



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN COUNTRY*
22,000



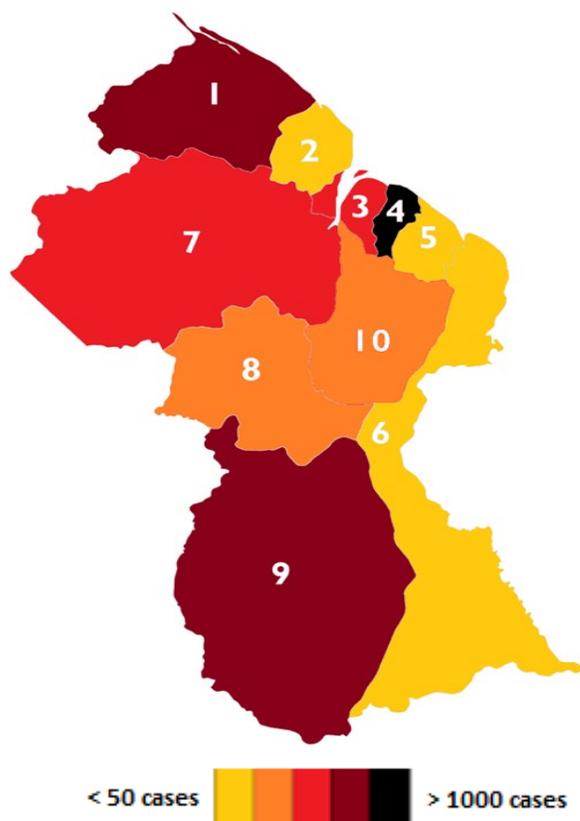
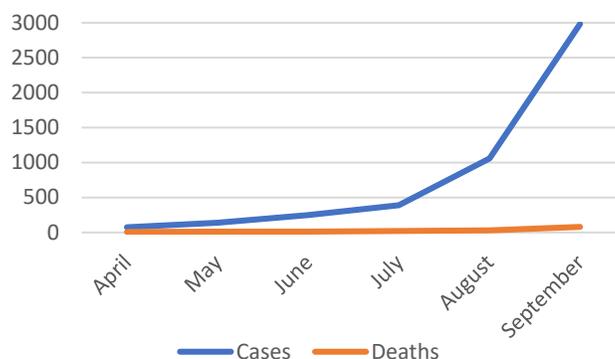
PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE**
820



FUNDING SITUATION***
FUNDED: \$3.9 MILLION
REQUIREMENT: \$13 MILLION

Situation

- In September, Venezuelan refugees and migrants reportedly continued to enter Guyana through porous borders as the country shares the Amazon Rainforest, with Regions 1 and 7 bordering Venezuela, while regions 8 and 9 border Brazil. Consequently, monitoring and tracking irregular movements continued to be extremely difficult in September as less law enforcement agents are present in these densely forested areas and remote areas. Additionally, all registration of Venezuelans continued to be on halt by Immigration, and official numbers for new arrivals are therefore not available.
- By the end of September, there was an increase in COVID-19 testing and confirmed cases, with 1,363 females and 1,531 males infected. This brought the total number of confirmed persons in Guyana with COVID-19 to 2894. There was also and a notable increase in the number of COVID related deaths with the toll standing at 80. The number of tests conducted as of 30 September was 14,082. The COVID-19 virus reached all ten regions of Guyana. Partners responses were significantly hampered in remote inaccessible Hinterland areas such as regions 1, 7, 8, 9 with its riverine territory, inclement weather conditions and limited roadways.
- Coastal and Inland areas such as regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 pose challenges of possible higher exposure to COVID-19, due to larger populations, crowded city and towns. The latter poses particular risks as travel to any part of the country requires transit through Georgetown, the region with the highest number of COVID-19 cases.
- Preventative measures remained in place. In-house dining stayed closed and restaurants were allowed to operate only on a take-away system. Bars and night clubs remain closed and events remained restricted, while public transportation continued operating at 50% capacity, in and around Coastal areas. Airports operated at minimum capacity, facilitating only special flights to the US and Canada and the curfew remained intact from 6PM to 6AM. These measures continued hindering Venezuelans livelihood opportunities since the sectors they are generally employed within, for example the service sectors, remain closed.
- Impacts of the pandemic remained severe, translating to increased unemployment and consequently financial instability among refugees and migrants from Venezuela. This led to more reported evictions, increased food needs and increased vulnerabilities of refugees and migrants to Gender Based Violence (GBV), Trafficking in persons and sexual and labour exploitation, as reported by partners. Limited access to health care, mental health challenges and water and sanitation continued to be of concern.
- Schools and learning institutions remained closed with classes taking place remotely via internet, radio, and television.



* Estimated population at end of 2019 | ** From 01/09/2020, total calculated from sectoral maximum | *** Source: FTS website (fts.unocha.org). Contributions and commitments as of 1 Sept.; estimated from multi-country contributions.

Challenges of limited access to devices, power supplies and internet connectivity continued for Venezuelan children and host communities.

- On 29 September, the [Executive President addressed a virtual high level](#)¹ meeting on “Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond”, where he highlighted the political will to work with the UN and other agencies collaboratively in building recovery strategies for all, and resilience and sustainability for the long term.

 PEOPLE REACHED*	 Education	 Food Security	 Health	 Integration	 NFI	 Protection	 Shelter	 CBI
	73	191	11	58	101	820	74	102

Response

- During the month of September, protection services were ramped up, reaching 820 people, double than the previous month. Partners provided **psychosocial care including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), child protection services** related to protection and response to violence and comprehensive **case management** services for 65 households, including needs assessments, referral to CBI assistance, food and hygiene vouchers. Additionally, 755 Venezuelans received counselling on protection and access to services.
- A **remote 16-hours training** on MHPSS was delivered to 21 frontline staff of local NGO's who provide direct services to refugees and migrants. Its main goal was to improve basic skills to provide psychosocial support, including the provision of **Psychosocial First Aid**.
- Rent subsidies** were provided to 33 beneficiaries in Region 4, in collaboration with the Catholic Church Shelter while 41 persons in Region 9 were provided with **short term shelter** solutions. Partners distributed **food kits** to 191 Venezuelan refugees and migrants, along with **NFI** dignity and hygiene kits to assist with basic needs.
- As a part of a **sensitization and awareness raising campaign**, 35 sex workers participated in virtual sensitization sessions or support group meetings carried out by R4V partners. Separately, 55 Venezuelan refugees



Partners distributing Hygiene Kits in Letham Region 9

received **information on access to services and access to GBV protection**, including on GBV information, protection, and response services. Separately, capacity building related to GBV was carried out for four peer educators on **GBV prevention and response** while 21 sex

workers received direct assistance of GBV service provisions.

- To overcome language barriers, 71 Venezuelan adults participated in literacy and conversational **English classes** and 29 refugee and migrant children enrolled in schools were provided with special educational support related to language. Additionally, 11 teachers received **training** on teaching **English as a Second Language (ESL)**.
- Partners** provided **integration and** entrepreneurship opportunities supporting 58 vulnerable refugee and migrants who received materials to produce cloth face masks. These masks will be purchased by the same partner who provided the materials and distributed to vulnerable Venezuelans to increase prevention against COVID-19.



Partner distributes 15 hygiene kits to the Lethem Town Council Venezuelans in quarantine.

Partners by Sector

 EDUCATION	 FOOD SECURITY	 HEALTH	 INTEGRATION	 PROTECTION	 NFI	 SHELTER	 CBI
UNHCR, PADF	IOM, UNHCR	IOM, PAHO/WHO	UNHCR	Blossoms Inc, Guyana Sex Workers Coalition, HIAS, UNHCR, UNICEF	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR	IOM, UNHCR	HIAS

PARTNERS IN THE RESPONSE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND, UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND, UNICEF NATIONAL COMMITTEE/CANADA, US FUND FOR UNICEF

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Catalina Acevedo, Caribbean Sub-Regional Coordination Officer, IOM, cacevedo@iom.int

Miriam Aertker, Senior Field Coordinator, UNHCR, aertker@unhcr.org

R4V- Response for Venezuela: <https://r4v.info/en/situations/platform>

FINANCIAL TRACKING SYSTEM: [HTTPS://FTS.UNOCHA.ORG.APPEALS/726/SUMMARY](https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/726/summary)