

ARUBA & CURAÇAO


 REFUGEES AND
 MIGRANTS IN COUNTRY*

44,500

 PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME
 FORM OF ASSISTANCE**

56


FUNDING SITUATION***

 FUNDED: **NOT YET AVAILABLE**
 REQUIREMENT: 14,039,293

Situation¹

- **The borders of Aruba and Curaçao with Venezuela** have been closed since early 2019, and the Governments announced that they will remain **closed for at least another three months starting from March 2020**. The implementation of the visa policy, announced in October 2019 and to be implemented in April 2020, and the closure of borders will likely lead to an increase of irregular arrivals by boat and heightened protection risks related to deaths-at-sea, human trafficking and smuggling.
- **Aruba Airlines reportedly started to require passengers traveling from Riohacha, Colombia, to Aruba to sign a declaration that they do not intend to seek asylum in Aruba.** The form was reportedly targeted towards Venezuelans using that route. The Government has clarified in a [public statement](#) that it did not authorize the document issued by the airline and highlighted that travel routes between Aruba and Colombia are designed to promote tourism. At the end of February, Aruba Airlines suspended its flights from Riohacha, Colombia.

Response

- An inter-agency R4V participatory assessment was conducted to identify the current protection risks among Venezuelans in Aruba, identify the causes of these risks, and the capacities and resources within the communities. Six focus group discussions and interviews were conducted with 42 Venezuelan girls, boys, women, and men of different backgrounds, including LGBTI and persons with disabilities. Lack of documentation was the most commonly identified concern among Venezuelans, as those without proper documentation are more vulnerable to exploitation, detention, deportation, denial of access to services and discrimination. Barriers to socio-economic integration and lack of access to public health services were also common issues raised, and often included references to lack of access to the formal labour market, and lack of resources for private health care.
- In Aruba, partners met with the Department of Public Schools and the Director of the Catholic School System (SKOA) to advocate for access to education for refugee and migrant children following reports of an increase in the number of children awaiting the opening of additional Dutch language support classes (called “Prisma” classes). In this framework, an Education working group was established under the R4V National Platform to ensure that Venezuelan children and youth have access to education, as well as diplomas, certifying their studies at the end of the school year.
- A partner facilitated the participation of one judge from the Joint Court of Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten, and of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba in the Global Conference of the International Association for Refugee and Migration Law Judges (IARMJ), while the Joint Court fully sponsored an additional judge to attend the conference. The judges attended the pre-conference training (17-18 February), which covered specific issues relating to international refugee law, as well as the World Conference (19-21 February), which focused on the theme, “Realities of Mass Irregular Migration and the Challenges Facing Asylum and Immigration Judges.”
- 20 Venezuelans were supported with food assistance in Curaçao.
- From 17 to 22 February, a partner conducted a mission in Curaçao to interview refugees, who will be considered for resettlement by Australia, Canada and the US.



PEOPLE REACHED


 Food
 Security

20


NFI

20


Protection

56


CBI

21

¹ This report covers the situation in the Caribbean before the COVID-19 pandemic and future reports will reflect partners response efforts.

* Estimated population by end of 2020 | ** From 01/02/2020, methodology based on any sector maximum | *** Source: FTS website

Operational Overview - Who does What and Where



Activities by Sector

