

## ARUBA &amp; CURAÇAO


 REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS  
 IN COUNTRY\*

44,500


 PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME  
 FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*\*

722



FUNDING SITUATION\*\*\*

FUNDED: NOT YET AVAILABLE

REQUIREMENT: 14,039,293

## Situation

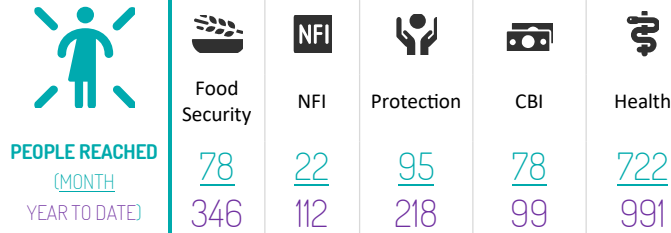
- Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governments of Aruba and Curaçao adopted measures such as border closures, stay-at-home orders and suspension of non essential businesses and services, which has impacted the economy, particularly the tourism sector. As a response to the emergency, the Governments of Aruba and Curacao have indicated that all individuals on the islands, including those without a regular status, have access to COVID-19 related health care.
- **Refugees and migrants from Venezuela are disproportionately affected by the lock down and the subsequent loss of income**, as most of them work in the informal labour market with no access to social protection systems. This is anticipated to result in a surge in food insecurity and emergency shelter needs.
- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the **implementation of the visa requirement** for Venezuelans scheduled to start on 1 April was postponed until further notice. Venezuelans remain visa exempted for all Caribbean islands of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, though they are affected by the border closures.
- The difficulty in regularizing stays and its consequences on everyday life, in particular the lack of access to the national healthcare system, were identified as the main concerns of participants in an inter-agency participatory assessment carried out in Curaçao prior to the implementation of stay-at-home measures. Eight focus group discussions and interviews were carried out with Venezuelan women, men, girls and boys.

## Response

- In Aruba, partners have been working towards a Memorandum of Understanding with 'Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad' for distribution of **food baskets** to vulnerable refugees and migrants. Meanwhile in Curaçao, 45 vulnerable Venezuelan households were provided with food assistance, and partners undertook procurement to expand on the food distribution activities.
- In Curaçao, a partner provided primary **medical services** to 391 Venezuelans and 331 persons from the host community who were not able to benefit from national health insurance. Some 218 persons (112 Venezuelans and 106 from the host population) benefitted from sexual and reproductive health, prenatal and maternity care services.
- A partner provided **psychosocial support** to Venezuelans in Aruba, (including 4 men, 11 women & 7 children). In Curaçao, 14 Venezuelans (4 men and 10 women) also benefitted from psychosocial services through counselling, support groups and referral to specialized psychological care.
- Partners in Aruba provided 81 individuals with **Cash-Based Interventions** for humanitarian needs.
- Nine frontline service providers from the Venezuelan community received **capacity building training** in GBV prevention and response in Aruba. A partner also delivered a webinar on Psychosocial First Aid for other partners' staff including 8 from Curaçao.
- In late March, partners opened a Facebook page dedicated to translating and **disseminating informational material** in Spanish from the Government of Aruba, WHO and R4V partners, related to COVID-19. National platforms in Aruba and Curaçao reinforced cooperation and efforts on "Communication with Communities" through Working Groups by harmonizing messages aimed at increasing awareness on COVID-19 prevention and governmental measures, and by maintaining helplines for counselling and assistance.
- Partners provided educational support by way of **afternoon school programming** focusing on Dutch language tutoring, for a total of 22 Venezuelan children (10 Male/12 Female) in Curaçao.



Figure 1: Food distribution by R4V partners on 28 March Willemstad, Curaçao



## Operational Overview - Who does What and Where



### ARUBA



### CURAÇAO



\*Sectors cover all regions.

## Activities by Sector

