

Aruba & Curaçao



April – June 2025

Key Figures



24,863

Colombians and Venezuelans, including refugees and asylum-seekers, **live** in Aruba and Curaçao.



710

Health care consultations provided by UNHCR's partner in Curaçao.



61

People, including survivors of violence, received counseling and psychosocial support services.

Context

Aruba and Curaçao are two **self-governing constituent countries** of the Kingdom of the Netherlands but are not part of the European Union. While neither Dutch asylum law nor European Union directives apply to these nations, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) does. The **1967 Protocol** and the **1951 Refugee Convention** apply to Aruba. Curaçao does not consider itself bound by these instruments.

The government coalition of the Aruban People's Party (AVP) and FUTURO is prioritizing labour market reforms to address workforce shortages and improve wage levels and working conditions. As part of this strategy, discussions are underway to regularize undocumented workers already contributing to the local economy.

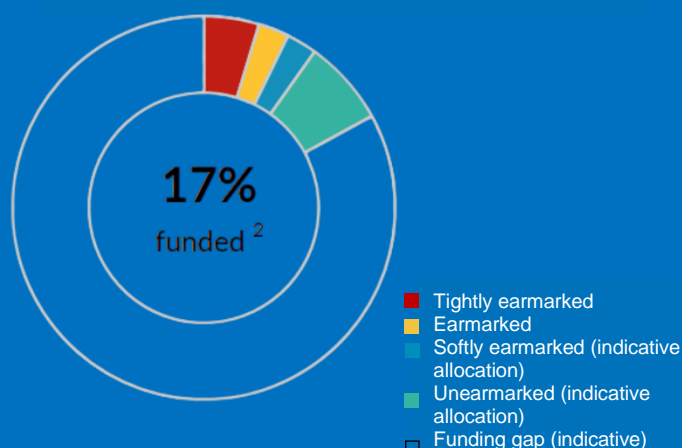
Curaçao has revised its policy on Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which prohibits the return of individuals to countries where they risk torture or inhumane treatment. The policy emphasizes stricter enforcement, including extended detention periods of up to 18 months, and expedited deportation procedures. The policy introduces an administrative process for protection requests, though it has not been enacted into legislation. Individuals appealing to the European Court of Human Rights must request injunctions to prevent deportation while their cases are under review.

On World Refugee Day, UNHCR and government ministries lit up the Bestuurskantoor building in blue for the first time, symbolizing solidarity with forcibly displaced people. A local school director, representing civil society, shared the success story of a Colombian student who topped his class, highlighting integration efforts in Aruba.



Regional Funding Overview

as of 30 June 2025



\$53.4 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2025

¹ Financial requirement for MCO Panama in 2025, including requirements for the operations and activities in its area of responsibility in Central America and the Caribbean.

² The percentage funded is indicative.

UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR works with partners to support Aruba and Curaçao in protecting and assisting 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 response to violence against women and girls.



Protection | UNHCR and partners provided legal assistance and counselling services to over 100 people in Aruba and Curaçao, including vulnerable women and girls.



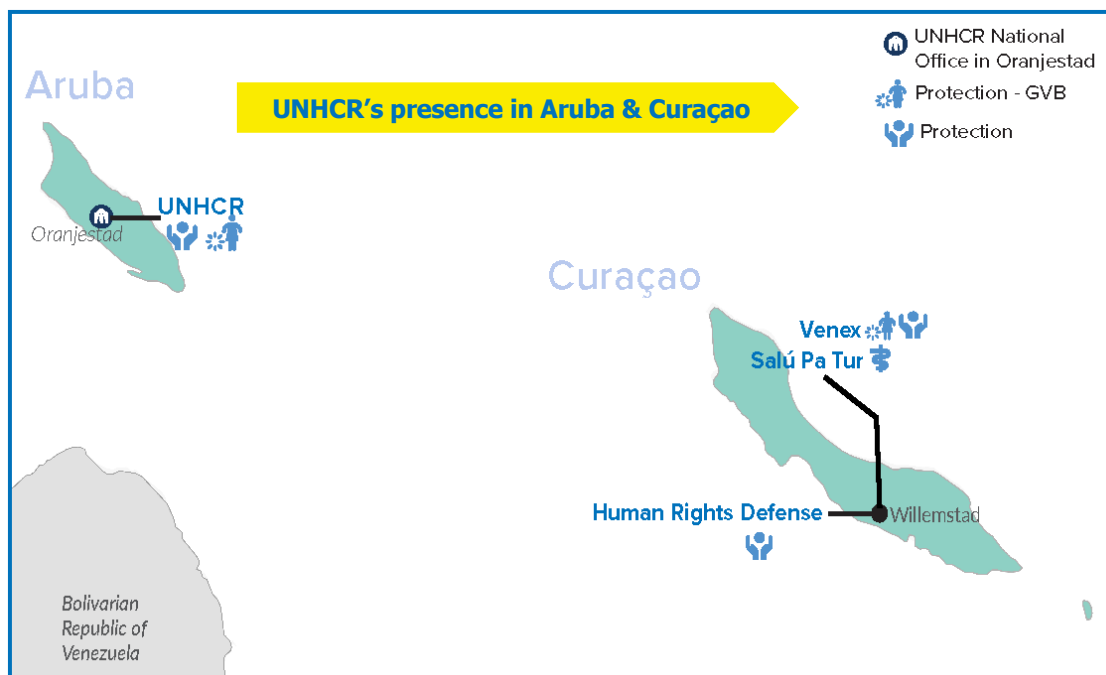
Health | UNHCR, through Salú pa Tur, provided 478 people with primary health care and maternal care consultations.



Advocacy | During their visit to the Dutch Caribbean, the Standing Parliamentary Committee for Kingdom Relations met with UNHCR and its partner Fundación Contra Violencia Relacional (FCVR), which supports survivors of violence against women and girls. The delegation joined a focus group with Colombian, Venezuelan, and Ecuadorian asylum-seekers, voicing concern over the limited legal pathways available to asylum-seekers and the reliance on detention and deportation for those with irregular status.



World Refugee Day | UNHCR organized three events to raise awareness about the challenges refugees and asylum-seekers face and promote their integration. The Agency screened the 'Hidden Life' documentary in both Aruba and Curaçao, with the participation of government officials, including the Vice Prime Minister of Aruba. UNHCR held a services fair where 87 people accessed free medical care, legal advice, and consular services. The Red Cross distributed hygiene kits, helping address critical healthcare gaps and support those without legal status.



UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Australia | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | the European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | the Republic of Korea | The Kingdom of the Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | the United States of America | World Food Programme | Private donors in the Republic of Korea, and Australia for UNHCR, the Dutch Postcode Lottery, España con ACNUR, and Japan for UNHCR.

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