FACT SHEET

Aruba & Curaçao

October - December 2025

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Key Figures

23,122
Colombians and Venezuelans, including refugees and asylum-seekers, live in Aruba and Curaçao.

654
Health care consultations were provided by UNHCR's partner in Curaçao.

72
People, including survivors of violence, received protection and 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.

In October, the Aruban Ministry of Justice reported that nearly 6,000 people had applied for regularization under the Government's Hunto pa Progreso programme, which allowed undocumented people who entered the country before July 2025 to apply for temporary work and residence permits. Most applicants were Colombians, Venezuelans, Dominicans, Haitians, and Ecuadorians

For the fourth phase announced in early October, 1,409 individuals without legal status and without an employer registered. Applicants in this phase were required to provide information about their skills and qualifications, enabling the creation of a database to facilitate matching employers with suitable candidates. Registration closed on 31 December. Most requests were related to maintenance, construction, and food service work.

The Fundashon Contra Violencia Relacional (FCVR), working with UNHCR through a Grant Agreement, organized a series of initiatives for the 16 Days of Activism to raise awareness on prevention and response to violence against women. Key activities included the "Art for Change" workshop, which engaged the community through creative expression, and the production of a short film. Government officials and key stakeholders attended the premiere.

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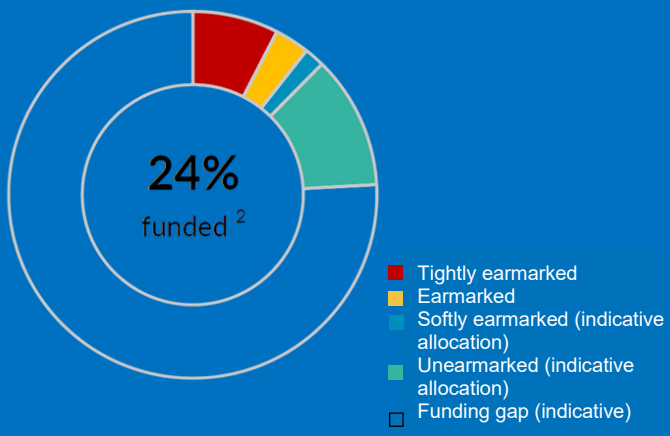
Regional Funding Overview

as of 30 November 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

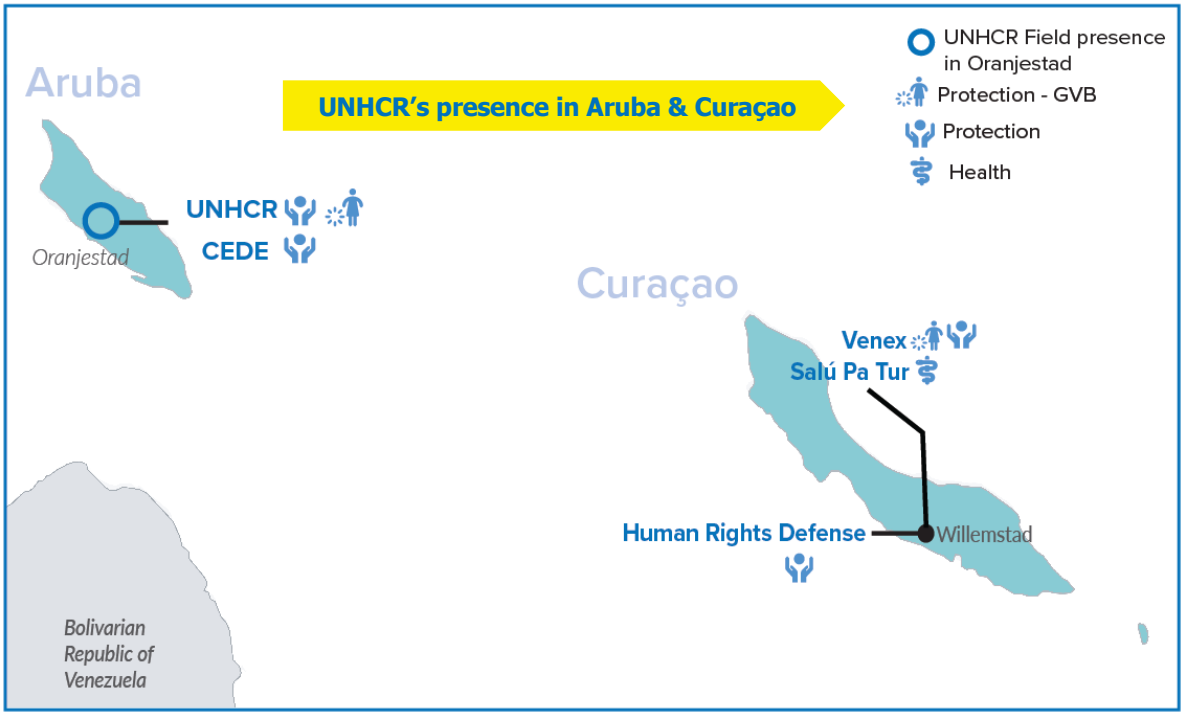
UNHCR works with partners to support Aruba and Curaçao in protecting and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers. In the framework of the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants (R4V), UNHCR and partners coordinate to respond to education needs, food security, health, integration, protection, shelter, WASH, and response to violence against women and girls.

Operation | Due to global funding constraints, UNHCR closed its outposted presence in Aruba on 31 December. Services have since transitioned to remote oversight from the UNHCR Multi-Country Office in Panama, with support from partner organizations.

Protection | UNHCR and partners provided legal assistance and counselling services to nearly 500 people in Aruba and Curaçao, including vulnerable women and girls. UNHCR and Venearuba, conducted an information session on the Government's Hunto pa Progreso regularization programme. Around 70 participants received guidance on application procedures and eligibility requirements.

Health | UNHCR, through partner Salú pa Tur, assisted 271 people with primary health care and maternal care consultations.

Advocacy | In Curaçao, UNHCR met with the interim Director of the Detention Center to enhance coordination on protection-related matters. The meeting included discussions on psychosocial activities implemented by partner Venex, such as counselling and art therapy for detainees, as well as potential training on the European Convention on Human Rights. UNHCR also met with the Bar Association (Orde van Advocaten), the professional body representing practicing lawyers, to explore opportunities for collaboration.



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