

Situation

- By 31 March, COVID-19 cases in **Aruba** had [doubled](#). In **Curaçao**, COVID-19 infections climbed approximately 78% since the last reporting period. **Trinidad & Tobago's** Chief Medical Officer stated the country might be [on the verge of a significant increase in COVID-19](#) cases with the appearance of clusters. Guyana and the Dominican Republic also reported that numbers of COVID-19 cases significantly rose in March¹.
- The government of **Aruba** established stricter measures related to curfews and limitations to public [gatherings](#). By 15 March, 50% of the medical staff from the Aruban hospital that serves the whole island, had [received the COVID-19 vaccine](#). During the third week of March, local authorities detected Venezuelans entering irregularly during [police exercises](#) geared at general controls. Furthermore, [borders with Venezuela will remain closed for three more months](#). The authorities will re-visit this decision around 10 May.
- Separately, in mid-March, the **Curaçao** Minister of Justice announced that [undocumented persons residing irregularly in Curaçao for more than a year and meeting certain conditions, can apply for a residence permit](#). This is particularly relevant for refugees and migrants (R&Ms) who entered Curaçao legally before 13 March 2020 who now have a job and those with children who go to school. Additionally, general elections took place in on 19 March 2021, two days after the [2021 Dutch general election](#). R4V partners continue monitoring whether any refugee and migrant-related policies might be affected under the new government.
- In the **Dominican Republic**, a [revised curfew order](#) was issued nationwide on 3 March. [The regularization process](#) of R&Ms is expected to take place amidst COVID restrictions. Meanwhile R4V partners collaborated with a partner media house on an [awareness campaign so Venezuelans could be informed on](#) the various steps involved in the regularization process. R4V partners also worked with Venezuelan community-based organizations to open seven Help Desks by the start of April, which will be available in major cities across the DR with the highest density of Venezuelans, to ensure that applicants can access reliable information and legal guidance.
- Guyana** confirmed they will receive enough COVID-19 vaccines to immunize the entire adult population, including R&Ms in the country. On another note, government agencies embarked on a [three-year national action plan](#) which included workshops to identify and eliminate trafficking in persons².
- In March, the **T&T** authorities confirmed that [any Venezuelan who is repatriated](#), even if previously registered with the Government, would have to apply for a visa and exemptions to return. Additionally, Venezuelans previously registered in the June 2019 government exercise, were invited to do a [re-registration exercise](#), requiring them to [update their details](#) to be granted six-month extensions on their stay permits. The Ministry of National Security reported that on 29 March, approximately 13,800 Venezuelans from the eligible 16,523 participated in the exercise, which ran from 8 March to 26 March, and was extended until 9 April. Refugees and asylum-seekers from other nationalities and Venezuelans arriving in Trinidad and Tobago after June 2019 remain undocumented and at risk of detention and deportation.
- One R4V lead agency was interviewed on a local TV station about GBV and R&M Women in T&T. Additionally, results of the December 2020 round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)³ which reached 950 Venezuelans were released. An [interview](#) on the findings revealed areas where the country made improvements but also highlighted that during the pandemic, many Venezuelans lacked life-saving services.

¹ For real time and previous data on COVID-19 cases for each country please access [COVID Live Update Worldometer \(worldometers.info\)](#)

² For more information, please see Guyana Summary of Activities, available here: <https://r4v.info/es/documents/details/86574>

³ The DTM is a system to track and monitor displacement, designed to capture, process, and disseminate critical multi-layered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities and needs of displaced and mobile populations.

* Estimated population for 2021 RMRP | ** From 01/03/2021

Response



Health

In **Aruba**, general **preventive medical check-ups** were delivered to beneficiaries, complemented with laboratory analysis and medicines. The project was supported by one partner who provided consultations. **Dominican Republic** R4V partners supported the **purchase of medicines** for medical brigades carried out by the organization of the Venezuelan Diaspora in the Dominican Republic (DIASPOVERD) in Santo Domingo and the FEV organization, with free **health services** and health orientation.



Food Security

R4V partners delivered **food vouchers** and **food items** to Venezuelan population and host communities. In **T&T**, a **new food relief strategy** was implemented to address communication and technical issues identified in 2020, and a growing number of requests was identified. Continuous food assistance using a QR code system and supermarket network to families and communities in most need is being delivered.

NFI Non-food Items

Hygiene kits were delivered to women that are part of the cosmetology course that is currently being implemented by R4V partners in **Guyana**. In **Curaçao** **non-food items (NFI) including maternity kits** were distributed to support Venezuelans with clothing, shoes, books and other similar items collected from private initiatives. Assistance was provided in a charity shop, where refugees and migrants were able to select and receive items of their choice, free of charge.



Integration

R4V partners in **T&T** delivered Makeup Artistry and Party Decoration Courses through the Gender Transformative Humanitarian Response Project. Also, the San Rafael agriculture initiative came to an end in March 2021. This initiative allowed residents of the San Rafael shelter site to receive support towards self-reliance, and a **certificate for participating in various 10-hour** livelihood-related courses. In **T&T**, Technical support was provided to a **Warao handicraft livelihood initiative**. In **Guyana**, a **cosmetology course** for women began in March and will run until June; participants will also receive food and hygiene kits monthly. Additionally, an R4V partner implemented a **socio-economic support program** to guide at-risk families - while meeting survival-level needs through cash support. This is a 12-month program that includes cash/food assistance for six months, workshops, and access to technical training. In **Aruba**, a basic drawing course for adolescents started in March.



First education mission on the ESL activities since the outbreak of the pandemic in Yarakita (indigenous community), located in Region 1, Guyana. Activity being implemented by Guyana R4V partners on an on-going basis.

March 2021. ©UNHCR, Katherine Aguero











Protection






In **Aruba**, R4V partners received protection **referrals** from community mobilizers, mainly to GBV services. Partners also identified households for the Socio-Economic Support Program aimed at providing **cash assistance** to mitigate protection risks. In **Guyana**, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security in Collaboration with an R4V partner **launched an app called Gender Based Referral App** on 7 March, which complemented the government hotline. Protection referrals for **multipurpose cash-assistance** continued to reflect heightened protection risks faced by beneficiaries. According to R4V partners, in March, in **T&T**, 69% of CBI recipients were unemployed while 46% were unable to pay rent. In this context, R4V partners delivered **multipurpose cash-assistance** to refugees and migrants to meet their basic needs

CARIBBEAN

People Reached*

SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
 EDUCATION	17	22		292	942	1273
 FOOD SECURITY	66		12	308	443	829
 HEALTH	38	683	259	209	181	1370
 INTEGRATION	11			202	116	329
 MULTIPURPOSE CBI	166	9	191	100	23	489
 PROTECTION	251	12	81	2054	1323	3721
 SHELTER		109	126	18	223	476
 WASH				170		170

Operational Overview*

	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
PARTNERS	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR	Famia Plania, IOM, UNHCR, Unitat di Barrio	FUNCOVERD, Globalizate Radio, IOM, UNHCR, FEV	Blossoms Inc, HIAS, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, GSWC, Ministry of Education, Guyana Water Inc., PADF	FPATT, IOM, Living Water Community, Rape Crisis Society, UNHCR, UN Women
SECTORS					

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

FINANCIAL TRACKING SYSTEM: [HTTPS://FTS.UNOCHA.ORG/APPEALS/1021/SUMMARY](https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1021/summary)

* Based on current month activities. Some activities are not reported in this section, as they are ongoing and have been reported in previous Situation Reports.

FEATURED STORY

Guyana vaccinates refugees and migrants as inoculation drive rolls out across all regions

For refugees and migrants like Marianys Perez, having access to vaccinations is a chance at surviving the deadly coronavirus

Venezuelan Marianys Katerin Perez thought the chance of being vaccinated against the coronavirus was far out of reach. But in March, she was among the first Venezuelan refugees and migrants to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Puruni's local hospital, a small and remote mining village in Guyana's Region Seven.

"I don't want to get sick. So many people have died, and I am scared," said Marianys. "I heard we had access to the vaccine, so I went immediately. I am grateful we have this opportunity."

Several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean extended access to the COVID-19 vaccine to refugees and migrants in their immunization roll-outs. The Caribbean country of Guyana began its immunization campaign in early February, after receiving donations of the AstraZeneca vaccine from Barbados. In its first phase, frontline health workers and people over 60 were prioritized, and the roll-out was further expanded after the delivery of over 80,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses in March.

Across all regions in the country, local authorities, UN Agencies and civil society, including R4V partners, have been disseminating information to promote vaccinations among local, refugee and migrant communities. Over 50,000 locals, refugees and migrants had been inoculated by the end of March.

Guyana hosts an estimated 23,000 Venezuelans, who have fled rising insecurity and lack of access to basic services in their home country. Like Marianys, many of them were forced to flee a dire humanitarian situation.

"I never imagined I would have to leave my country. It was very difficult to have to leave my children behind, but I had to," she said. Since arriving in Guyana back in 2018, Marianys settled in the small town of Puruni, where she has been able to hold a modest job that helps her family survive back home in Ciudad Bolivar.

Worried about the outbreak of the pandemic, Marianys has consistently worn a facemask to keep herself and those around her safe, until it was time to get vaccinated. "Many people did not pay attention to the pandemic. But we need to curb this virus together: if the majority gets vaccinated, we can put an end to this virus here."

Since the onset of the pandemic, R4V partners have been working closely with government authorities to curb the spread of the virus. A year into the health crisis, R4V partners have been able to support the dissemination of information, making efforts to reach out to refugees and migrants from Venezuela with COVID-19 prevention materials translated into Spanish and Warao. R4V partners have also supported the response from local authorities by providing protective equipment and housing units to be used as quarantine and medical facilities.

By the end of March 2021, Guyana had recorded over 10,700 confirmed cases and 250 deaths. With increasing trends in the spread of COVID-19 in the country and the risks posed with variants, vaccinations become the more necessary.



Vaccination in Guyana for Refugees and Migrants, 2021 ©UNHCR