

Aruba & Curaçao



July – September 2025

Key Figures



23,122

Colombians and Venezuelans, including refugees and asylum-seekers, live in Aruba and Curaçao.



564

Health care consultations were provided by UNHCR's partner in Curaçao.



163

People, including survivors of violence, psychosocial support services.

Context

Aruba and Curaçao are two **self-governing constituent countries** of the Kingdom of the Netherlands but are not part of the European Union. While neither Dutch asylum law nor European Union directives apply to these nations, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) does. The **1967 Protocol** and the **1951 Refugee Convention** apply to Aruba. Curaçao does not consider itself bound by these instruments.

In Aruba, the Government launched the **Hunto pa Progreso programme** to enable individuals with irregular status who arrived before 1 July 2025 to regularize their stay and access the labor market. The Department of Integration, Management, and Admission of Foreign Nationals (DIMAS) implements the initiative. UNHCR and its partners have supported the programme by informing vulnerable communities and explaining the application requirements.

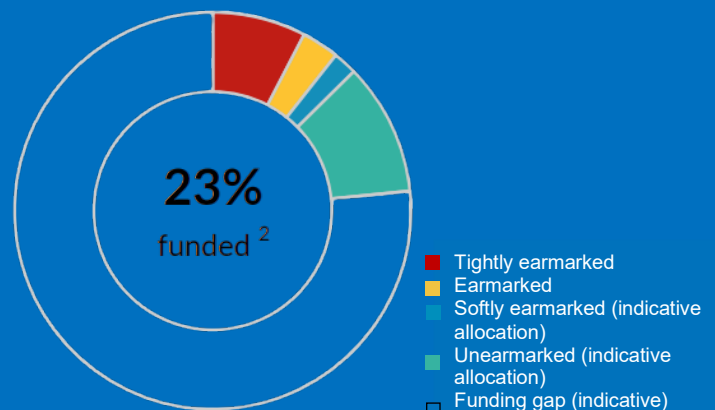
In Curacao, the Joint Court of Justice ruled that entering the country irregularly does not provide a lawful basis for migratory detention. The Court emphasized that detention must be a last resort, and authorities must first consider less restrictive alternatives, unless there is a demonstrable risk of escape or threat to public order.

UNHCR, DIMAS, and a consultant from the Quality Assurance Initiative, a joint effort with the Government of Aruba, visited Ecuador to learn from the development and implementation of the Organic Law on Human Mobility. The mission's objective was to gather insights to support the legal framework on asylum (*lex specialis*) in Aruba



Regional Funding Overview

as of 30 September 2025



\$53.4 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2025

¹ Financial requirement for MCO Panama in 2025, including requirements for the operations and activities in its area of responsibility in Central America and the Caribbean.

² The percentage funded is indicative.

UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR works with partners to support Aruba and Curaçao in protecting and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers. In the framework of the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants (R4V), UNHCR and partners coordinate to respond to education needs, food security, health, integration, protection, shelter, WASH, and response to violence against women and girls.



Operation | Due to global funding constraints, UNHCR closed its **national office** in Aruba on 31 August. Services have since transitioned to remote oversight from the UNHCR Multi-Country Office in Panama, with support from partner organizations and outposted staff assisting refugees and asylum-seekers.



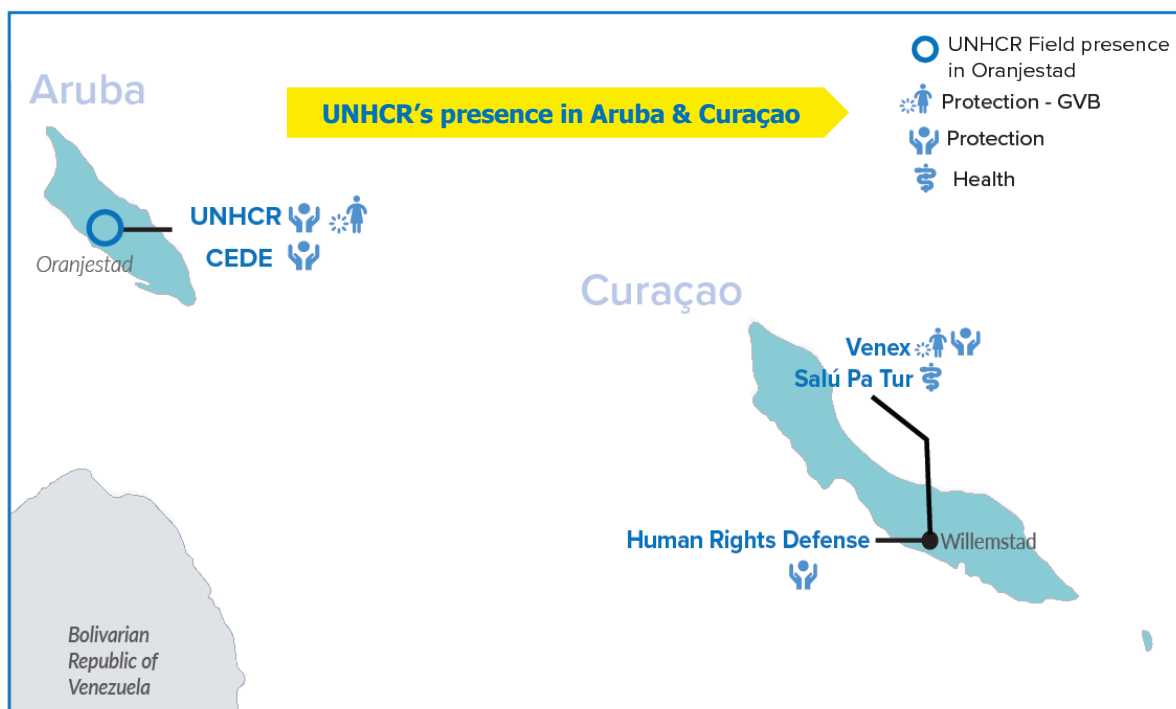
Protection | UNHCR and partners provided legal assistance and counselling services to over 200 people in Aruba and Curaçao, including vulnerable women and girls.



Health | UNHCR through partner, Salú pa Tur, assisted 266 people with primary health care and maternal care consultations.



Community-Based Initiatives | UNHCR and Centro pa Desaroyo di Aruba (CEDE) partnered to strengthen the social inclusion of refugees, asylum-seekers, and undocumented individuals. The initiative improves the capacity of local organizations and provides language classes to support integration and build stronger ties with the host community. It includes the 'WAW Mobiel Project,' a recreational programme designed for children from both refugee and host communities, offering safe and engaging activities that promote interaction and inclusion.



UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Australia | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | the European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | the Republic of Korea | The Kingdom of the Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | the United States of America | World Food Programme | Private donors in Italy, the Republic of Korea, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as well as and Australia for UNHCR, the Dutch Postcode Lottery, España con ACNUR, Japan for UNHCR, Sweden for UNHCR, UK for UNHCR and UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe.

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