

# Aruba & Curaçao



October - December 2024

## Key Figures



**23,063**

Venezuelans, including refugees, live in Aruba and Curaçao.



**1,470**

People assisted with primary health care consultations in Curaçao.



**300**

People reached out through information, awareness, and sensitization sessions in Aruba and Curaçao.

## Context

Aruba and Curaçao are two **self-governing constituent countries** of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, but not part of the European Union. Neither Dutch asylum law nor European law and directives apply to these countries. The **1967 Protocol** and the **1951 Refugee Convention** do apply to Aruba. Curaçao does not consider itself bound by these instruments.

On December 6, 2024, Aruba held **general elections** for the new Parliament sworn in January 2025. In Curaçao, general elections are set to be held on 21 March 2025, to elect the members of the Parliament.

The **air border** between Aruba and Venezuela remains closed until April 2025. In Curaçao, borders with Venezuela are open. There are daily direct flights to Caracas. Both islands host around 23,000 Venezuelans who live in Aruba (11,470) and Curaçao (11,593). Refugees from other nationalities include Colombians, Ecuadorians, and Haitians.

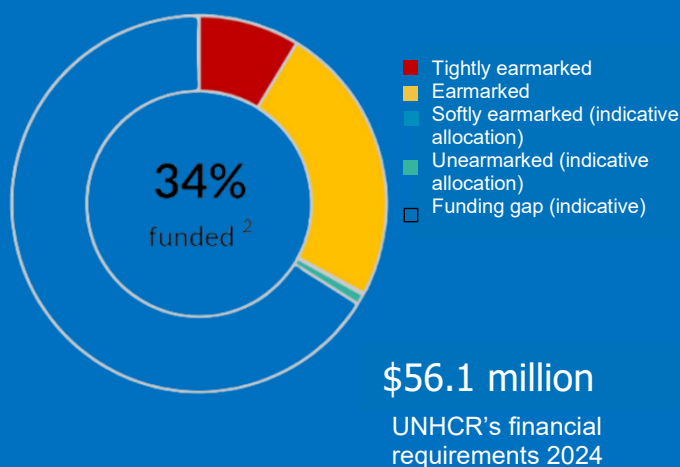
UNHCR met with the newly appointed Ombudsperson, Jurima Bryson, to discuss UNHCR's initiatives and mandate. Bryson is Aruba's first Ombudsperson.



© UNHCR/ Shadira Milani

## Regional funding Overview

as of 30 December 2024



<sup>1</sup> Financial requirement for the Panama MCO in 2024 including requirements for the operations and activities in Aruba, Belize, Cuba, Curaçao, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

<sup>2</sup> The percentage funded is indicative.

## UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR works with one partner in Aruba and three in Curaçao and supports both countries in delivering protection and assistance to 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 efforts to respond to violence against women and girls.



**Protection** | UNHCR and partners provided legal assistance and protection services to over 650 people in Aruba and Curaçao, including vulnerable women and girls. In November, UNHCR conducted a mission to Curaçao, interviewing and referring 30 individuals for resettlement.



**Health** | UNHCR through Salú pa Tur assisted 1,470 individuals in Curaçao with primary health care and maternal care consultations.



**Commemorating the 16 Days of Activism** | In Aruba, UNHCR, Centro di Desaroyo di Hende Muher (CEDEHM), HIAS, and Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional (FCVR) organized a movie screening and debates on the risks of violence against women and girls. Forty people participated, including refugee and host community members. In Curaçao, UNHCR, IOM, and VENEX hosted a movie screening at Sambil Caribbean Cinemas. The event included a post-screening audience debate focusing on the prevention of violence against women and girls. Forty-nine people participated.



**Coordination with Local Authorities** | UNHCR continues to engage with the government of Aruba as part of the ongoing Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) to discuss asylum adjudication policies, appeal procedures, and best practices in accordance with international refugee law standards.



© UNHCR/ Andre Marin

### UNHCR Participatory Assessment in Aruba

In Aruba, UNHCR and its partners conducted a Participatory Assessment (PA) to evaluate the needs of forcibly displaced groups and collaborate towards sustainable solutions. Thirty-three people, primarily refugees and asylum seekers, shared their perspectives on access to territory, documentation, education, health, and child protection. The discussions included older people, women heads of households, men, and adolescents.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Australia | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Guyana | Ireland | Japan | the Republic of Korea | The Kingdom of the Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors from Italy, the Republic of Korea and the Netherlands, Australia for UNHCR, España con ACNUR, Japan for UNHCR, Sweden for UNHCR, the Dutch Postcode Lottery, UK for UNHCR, UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe and USA for UNHCR.

**For more information:**

**Margarida Loureiro**, Deputy Representative, [loureirm@unhcr.org](mailto:loureirm@unhcr.org)  
**Benedetta Pignatti**, External Relations Officer, [pignattb@unhcr.org](mailto:pignattb@unhcr.org)

**Links:** [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

# UNHCR's presence in Aruba & Curaçao

