Tobago**, Venezuelans received support and referrals for case management. Partners also collaborated with INTERPOL, organizing workshops on cybercrime and digital evidence for prosecutors and the judiciary to raise awareness about human trafficking and smuggling. Basic training on cybercrime was also provided to first responders in Tobago. Additionally, support was provided to the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service through protection training and workshops focused on the principles of non-penalization, non-refoulement, and enhancing international refugee protection. As part of the Ciudades Incluyentes Initiative, Santo Domingo, **DR**, partners concluded the ([Ciclo de Rutas por Igualdad](#)) routes for equality 2023. These observation races aimed to promote gender equality and the right to a life free of violence, allowing the community to engage through interactive activities and conveying messages of inclusion, respect, equality, and diversity. Gender department officials from San Cristóbal and Boca Chica municipalities participated in the events.

- To mark International Women’s Day (8 March), partners in **Guyana** carried out a Human Rights Talk titled “*A woman among roses and thorns*”. Additionally, R4V partners in **Aruba** coordinated a health fair to advance the overall welfare of women and increase awareness regarding critical health concerns impacting them, while another partner hosted lectures spotlighting the achievements and contributions of Venezuelan women and underscoring their resilience.

Education

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, partners met with the Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Minister to discuss the inclusion of refugee and migrant children in the national education system; an important step in improving access to education for over 6,000 refugee and migrant children who are currently excluded. Meanwhile, hybrid educational programming continued under the [Equal Place](#) initiative in the country, with a total of 206 children registered in Introductory English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and 351 students in the Dawere Global programme for secondary school. In **Curaçao**, R4V partners provided Dutch language support to vulnerable refugees and migrants, including through the Escuelita de Coquito program at la Casa del Venezolano, and offered additional tutoring in specific subjects, based on needs. An **Aruban** successfully carried out an after-school initiative called Sinja Merdia, which emphasized Dutch tutorials and additional tutoring support in other academic subjects.

Shelter

In **Trinidad and Tobago** rental assistance was the second most sought-after form of aid, accounting for 58% of all processed requests during the reporting period while separately, partners in **Guyana** provided emergency shelter assistance to single mothers seeking livelihoods, children, individuals with malaria requiring treatment, and single men with spinal conditions in recovery. Moreover, the same partner offered financial assistance for shelter in the capital Georgetown to pregnant mothers and individuals with medical conditions including cancerous tumours, heart issues, and reproductive system problems while they were seeking medical treatment. Also, refugees and migrants from Venezuela were assisted with emergency shelter, following instances of GBV.

Health

In **Aruba**, refugees and migrants received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Supportive periodontal therapy (SPT) and primary health care was provided to host community members and Venezuelans by **Curaçao** partners through house visits, and in-clinic care. In April, partners in **Trinidad and Tobago** supported Venezuelan GBV survivors using the advocate support model, in which survivors were matched with advocates who provided mental and psychosocial aid and connected them with available services. In **Guyana's** regions 1 and 8, partners offered a safe space for Venezuelans to address their mental health needs, where participants learned coping strategies for emotional distress and gained knowledge in identifying symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression, and arranged remote individual assistance when necessary.

WASH

R4V partners enhanced the institutional capacities of local governments for urban regeneration and water system recovery, addressing the specific needs of vulnerable groups in the **Dominican Republic**. They collaborated with municipal authorities, Instituto Nacional de Aguas Potables y Alcantarillados (INAPA), the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Public Works, community leaders, and consultants to raise awareness about water scarcity and misuse. Outcomes involved the architect from the Dominican Ministry of Education, discussing strategies like solidarity-based budget allocation and global solutions for affordable, equitable, and efficient water services aligned with the Regional Water Action Agenda. Further, in **Guyana** young persons from Venezuela were trained on topics of Menstruation and Hygiene while dispensation of NFI vouchers took place in Trinidad and Tobago and distribution of hygiene kits were carried out in **Curaçao**.

Active Partners*

Aruba: HIAS, IOM, PADF, *VeneAruba Solidaria, Famia Planea*

Curaçao: IOM, PADF, Famia Plana, *Fundashon Duna Lus, Fundashon Perspektiva i Sosten Integral, Human Rights Defence Curaçao, Salú pa Tur Foundation, Venex Curaçao Foundation*

Dominican Republic: UNHCR, UN Habitat, *Dominican Institute for Integrated Development, Heartland Alliance International*

Guyana: IOM, HIAS, UNHCR, *Blossoms Inc, Guyana Sex Workers Coalition*

Trinidad and Tobago: IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, Rape Crisis Society, La Casita, *Family Planning Association, Living Water Community*

* Appealing Partner, Implementing Partner. Based on partners reporting monthly activities to the R4V Platform.

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