

Caribbean Sub-Region Refugees & Migrants Response Plan: Summary Figures

Dominican Republic



Trinidad and Tobago



Guyana



Aruba



Curaçao



35 Appealing Partners*



113K Venezuelan Refugees & Migrants¹



35M Financial Requirements

* FAO | ILO | IOM | PAHO | Save the Children | UNAIDS | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNODC | UNWOMEN | WFP

Venezuelans are seeking safety in the Caribbean due to serious threats to their life, security, freedom and other significant protection risks that they are facing in their country of origin. As of the end of 2019, 113,500 refugees and migrants from Venezuela are estimated to have arrived in Aruba, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. This flow comprises both refugees and migrants from Venezuela as well as returning Guyanese.

Varying responses to the influx of refugees and migrants from Venezuela have been adopted by Caribbean countries, taking into consideration their geography, language, legal and socioeconomic background, limited size, and absorption capacity. Concerns about the growing number of refugees and migrants arriving in the Caribbean, coupled with the continuing deterioration of the situation in Venezuela, have led to pushbacks, including instances of non-admission and deportations without granting access to asylum procedures or protection screenings. The introduction of measures to restrict access to territory, including visa requirements and temporary closure of borders with Venezuela, has impacted the ability of refugees and migrants to regularly enter and stay in some Caribbean countries. These restrictions also increase the risk of exposure to trafficking, smuggling, exploitation and abuse, as Venezuelans seeking safety may resort to irregular means of entry and seek the means to pay back debts linked to increased travel costs and requirements.

As a response to the unprecedented movement of refugees and migrants into the Caribbean, 14 appealing partners in the region have come together to identify the priority needs for Venezuelans and host communities and coordinate interventions under the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) in 2019. Partners focused on four areas of intervention: direct emergency assistance, protection response, socio-economic and cultural inclusion, and strengthening the capacity of host governments to respond to the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

Throughout the year, partners provided **direct emergency assistance** to people in need and worked with Governments in the region to strengthen their reception capacity and availability of services. In 2019, over 12,562 Venezuelans and vulnerable members of host communities were targeted by direct emergency assistance interventions and were able to meet their immediate needs. To inform the **protection response**, partners continued to carry out protection monitoring in order to identify and refer persons with specific needs to access services, while providing counselling to those who wish to regularize their stay or seek asylum in the concerned countries. More than 22,208 of the most vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela benefited from coordinated protection activities in 2019.

Through a variety of social cohesion and livelihoods activities, partners promoted the **socio-economic inclusion** of refugees and migrants in order to increase their self-reliance and foster social cohesion with the receiving communities.

¹ Estimate of Venezuelan refugees and Migrants in the Caribbean by the end of 2019: RMRP Jan-Dec 2020.

Integration activities reached 23,642 people during the year from both Venezuelan and host communities. Partners also worked closely with host governments to **strengthen local capacities** in the areas of education, social protection, health, shelter, support and advocate for the development of national asylum systems, registration, and protection-sensitive border management. As a result, 471 officials participated in training and other capacity-building initiatives.

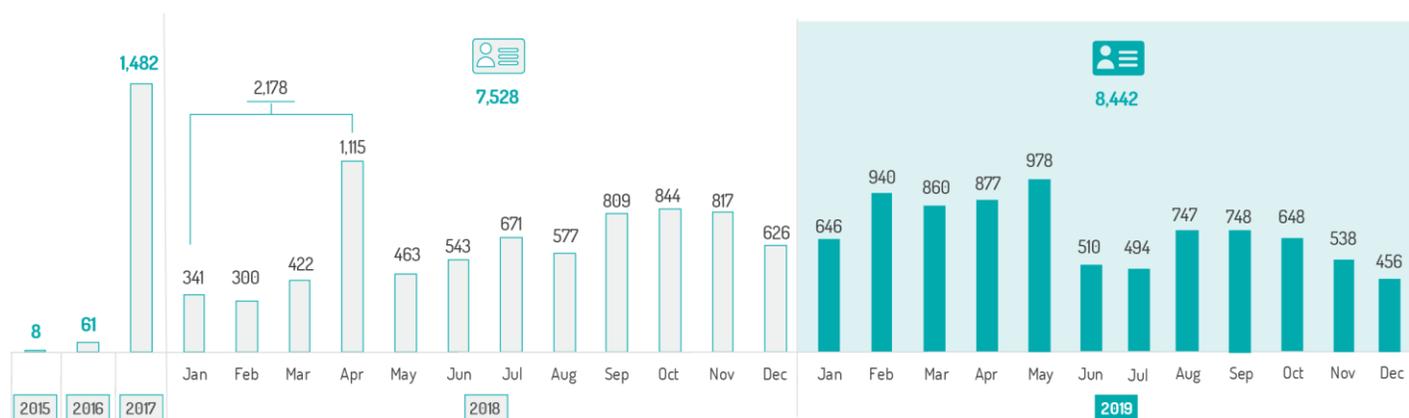
Although the needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela remained high, funding received remained low during the year: only 24% of the RMRP budgetary requirements were reached in the Caribbean. This has significantly impacted the ability of partners to deliver on the planned response. In addition, the magnitude of needs resulting from the continuous arrivals of Venezuelans has increasingly placed pressure on the reception capacity and public services of host countries, particularly stressing already vulnerable host communities. In view of these challenges, in 2020, partners will increase donor engagement, build up the reception capacity of host governments, and continue addressing the prioritized needs of both Venezuelans and host communities through multi-sectoral interventions.

KEY FIGURES (as of Dec. 2019)

Over **113,500** Venezuelans arrived in the Caribbean sub-region

17,521 Venezuelan asylum-seekers registered by a partner in the Caribbean sub-region since 2015²

No. of Registered Venezuelans asylum-seekers (2015-Dec 2019)



Operational Context

Several Caribbean countries recently initiated **visa restrictions** for Venezuelans, resulting in limited access to territories and greater exposure to various protection risks, especially risks at sea. The Government of **Trinidad and Tobago** introduced a visa scheme for Venezuelans in June 2019, who previously did not need a visa for holiday and business travel for up to 90 days. Similarly, the Government of the **Dominican Republic** introduced a [visa requirement](#) for Venezuelans in December 2019. With the new visa policy, Venezuelans wishing to enter the Dominican Republic are required to apply for a visa in the Dominican Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela. **Aruba** and **Curaçao** have also announced the introduction of visa requirements for Venezuelans to take effect in April 2020. These visa restrictions will likely lead to an increase in irregular arrivals and make refugees and migrants, especially women and children, particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and smuggling, as well as to increased risks of exploitation and abuse.

Meanwhile, due to ongoing advocacy and relationship building measures with governments in the region, Caribbean countries and partners made significant progress in the registration and documentation of Venezuelans. The Government of **Guyana**, with the support of a partner, rolled out biometric registration of Venezuelans as of 16 October 2019 with the use of the Population Registration and Identity Management Eco-System (PRIMES), granting Household Registration Certificates to Venezuelans upon their entry into Guyana. The Household Registration Certificate facilitates access to government services and a three-month renewable stay permit and includes a provision against forced return.

² The chart shows the monthly registration of new Venezuelan asylum-seekers in the Caribbean sub-region from 2015 to 31 May 2019. Figures by month are not cumulative.

According to a Venezuelan woman in Guyana, “Having this registration paper means that we have an identity. We are in a country which has food and our children can go to school and learn.” To date, 1,827 individuals have been biometrically registered, of whom 51% are children below the age of 18 and 25% are women. Guyana is the first country in the Americas and the Caribbean to roll out government-led biometric registration through PRIMES³ and serves as a good example of provision of access to and basic rights for Venezuelans. Registration activities continue in 2020 with a plan to increase the capacity of the Government of Guyana to register more individuals. Partners are also working towards improving timely identification and recording of specific needs of vulnerable people on the move and raising awareness on the importance of registration, particularly among Warao indigenous communities.



Figure 1 - Venezuelans showing their Household Registration certificates in Guyana.

In **Curaçao**, with the aim of better determining assistance requirements for Venezuelans and updating records of registered Venezuelans on the island, a [verification exercise](#) of asylum-seekers and refugees registered with a partner prior to July 2017 was conducted with the approval of the Government. Several individuals were verified, biometrically enrolled and issued a new certificate on secure paper with a two-year validity period. This exercise will assist in identifying durable solutions for persons of concern, particularly for those with specific needs, including resettlement to third countries. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the Government continued processing and issuing identification cards to 16,523 Venezuelans who were registered during its two-week exercise in June 2019. This exercise provided a registration card to Venezuelans that regularized their status in the country, granted permission to work for up to one year, as well as facilitated access to basic services. To date, an estimated 9,000 individuals have received their registration card, which has been extended for another six months for those whose cards expired by the end of 2019.

In recent months, the Caribbean region has made strides in increasing regional coordination on matters of migration and international protection. On 5-6 December, over 20 Caribbean Governments convened in Kingston, Jamaica, for the “[Caribbean Migration Consultations](#) (CMC) Preparatory Meeting for a Regional Approach to Migration and International Protection” with the participation of R4V partners. The CMC, a State-led process that was launched in 2016, provides a forum for all Caribbean Governments to collaborate and share information and good practices. The CMC meeting included a presentation by the R4V Regional Platform on the response to the Venezuela situation in the Caribbean, discussions between participating countries on their responses to increasing numbers of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, and the preparation of a regional plan of action that promotes a rights-based approach to migration and international protection issues, to be formally adopted by the CMC in a high-level meeting expected to take place at the end of 2020.

The **Dominican Republic** and **Guyana** participated in the fifth round of the Government-led [Quito Process](#) on 14-15 November in Colombia. Representatives from 11 Caribbean and Latin American States⁴ signed a joint declaration which strengthens cooperation between the Quito Process⁵ and the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform reaffirms the importance of this technical regional forum in facilitating, coordinating and harmonizing humanitarian responses and integration efforts of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

Through the advocacy of the R4V partners, several Caribbean countries participated in other global events and forums related to international protection issues, providing key opportunities to raise the visibility of the response to Venezuelans in Caribbean countries and exchange good practices, achievements and challenges in the region. At the

³ PRIMES is a global platform for registration and identity management tools and applications developed by one of the platform partners.

⁴ Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

⁵ The “Friends of the Quito Process” is a group comprised of key actors involved in international cooperation that aims to strengthen technical and financial support to the response for Venezuelans.

[High-Level Segment on Statelessness](#) in October 2019, where governments and organizations from around the globe shared over 350 pledges concerning the prevention and eradication of statelessness issues, **Guyana** submitted [four pledges](#) related to simplifying and improving access to birth registration and national documentation and increasing awareness of statelessness within the country. With the outflow of Venezuelans in the region, there are risks related to access to nationality, difficulties in obtaining documentation that proves or confirms Venezuelan and Guyanese nationality, and subsequent risks of statelessness, and R4V partners are working together with Caribbean Governments to mitigate these risks. Additionally, partners raised the visibility of the Caribbean in the [Global Refugee Forum](#) (GRF) in December 2019, which was attended by the Government of **Guyana** and the **Dominican Republic** and benefitted from the engagement of several other Caribbean countries in consultation events in the lead-up to the GRF.

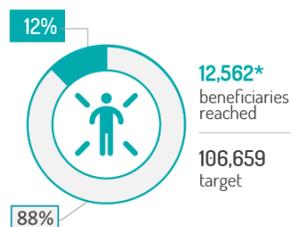
Notwithstanding the combined efforts of partners and host governments to respond to the flows of refugees and migrants from Venezuela and the significant progress in enhancing regional coordination and collaboration, the scope of the response in the region has been limited by several challenges. These include lack of funding for planned activities, obstacles in reaching communities residing outside of urban clusters and in remote areas, limited reception capacities, logistical challenges to transport and procure relief items, lack of capacity of local civil society organizations, and increased strains on the limited resources of host governments.

RESPONSE OVERVIEW AND FUNDING UPDATE (JAN- DEC 2019)

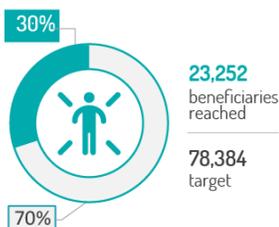
The activities described under the “Area of Intervention” sections are based on the monthly contributions shared by the appealing partners. The contents included in those sections are intended to provide an overview of the status of the response in the five Caribbean countries within the framework of the RMRP by presenting some of the key highlights per country and are therefore not exhaustive.

Unless otherwise indicated, the narrative and statistics in this report refer to the reporting period.

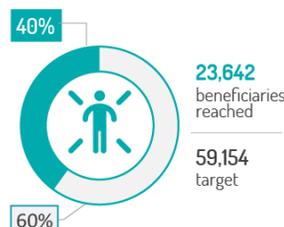
Area of Intervention 1 Direct emergency response



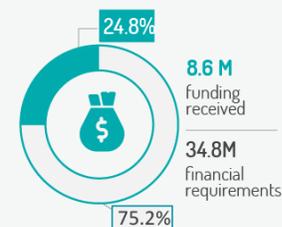
Area of Intervention 2 Protection response



Area of Intervention 3 Socio-economic & cultural inclusion



Funding Status Update Funds received/funding gap



*Including 160 beneficiaries assisted in Guyana under Education, outside RMRP.
Source: RMRP Caribbean Sub-Region Appealing and Implementing Partners (as of Dec. 2019).

Source: FTS (as of 13 Feb 2020).

AREA OF INTERVENTION 1: DIRECT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Refugees and migrants from Venezuela are increasingly arriving in the Caribbean with fewer resources given the continued deterioration of the situation in Venezuela over the past few years. They are in immediate need of food, shelter, non-food items, medicine and basic health care. Despite most countries in the sub-region having extended some basic public services to Venezuelans (e.g. education, public emergency and primary health care), many Venezuelans face challenges in accessing these services as a result of language, administrative and financial barriers as well as their lack of legal status and consequent fear of detection and being reported to immigration authorities. This is compounded by the already overstretched capacities of public services and insufficient infrastructure in some Caribbean countries, particularly in communities outside of urban areas.



Figure 2 - NFI Distribution in Trinidad and Tobago.

To address the increasing demands and needs of Venezuelans and the communities receiving them, a total of 25 partners provided **direct emergency assistance** throughout the Caribbean during the reporting period. Over 3,055 people received one or more forms of direct emergency assistance in Aruba, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. **Food assistance** was provided to 172 Venezuelans in Guyana and the Dominican Republic and 1,138 people received **non-food items** (NFIs) in Aruba, Curaçao, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago. **Early childhood development** services were provided to 214 children under age five in Trinidad and Tobago, including 105 girls and 109 boys. Eighty children under age five also underwent nutrition screening to prevent and assess risks of malnourishment.

Partners also provided **temporary and emergency shelter** (i.e. rental subsidy/allowance) to persons with specific needs and priority groups, such as victims of human trafficking, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), single women and cancer patients, to ensure essential protection and assistance to those who need it the most. Over 800 Venezuelans in Aruba, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago were provided with different forms of **temporary accommodation and emergency shelter** (i.e. rental subsidy/allowance) since the beginning of the year. Emergency support also included the provision of **multi-purpose cash assistance** to enable refugees and migrants to meet their basic needs in a dignified way. More than 3,350 of the most vulnerable households received cash assistance in Aruba and Trinidad and Tobago by the end of December.

Provision of **healthcare services** remained a priority in the sub-region as Venezuelans have limited access to public health facilities, especially with regards to specialized care, sexual and reproductive health services, and treatment options for chronic conditions. In **Curaçao**, a medical clinic, which was opened with the support of partners in July 2019, continued to provide basic health care and specialized health services in over 1,500 consultations for undocumented refugees and migrants who are not able to access the national health insurance. Activities to promote access to health care were also conducted in the **Dominican Republic** where over 1,763 Venezuelans and

members of host communities received free medical services during medical brigades organized in the provinces of Higuay, Bavaro and Puerto Plata, which were led by Venezuelan community-based organizations. In **Guyana**, increased strain on public services and limited availability of resources in remote areas have affected access to sufficient food and nutrition, safe drinking water, medicine and health care for people in need. As part of the response, partners, in collaboration with a local NGO, carried out a two-day medical outreach program in the Regional Hospital in Mabaruma, a sub-district next to the border with Venezuela (Region 1). Venezuelans and host communities were provided

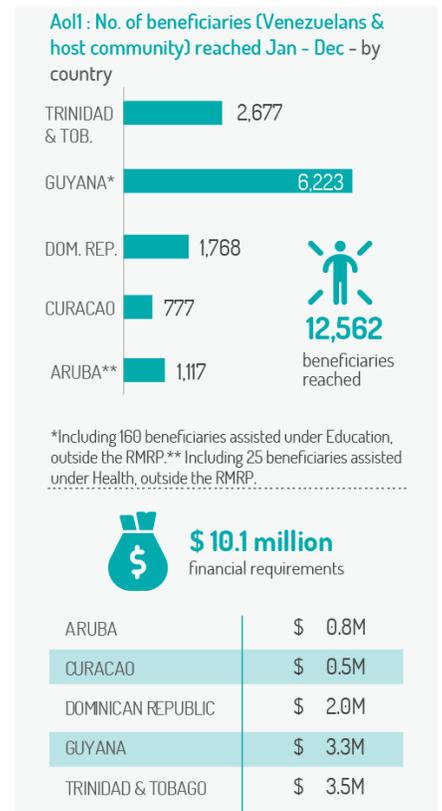
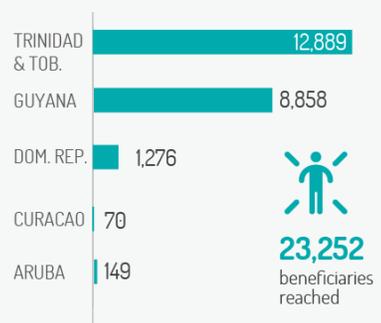


Figure 3 - Inter-agency medical outreach targeting Venezuelans and host communities in Mabaruma, Region 1, Guyana.

with access to specialized doctors and dentists, including sexual and reproductive health services, family planning services, and dignity kits, and received food items and non-food items. Partners funded transportation, food and accommodation for 22 medical and government staff as well as transportation for beneficiaries from three Amerindian communities to the hospital. Over 630 individuals received medical services, including 130 dental treatments. As an additional service, immigration officers supported by partners conducted biometric registration of Venezuelans through PRIMES and issued Registration Certificates with stay permits and extensions of stay permits for Venezuelans.

AREA OF INTERVENTION 2: PROTECTION RESPONSE

Aol 2: No. of beneficiaries (Venezuelans & host community) reached as of Jan -Dec - by country



\$ 7.6 million
financial requirements

ARUBA	\$ 1.1M
CURACAO	\$ 0.8M
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	\$ 2.5M
GUYANA	\$ 0.8M
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	\$ 2.4M

Growing entry restrictions in most countries of the Caribbean have increased the number of Venezuelans resorting to irregular migration routes to the region. Without regular status, Venezuelans face greater protection threats and risks, and often have limited access to public services, including education and healthcare. The lack of legal status also increases risks of detention and deportation and leaves Venezuelans more susceptible to resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including survival sex for many women and adolescent girls. With increasing arrivals, there are growing needs for access to asylum and regular status, including seeking legal assistance to stay, such as the ongoing registration procedures conducted by the Governments of Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago and other countries in Latin America and around the globe (i.e. humanitarian admissions programs and temporary protection regimes).

In view of these challenges, dialogue with governments was maintained across the Caribbean sub-region to advocate for safe and regular access to territory, legal status, alternatives to detention and access to basic rights for Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Partners also continued to work with host governments to guarantee and facilitate access to documentation, access to asylum systems, and provision of information on rights and services for Venezuelans. In 2019, over 9,000 Venezuelans received different forms of legal assistance and counselling in **Aruba**, **Guyana** and the **Dominican Republic**, including information on asylum processes, residency matters, registration and other ways for Venezuelans to regularize their stay in their

respective host countries. In **Guyana**, counselling was also provided to returning Guyanese and their descendants, and partners accompanied over 3,514 individuals to institutions to facilitate access to documentation and basic services.

With shrinking availability of regular routes out of Venezuela to the Caribbean and increasing vulnerabilities of the population on the move⁶, partners have strengthened early identification and protection of persons with specific needs in the sub-region. Over 700 persons were identified and referred to appropriate services, resulting in specialized support to children, survivors of GBV, victims of human trafficking and elderly persons, among others by the end of December. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, partners also provided shelter and food assistance for 40 survivors of human trafficking. Psycho-social support (PSS) and counselling was provided to 114 Venezuelans, including women and children, to assist survivors of GBV and human trafficking in addressing the consequences of trauma.

Partners also facilitated a multi-stakeholder dialogue to raise awareness on human trafficking and sexual exploitation in **Trinidad and Tobago** with the participation of students, civil society, government officials, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. The activity is a first step in the process of developing an action plan to better respond to human trafficking in the context of the Venezuelan situation in Trinidad and Tobago, as many Venezuelans continue to fall prey to human trafficking networks operating in the region⁷.

⁶ Results from different assessments and registration exercises in the region indicate increased vulnerabilities of new arrivals, with a significant presence of persons with specific needs (e.g. chronic diseases), elderly persons, LGBTI individuals, children and single-headed households.

⁷ Please see newspapers articles on this topic: <http://www.looptt.com/content/6-venezuelan-women-rescued-human-trafficking-ring-diego-martin>; <https://www.newsamericasnow.com/caribbean-news-trinidad-and-tobago-sex-trafficking/>; https://trinidadexpress.com/newsextra/little-venezuelan-girls-being-sold-in-t-t-cops-not/article_3ff05d6a-46a3-11ea-a1e8-37c81bb22797.html.

Partners have also continued to identify and address gaps in the prevention of and response to GBV. In Port Kaituma (Region 1), Charity (Region 2), Bartica (Region 7) and Lethem (Region 9), **Guyana**, a series of GBV assessments were conducted to better inform interventions, develop effective referral mechanisms in each area, support capacity building of existing services providers and inform advocacy efforts for more resources. A total of 60 women, including Venezuelan nationals and returning Guyanese, highlighted the need to invest in social cohesion initiatives, increase awareness about the legal system, support livelihoods and access to adequate shelter, and prevent and mitigate human trafficking.



Figure 4 - GBV Workshop for Service providers in Aruba.

Partners also carried out protection monitoring activities in **Aruba** and ensured regular meetings of civil society groups to monitor protection trends and gaps to better coordinate the response. Over 203 people were screened in order to provide them with the necessary protection support on the island. Partners also began implementing referral pathways to ensure that survivors of domestic violence, GBV and human trafficking have access to specialised services. Through these initiatives, 15 Venezuelan and 8 host community survivors were identified and supported by partners in Aruba during the reporting period. Assistance for survivors is expected to increase in the coming months with awareness-raising and dissemination of information about the availability of services as well as trust-building between service providers and local communities, as cultural barriers and fear of stigmatization often prevent survivors of GBV and human trafficking from seeking assistance.

In addition, several activities took place in the region as part of the **16 Days of Activism** campaign to end GBV, from 25 November to 10 December. In **Aruba**, partners organized a creative arts workshop for survivors of GBV, a dialogue on domestic violence for refugee, migrant and Aruban women, and a sensitization workshop for service providers. In the **Dominican Republic**, partners supported a community-led medical brigade in Puerto Plata, which focused on the provision of sexual and reproductive health services for both Venezuelans and the host community. A Public Education and Information Fair was organized in **Trinidad and Tobago** to disseminate information on GBV and support services to assist women, men, girls and boys who have experienced different forms of violence.

Various strategies were used to conduct outreach and disseminate information to promote the rights of refugees and migrants and strengthen community-based protection. In the **Dominican Republic**, partners conducted a workshop on communication tools and strategies for 13 Venezuelan community leaders from four different provinces. Participants acquired skills in basic communication principles, communication with communities, and organization of social campaigns, with a view to strengthen their communication and advocacy capacity.

Participatory assessments were conducted in the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago to assess any developments concerning the protection risks faced by Venezuelans in order to continue informing the response⁸. Main challenges highlighted by Venezuelans include unpredictable or irregular legal status, lack of livelihoods, and insufficient access to healthcare and medicine. Several Venezuelans indicated that despite challenges, they have encountered solidarity among host communities. In the participatory assessments, a Venezuelan man in the Dominican Republic shared, *“The Dominican people have extended their hands to us, they help us a lot. They are hospitable people”*.

Additionally, a partner finalized the **Displacement Tracking Matrix** in Trinidad and Tobago. The results will be published in the upcoming months and are expected to assist in informing the response of government counterparts, partners, non-governmental organizations and civil society actors.

⁸ The participatory assessment in Trinidad and Tobago is going to be finalized in 2020 and these are preliminary results.

AREA OF INTERVENTION 3: SOCIO ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION

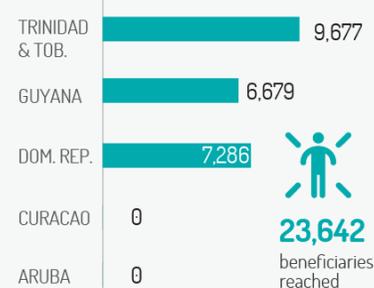
Venezuelan refugees and migrants arriving in Caribbean countries face challenges and barriers to their **socio-economic and cultural integration**, which includes language barriers, lack of access to formal employment, education and livelihoods opportunities, as well as challenges related to discrimination and xenophobia. Increased public understanding and solidarity with the situation of refugees and migrants from Venezuela is vital for their successful integration and peaceful coexistence, while policies and programs that promote access to employment and education are essential for promoting their self-reliance and contributions to host communities.

Partners have been working closely with governments and other stakeholders in the Caribbean to facilitate access to quality **education** for Venezuelan children and youth. Partners continue to provide free accredited education for refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in **Trinidad and Tobago** through the joint initiative [Equal Place / Espacios de Equidad](#). This program, which is the first accredited online education program in the Caribbean, delivers tailor-made learning on two globally recognized platforms: NotesMaster, offered in English, and Dawere, offered in Spanish. Over 1,062 children between the ages of 5-17 attended the program across the country in 2019.

In **Guyana**, Venezuelans have access to the national school system regardless of their residency status, however, in practice, access may be hindered as a result of lack of capacity of local schools and language barriers. Pursuant to the training of ten teachers in the capital, Georgetown, in August 2019, partners in cooperation with the Government rolled out English as a second language (ESL) after-school classes in five communities in Mabaruma subdistrict (Region 1). On average for every month of 2019, 174 Venezuelan and returning Guyanese children took part in the ESL after-school classes. In addition, partners have established community-based ESL classes for 185 out-of-school children as a way of promoting the integration of Venezuelans and Guyanese Warao into the education system and fostering social cohesion.

Partners supported **income-generating activities** to improve the living conditions of vulnerable refugees and migrants from Venezuela. In **Guyana**, a partner piloted a small-scale grants programme for vulnerable Venezuelan women aimed at supporting their integration and economic inclusion. The initiative provided small business training and micro-grants to 18 women who can now start their own enterprise, increasing their self-reliance and financial independence. A partner also launched a small-scale livelihoods project targeting 80 Venezuelan and Guyanese Warao communities in Mabaruma subdistrict (Region 1), contributing directly to their self-reliance through the utilization of their traditional weaving skills to produce chinchorros (twist hammocks). In the **Dominican Republic**, a multi-faceted market assessment was conducted to better understand how the local market can capitalize on the professional skills and experiences of Venezuelans. Study results indicate that over 60% of Venezuelans currently in the Dominican Republic have university-level education, and recommendations were made on how to integrate Venezuelans into the formal labour market in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 on decent work and economic growth. Recommendations included the facilitation of access to temporary work permits, regularization of status, and validation of diplomas.

Aol 3: No. of beneficiaries (Venezuelans & host community) reached as of Jan - Dec- by country



\$ 8.6 million
financial requirements

ARUBA	\$ 0.5M
CURACAO	\$ 0.3M
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	\$ 1.1M
GUYANA	\$ 1.6M
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	\$ 5.2M



Figure 5 - Venezuelan women receiving materials to produce chinchorros (twist hammocks) as part of a partner livelihoods project in Guyana.

Efforts to combat **discrimination** and **xenophobia** continued in the region. A series of social cohesion events were organized in **Guyana**, including graduation ceremonies for ESL classes and the celebration of the **Guyana-Venezuela Day** on 22 December, which commemorated peaceful coexistence and solidarity between Guyanese and Venezuelans. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, partners organized a series of sensitization sessions in primary schools for 412 local children prior to the arrival of refugee and migrant children to the schools. The workshops facilitated the dissemination of messages of tolerance and empathy to the situation of children on the move and raised awareness on the protection needs of refugees and migrants in Trinidad and Tobago.



Figure 6 - Guyanese and Venezuelans dancing during the celebration of Guyana-Venezuela day in Georgetown.

AREA OF INTERVENTION 4: STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF HOST GOVERNMENT

The magnitude of the refugee and migrant outflows is unprecedented for most of the Caribbean region. As a result, there is a great need to enhance and, in many cases, develop host governments' capacities to manage the influx of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in order to strengthen their protection and provision of adequate services for people in need. Partners have continued to support national authorities across the Caribbean with human resources, infrastructure and technical assistance in order to improve reception facilities, strengthen registration, regularization and documentation processes, promote access to asylum procedures, provide complementary legal assistance, and implement alternatives to detention for asylum-seekers.

Partners facilitated the participation of the Governments of **Aruba**, the **Dominican Republic**, **Trinidad and Tobago** in the third roundtable of the **Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI)**, a program that aims to strengthen or develop comprehensive national asylum systems. At the QAI roundtable on 16-17 October in Mexico City, with several countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, partners reiterated their support to governments for the development and strengthening of their asylum systems and to provide resources and capacity to conduct "fair and fast" refugee status determination (RSD) in the context of the Venezuelan situation, alongside other solutions. The meeting also served as an occasion to promote areas of cooperation as part of the follow-up to the Quito IV meeting and to identify contributions to the first Global Refugee Forum.

In **Aruba** and **Curaçao**, partners continued to advocate with the two governments for alternative legal status for entry and stay of Venezuelans, alternatives to detention and access to rights. In the **Dominican Republic**, a workshop was delivered on refugee status determination and comparative legal systems for six judges and three court clerks as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the national protection environment. The participating judges, who are responsible for making decisions on cases brought to the Administrative Court, formalized the creation of a national network of refugee law judges in order to exchange information and promote the study of international refugee law.

Aol 4: Funding Status Update



\$ 8.5 million
financial requirements

ARUBA	\$ 1.5M
CURACAO	\$ 0.8M
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	\$ 0.9M
GUYANA	\$ 2.5M
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	\$ 2.8M



Figure 7 – R4V partners delivering a workshop on refugee status determination and comparative jurisprudence for judges and court clerks in the Dominican Republic.

In **Guyana**, partners worked closely with the Government through the provision of technical support to develop standard operating procedures related to the Special Admission Procedures for Venezuelan nationals, facilitate the regularization of stay of Venezuelans, and support the development of other documents associated with the implementation of the PRIMES biometric registration system. Partners also conducted trainings for immigration officers on the use of PRIMES as well as registration interview techniques. According to a Government official: *'The PRIMES system has been very valuable to Immigration in its registration of Venezuelans. Over the past two months, Immigration officers based in Region 1 have been able to apply the training they received from partners to use the system. This is enabling them to capture much needed data that would benefit our operation and also have documents (Household Registration Certificates) issued to the Venezuelans for identity purposes.'* The government-led registration exercise will continue in 2020.

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, partners provided legal and technical support to the Ministry of Labour and a Cabinet-appointed Inter-Ministerial Committee with the drafting of the Government's labour migration policy. In addition, three pieces of legislation were reviewed including the Foreign Labour Act, Employment Exchange Act, and Recruiting of Workers Act to ensure better protection for migrant workers and optimize the benefits of organized labour migration.

Training of Government officials such as immigration officers, health officials, social workers and civil society actors continued to be a primary focus, with 130 individuals being trained in the sub-region. As part of ongoing cooperation with the Police Academy of **Trinidad and Tobago**, partners trained 34 police officers and two immigration officers on international refugee protection principles in October.

COORDINATION

The **Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan** for 2020 was launched in Colombia on 13 November as a continued response to the increasing needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the communities hosting them. In 2020, the Caribbean countries plan to reach 71,000 refugees and migrants from Venezuela and 51,000 host communities' members through the coordinated actions of 22 appealing partners. Activities under the RMRP will require USD 45.6 million to cover the needs of the targeted population in the sectors of protection, integration, health, food security, nutrition, WASH, shelter and NFIs.

A total of 22 appealing partners along with implementing and operational partners and government officials in some Caribbean countries (i.e. Guyana and the Dominican Republic) participated in the **Refugee and Migrant Working Groups (RMWGs)** meetings that were convened in Aruba, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago. Members of the national platforms discussed the current status of the response, coordinated interventions and identified ways to address existing operational challenges, funding shortages, as well as opportunities and ways forward. Partners used the platform meetings to facilitate strategic planning, discuss monitoring and accountability and devise joint communication messages.

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the Protection Coordination Working Group continued to bring together UN agencies and civil society actors for the implementation of a common approach to the protection of children, survivors of GBV, victims of human trafficking and persons with specific needs. Partners devised case management standard operating procedures, conducted joint field missions, set up referral mechanisms, and carried out joint protection trainings and workshops for Government authorities. Partners also established protection, health, integration, and communication working groups in the **Dominican Republic** and GBV and mental health and psychosocial support working groups in **Curaçao**.

The **R4V Sub-Regional Platform** continued to build the capacity of partner organizations working within the response. Trainings were



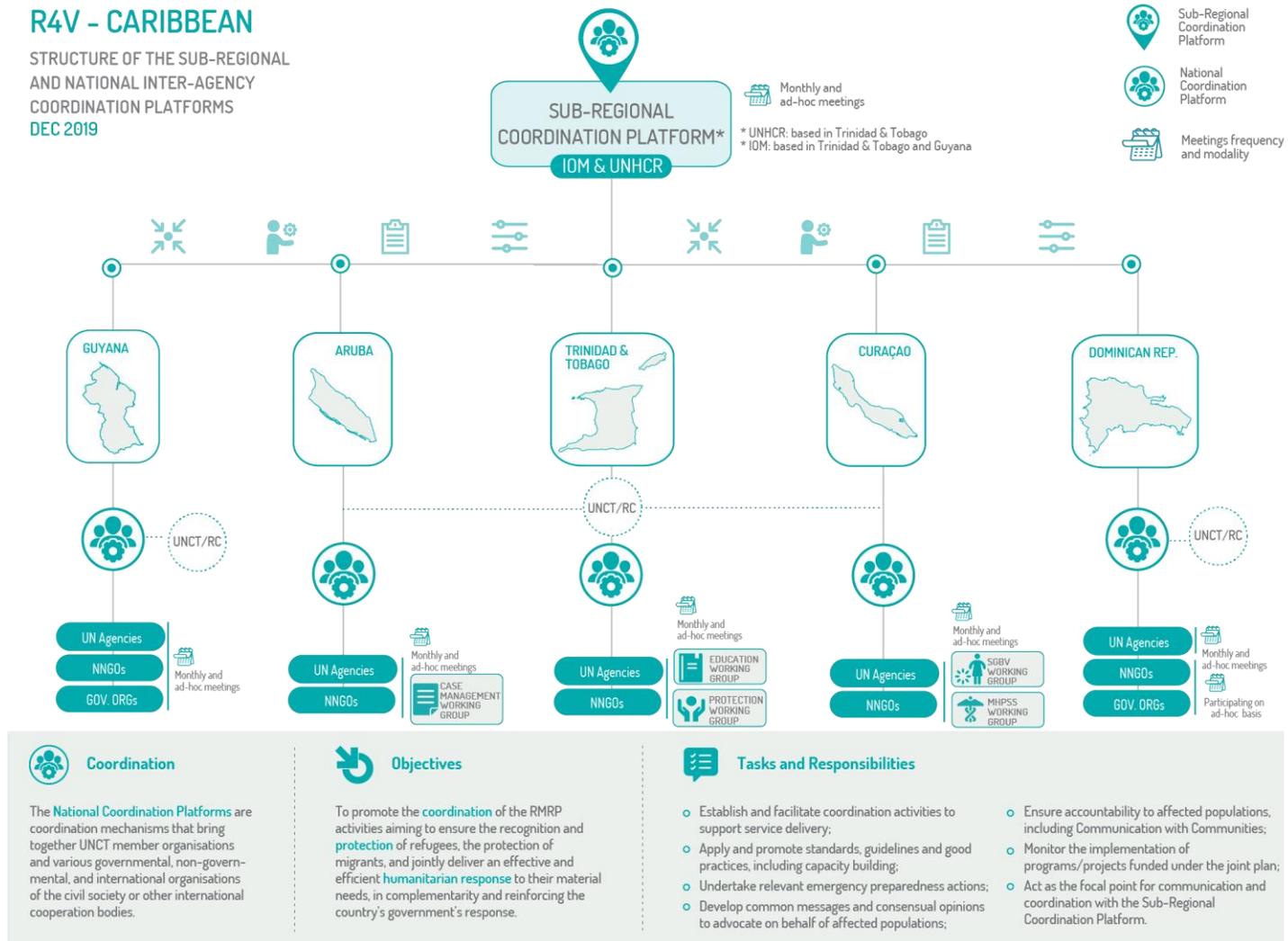
Figure 8 - R4V partners who participated in the coordination and reporting workshop in the Dominican Republic.

organized in Aruba, Curaçao, and the Dominican Republic, equipping 40 participants in the region with skills to improve effective reporting and design new strategies for enhancing coordination. The workshops also provided the opportunity for participants to discuss the main challenges and protection risks affecting Venezuelans in the region in order to continue informing their response. Overall, 15 training sessions were conducted in the sub-region in 2019.

Partners in the **Caribbean** also conducted a short survey to obtain feedback on the organizational development of the national platforms as well as the planning and implementation process of the RMRP 2020 in order to identify gaps, enhance coordination and improve the overall process for next year. A total of 19 respondents from 14 partner organizations working in the five countries noted the need to strengthen coordination, enhance protection capacities, and ensure that all activities reinforce the responses of the respective governments.

R4V - CARIBBEAN

STRUCTURE OF THE SUB-REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION PLATFORMS
DEC 2019



OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW: WHO DOES WHAT AND WHERE (3WS)

Cash-based assistance	Coordination	Education	Food Security/ Nutrition	GBV/Child Protection	Health	Info Managt.	Multi-Sector	Other*	Protection	Shelter/NFIs	WASH

*Activities pertaining to social inclusion, communication, etc. are under the "Other" sector.

NOTE: Some of the sectors listed under "Organizations by sector" are not presented in the country maps as geographic information are not available.

ARUBA



9 ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATIONS BY SECTOR*

- UNHCR/HIAS, IOM
- UNHCR/HIAS
- UNHCR/HIAS
- UNHCR/HIAS/IOM
- IOM/UNHCR/VENEARUBA, ODRES NUEVOS/-CUNUCU DI DIOS /SOCIAL AFFAIRS/HIAS
- IOM/ ARCH DENTAL CLINIC / BOTICA DI SERVICIO EAGLE TOTAL**

CURACAO



10 ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATIONS. BY SECTOR

- UNHCR
- IOM /ADRA/CARITAS/ VENEZ/FAMIA PLANIA/ UNIDAT DI BARIO/ FUNDASHON SALU PA TUR/ CHURCH OF BONAM/ VOEDSELBANK
- IOM

*Sectors cover all regions.
** Activities outside the RMRP

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



11 ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATIONS. BY SECTOR

- | | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|-----------|
| UNHCR/IDDI, IOM/Fundacion Colonia Venezolana en Republica Dominicana | IOM/Convenios con Fundacion de Cultura y Desarrollo/Artesanos de Paz/Fundacion Colonia Venezolana en Republica Dominicana/Fundacion Encuentro Danza Contemporanea/Thinking Box, UNHCR/IDDI/ENM | IOM/Artesanos de Paz | UNHCR/IOM |
| UNHCR/IDDI, IOM/Fundacion Venezolana en Republica Dominicana | IOM/Fundacion Colonia Venezolana en Republica Dominicana, IOM/Fundacion Venezolanos de San Cristobal, UNHCR/IDDI | UNHCR/IDDI | UNHCR/IOM |
| | | UNHCR, IOM | |

GUYANA



12 ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATIONS, BY SECTOR

- UNHCR
- IDI, UNHCR/BNYC/MSN
- UNICEF
- IDI
- IDI, UNICEF
- UNHCR/VoG/BNYC/MSN
- IDI, UNHCR
- UNICEF
- IDI

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



13 ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATIONS, BY SECTOR

- UNHCR/LWC
- UNHCR/LWC/TTYSOLNET*, UNICEF/LWC
- UNICEF, UNFPA, FPA/TI, UNHCR, UNICEF/LWC ChildLine, Freely Bive Foundation
- UNFPA, UNHCR/RES/LWC/FPA/TI
- UNICEF/LWC/FPATT
- UNFPA, FPA/TI, UNFPA/FPA/TI, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNHCR/LWC, UNWOMEN
- IDI
- IDI
- UNHCR, UNHCR/LWC/RCS, UNICEF/LWC/Jebubus/FPATT, Create Future Good, UNHCR, UNHCR/LWC, UNICEF/LWC/Jebubus/FPATT

*Operational Partner

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Government of Canada | European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department | Government of Germany | Government of Iceland | International Labour Organization | Government of Ireland | Government of Italy | Government of Netherlands | Government of New Zealand | Government of Norway | Private (Individuals & Organisations) | Government of Sweden | United Nations Children's Fund | United States of America

PLATFORM PARTNERS:

Adra | ARTESANOS DE PAZ | Bureau of Statistics (GY) | Caritas | Childline | CONVENIOS CON FUNDACION DE CULTURA Y DESARROLLO | Create Future Good | EDANCO|ENM | FAO | FPATT | Freely Give Foundation | FUNDACION COLONIA VENEZOLANA EN REPUBLICA DOMINICANA | FUNDACION ENCUESTRO DANZA CONTEMPORANEA | FUNDACION VENEZOLANOS DE SAN CRISTOBAL | GNYC | GRPA | HIAS | IDDI | ILO | Institución gubernamental DEFENSA PUBLICA | IOM | Jabulous | LWC | Ministry of Citizenship (GY) | Ministry of Health (TT) | Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development (TT) | Ministry of National Security (Immigration Division Counter Trafficking Unit) (TT) | Ministry of Social Protection (GY) | MSN | PAHO | RCS | Save the Children | THINKING BOX | TTVSolnet | UNAIDS | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | UNODC | UN WOMEN | Venex | VoG | WFP

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R4V- Response for Venezuela: <https://r4v.info/en/situations/platform>

Financial Tracking System: <https://fts.unocha.org.appeals/726/summary>