


 REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN
 THE SUBREGION*

150,000

 PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME
 FORM OF ASSISTANCE**

3051


FUNDING SITUATION***

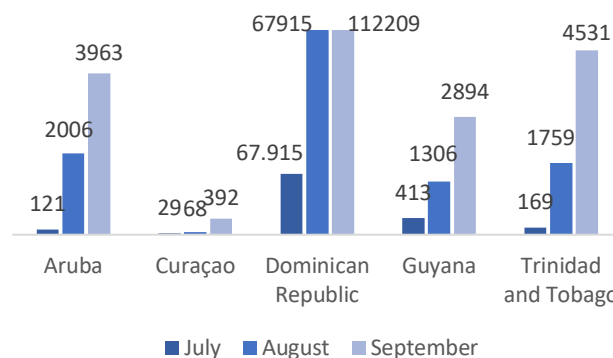
FUNDED: \$17.47 MILLION

REQUIREMENT: \$ 46.36 MILLION

Situation

- All Sub-regional R4V countries stepped up measures to deal with the latest waves of the COVID-19 pandemic which led to [continued job loss](#) and reduced access to basic needs among refugees and migrants, who are in dire need of financial support, shelter, safe accommodation and food security. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, for instance, this was evidenced through a 36 per cent increase in Cash Based Interventions related queries to one partner's hotlines, and a 170 percent increase in the number of CBI applications made for the month, compared with August.
- Although borders with South American countries remain closed, **Aruba**, **Curaçao** and the **Dominican Republic** opened air borders to travelers and tourists in September. Deportations continued from Trinidad and Tobago, and [repatriation flights](#) for Venezuelans [started across the sub-region](#), in [coordination with Venezuelan authorities](#).
- Aruba** doubled the number of COVID-19 cases reaching 3963 cases and 27 deaths. **Curaçao** saw a surge to 392 total COVID-19 infections, **Trinidad and Tobago** tripled the number of cases to reach 4531 cases and 76 deaths. In **Guyana**, the virus spread to all 10 regions with 2894 cases and 80 deaths, and the **Dominican Republic** stood out at 112,209 cases with 2105 deaths at the [end of September](#). In **Aruba and Curacao**, schools re-opened on a shift system basis, observing hygiene protocols, while classes in **Trinidad & Tobago** and **Guyana** resumed via remote modalities. In the **Dominican Republic**, teachers received training to facilitate upcoming virtual classes.
- In a commendable effort, the **Government of Aruba** continued to provide aid for refugees and migrants also in irregular work. One partner indicated that thus far 152.4 million Aruban florins (84,668,000 USD) have been supplied in subsidies, mainly contributing to food aid. However, in **Curaçao** the Dutch Red Cross indicated intention to stop issuing vouchers due to a depletion of funds provided by the Dutch Government. Bi-weekly top-ups of the vouchers would continue until October 6 pending further discussions. In **Curaçao**, a boat was intercepted by the Coast Guard on the night of 9 September, with [43 Venezuelans on board](#), [who were detained](#) (including one child).
- In the **Dominican Republic**, the President asked the constitutional court to declare inadmissible a direct action of unconstitutionality filed against Decree 262-20 which granted Dominican nationality through naturalization. The Decree was approved in February 2020 and granted [naturalization to 750 people](#) including Venezuelans. Separately, the president assured that [a humanitarian solution](#) is being formulated for Venezuelan refugees and migrants.
- Guyana** partners underscored the particularly limited access to health care, water and sanitation in the country and worry that lack of funds will also increase the vulnerabilities of refugees and migrants to Gender Based Violence (GBV), Trafficking, Sexual and Labour Exploitation.
- In **Trinidad and Tobago**, 93 Venezuelan refugees and migrants who had entered irregularly by boat were [deported](#) on [18 September](#) and [13 more were detained](#) on 27 September for illegal entry into the country, including five children, and a three-month-old baby. On 13 September, a number of

Covid-19 evolution in the sub-region



R4V partner providing emergency food assistance to Venezuelans in Aruba

Venezuelan refugees and migrants were [rescued by fishermen](#) after their boat overturned. Additionally, 40 Venezuelan nationals [arrived by boat](#) on a remote shoreline of the island. Furthermore, a young Venezuelan woman was reportedly [murdered by her partner](#), highlighting the [risks of Gender Based Violence](#) faced by Venezuelan women. Separately, David Smolansky, Commissioner of the General Secretary of the Organization of American States (OAS) for the Venezuelan crisis, urged the authorities to take more forceful actions with regard to the prevention of crimes and discrimination against Venezuelans.

Response











- To meet with increased requests for emergency assistance across the sub-region, more than 1000 **Cash-based interventions (CBI)** were provided by partners. In Trinidad and Tobago 55 Venezuelans received cash assistance for mainly rent and food. 72 per cent indicated that either they or household members had reduced the quantity and quality of their food intake and 23 per cent went days without eating. Separately, in light of the reopening of schools, partners provided **school kits** with backpacks and school materials for Venezuelan children. Other **Non-Food Items (NFIs)** such as **kitchen kits, hygiene kits and baby kits** were also distributed to a total of 382 beneficiaries in the sub-region, more than double the number of NFIs provided in August.
- Moreover, **food assistance** in the form of **food vouchers** and **food baskets** was provided to 702 vulnerable Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Aruba, Guyana, the Dominican Republic and Trinidad & Tobago while **food security** in Curaçao was provided through an R4V partner funded by the Dutch government.
- As risk of evictions continued during September, R4V partners supported Venezuelan refugees and migrants with safe and dignified **emergency shelter**. In the Dominican Republic one partner supported 235 Venezuelans, mainly single parent households who were under threat of eviction, with **rental payments** via bank transfer, while over 104 persons in need were provided with **temporary accommodation**. In Guyana, 74 Venezuelan beneficiaries were assisted with **rent subsidies** for **short term shelter** support.
- Access to **health** assistance continued to be a concern across the sub-region. In the Dominican Republic, partners provided vulnerable Venezuelans with assistance to cover medical costs, medicines, chemotherapy, and **obstetric gynaecological consultations for pregnant women**. In Trinidad & Tobago partners continued to offer medical support including **consultations** on **sexual and reproductive health** for 165 Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Additionally, **paediatric health consultations** were conducted, and in Aruba **primary dental care** was provided by a partner clinic.
- To respond to **protection** needs including risks of deportation, detention, and **GBV**, partners provided

To promote **social cohesion** among the host community and Venezuelans, partners in the Dominican Republic continued supporting the campaign, '[Acortemos Distancias](#)' (One Step Closer), as well as a virtual concert of the binational Dominican-Venezuelan symphony orchestra that reached 3162 persons nationwide. Additionally, more than 1000 new users were reached through a partner media platform, in the 'stay at home campaign', which is broadcasted weekly.



























counselling sessions to 52 Venezuelans in Aruba and 33 Venezuelan refugees in Trinidad and Tobago with 17 of them reporting issues related to **GBV**. In Guyana, partners reached 820 with **psychosocial care including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and child protection services** as a response to violence. Additionally, a **remote training** on MHPSS was delivered to 21 staff of local NGOs in Guyana who provide direct services to refugees and migrants. Its main goal was to improve basic skills in providing psychosocial support, including the provision of **Psychological First Aid**. Separately, four peer educators were trained on **GBV prevention and response** while 12 Venezuelans received **GBV case management** and psychosocial support.

- Despite persisting connectivity and funding challenges, a partner's **online education programme** in Trinidad and Tobago continued to receive referrals and provided remote access to education to more than 1000 Venezuelans, including Warao communities in two remote areas of the island. Fifty-two new students enrolled in the program in September. In Guyana, 71 Venezuelan adults participated in literacy and conversational **English classes** and 11 teachers were provided with **English Second Language instruction training**. Additionally, 29 refugee and migrant children enrolled in schools, received special language support.
- With the objective of achieving **socio-economic integration**, 18 female Venezuelan entrepreneurs in the Dominican Republic are being supported with seed capital for their businesses in areas such as producing stretchers for podiatrists, opening a cafeteria, a Venezuelan cheese factory and sales of typical Venezuelan sweets, diapers and children's items.

People Reached*

	SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
	EDUCATION				73	1002
	FOOD SECURITY	466		17	191	28
	HEALTH			65	11	165
	INTEGRATION			12	58	
	MULTIPURPOSE CBI	170	122	641	102	55
	NFI	205	41		101	35
	PROTECTION	103		275	820	574
	SHELTER			235	74	
	WASH					
	COVID-19 (CROSS-SECTOR)	466	122	641	102	24

Operational Overview*

	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
PARTNERS	Arch Dental Clinic, HIAS, IOM, UNHCR	IOM	FUNCOVERD, Globalize Radio, Heartland Alliance, IDDI, INM, IOM, UNHCR	Blossoms Inc, Guyana Sex Workers Coalition, HIAS, IOM, Ministry of Health, PADF, PAHO/WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF	FPATT, IOM, Living Water Community, Rape Crisis Society, UNFPA, UNHCR
SECTORS	   	 	     	       	     

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 **

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R4V- Response for Venezuela: <https://r4v.info/es/situations/platform/location/7493>

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

* Based on activities reported in current month | ** FTS Website: fts.unocha.org