

CARIBBEAN



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE SUBREGION*
150,000



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE**
2559

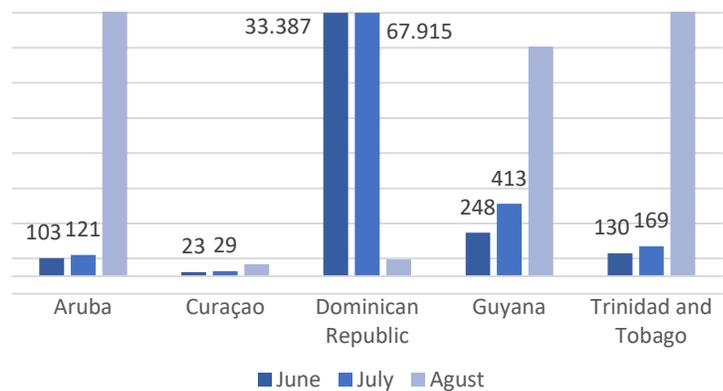


FUNDING SITUATION***
 FUNDED: \$17.47 MILLION
 REQUIREMENT: \$46.36 MILLION

Situation

- Caribbean R4V countries continued to cope with negative impacts brought on by COVID-19, which added to already existing vulnerabilities, and resulted in exacerbated needs in shelter, food, sanitation, medical supplies and cash to meet basic needs. In August, R4V partners focused on strengthening gender-based violence prevention and response programmes in order to minimize vulnerabilities related to gender-based violence (GBV), and Venezuelans resorting to survival sex, use of narcotics and other illegal activities as coping strategies. This was mitigated through the wide provision of CBI and protection interventions. Requests for returns due to hardships, saw 600 Venezuelans register from June to August through the DIMAS website in Aruba, and 168 in the Dominican Republic who continued awaiting permission from the Venezuelan authorities for return. Amidst this, the Caribbean Sub-Regional Platform concluded the RMRP 2021 planning workshops across the Caribbean, where RMRP partners, UN agencies, NGOs, community-based and civil society organizations and government representatives participated in fruitful discussions, to calculate the PIN/Population figures, narrative submissions and priorities for 2021.
- Sub-regional countries were hard hit by a second wave of COVID-19. Aruba moved from 121 to 2006 cases¹, and Curaçao declared itself COVID free at the start of August, yet, saw a surge to 68², cluster infections. Trinidad and Tobago saw a 84 % increase in active cases and the Dominican Republic reported fewer active infections noted in August than in July.³ Owing to recent rapid increases in infection numbers, the Dutch government announced its plan to recruit additional international medical personnel for Curaçao and Aruba to curb the spread of the coronavirus.
- In Aruba, school re-openings were postponed due to COVID-19 spikes and limited access to resources for virtual learning while a curfew was reinstated on August 26.⁴ Aruba re-opened borders with the United States of America. Further, on August 22, Coastguard Aruba detained a boat with 14 undocumented Venezuelans, who were taken to detention centers. It is the first reported arrival since February. Conversely, the Government of Aruba remains committed to facilitating the return of Venezuelans pending Venezuelan authorities' consent. They are currently being held at the 'Guarda nos Costa' detention center. Venezuelan refugees and migrants risk contracting COVID-19 in Aruba detention centres due to unhygienic and inadequate facilities.⁵ Conversely, the Government of Aruba remains committed to facilitating the return of Venezuelans pending Venezuelan authorities' consent.
- In the midst of stagnated tourism due to COVID-19, the Curaçao Tourist Board (CTB) reported that 9,227 stayover visitors travelled to Curaçao in August with increased visitors staying in resort hotels.⁶ This is a promising step towards improved economy and increased livelihood opportunities for the host community and Venezuelan refugees and migrants on the island. Conversely, the Dutch government was unable to finalize subsequent funding to continue providing food and NFIs to vulnerable individuals through the agency leading the response in Curaçao, to vulnerable individuals. Other R4V partners continued

Covid-19 evolution in the sub-region



¹ <https://www.arubacovid19.org/>; <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/aruba/>

² <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/CURACAO/>

³ <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

⁴ <https://bes-reporter.com/index.php/2020/08/22/coastguard-intercepts-boat-with-illegal-immigrants-and-smuggled-animals-near-aruba/>

⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/08/21/venezuelan-migrants-face-covid-19-risk-aruba-detention-centers>

⁶ <https://www.curacaotouristboard.com/2020/09/08/over-9000-stayover-visitors-in-august/>

distributing e-vouchers to Venezuelans not reached by this aid, mainly to single-headed households, as underscored by recent trends.

- Following Presidential elections, new government authorities took office in the Dominican Republic on 16 August. The new administration represents a window of opportunity to strengthen advocacy for integration and durable solutions for Venezuelans.
- In Guyana, a new government took office and the new Prime Minister was sworn in on the 2 August⁷. The Minister of Health issued renewed emergency and restrictive orders while mining resumed with guidelines in place. In Trinidad and Tobago⁸, general elections were held on 10 August and concluded with the reelection of the previous Government. Nationwide restrictions were renewed and claims that Venezuelans were spreading COVID-19 “fueled a climate of fear and pushed (Venezuelans) further underground and away from health services”⁹, increasing xenophobic tensions. Separately, requests for overall assistance remained high, resulting in backlogs for registration and interview appointments with R4V agencies, and 78 percent of Venezuelans who applied for R4V assistance in August indicated that either they or other household members were forced to reduce the quantity and quality of their food intake due to reduced income.

Response



Distribution of traditional chinchorros hammocks to families that recently arrived by canoe from Venezuela

- **Food Security** remains among the highest priorities in the sub-region. Partners in Trinidad & Tobago provided food assistance to the most vulnerable using an **automated system** via community supermarkets. Almost 400 beneficiaries filled out **online applications**, were interviewed via telephone and received **QR codes** to choose the items they most needed. In Aruba, almost 300

persons benefitted from food vouchers given to the **most vulnerable** in need, while 192 Venezuelans received food assistance in Guyana and 63 Venezuelans, received **e-vouchers** to purchase food items.

- As eviction rates continued to rise across the sub-region, 25 victims of trafficking, and vulnerable refugees and migrants in Trinidad and Tobago were provided with **safe shelter**, while 210 additional vulnerable persons received direct shelter assistance. In the Dominican Republic, partners delivered 315 shelter interventions. Out of these, 82 Venezuelans were assigned **rental placements**.
- In Guyana, where WASH remains an urgent priority, 141 Venezuelan and local women received dignity vouchers to purchase basic hygiene products while 143 persons in need received **NFIs** including face masks, and baby wipes were distributed to mothers. Additionally, **WASH Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) hampers** were distributed to 50 families including 10 Venezuelans through the Civil Defence Commission.
- **During August, to help refugees and migrants fulfil their basic needs, 2362 multipurpose Cash Based Interventions (CBI)** were provided across the region. Applications for cash assistance continued to demonstrate the heightened protection risks faced by this population, aggravated by the COVID-19 context. While 83% of cash applicants reported not being able to meet their basic needs, 33% of cash applicants were survivors of GBV and 75% cited serious medical concerns. Additionally, 39% faced eviction and 38% attributed their application for

⁷ <http://www.looptt.com/content/ali-sworn-president-guyana-5>

⁸ List of regulations outlined <https://www.moc.gov.tt/the-public-health-2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-no-25-regulations-2020/>

⁹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr49/2953/2020/en/>

cash assistance to job loss or reduced working hours due to COVID-19. As a response, partners in Guyana provided their first CBI assistance to 143 households and 43 households received their second CBI assistance to meet their basic needs during August.

- To provide immediate assistance to survivors of **gender-based violence (GBV)**, partners provided some 152 Venezuelans with medical and **psychosocial** services while 106 refugees and migrants received consultations related to **sexual health and reproduction**. Separately, **counselling related to sexual violence issues** was provided to 30 Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, training in prevention and response of GBV (16 hours) was delivered to 26 frontline staff from organizations working in Guyana with Venezuelan refugees and migrants.
- Moreover, protection interventions reached almost 1900 people in need across the region. Partners in Guyana

provided **information and sensitization sessions** on accessing protection services in the country to 410 Venezuelans and referred 193 Venezuelan minors to expert **protection services** within **child advocacy centres**, in a bid to prevent and respond to violence. Moreover, **health** activities featured mainly in Curaçao where 425 refugees and migrants from Venezuela benefitted from over 800 **primary health care** consultations provided by a partner.

- Despite persisting connectivity and funding challenges, 993 Venezuelan students continued receiving remote access to education in Trinidad and Tobago and 40 new beneficiaries across the sub-region started their secondary studies through the online platform [Dawere Global](#). Additionally, in Guyana 118 Venezuelan children, not enrolled in formal public education institutes received English classes.

CARIBBEAN

People Reached*

SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
 EDUCATION				94	993	1087
 FOOD SECURITY	217		14	192	1209	1632
 HEALTH		459	24	5	109	597
 INTEGRATION	20					20
 MULTIPURPOSE CBI	84	52	201	143	161	641
 NFI				155		155
 PROTECTION	280		53	410	615	1358
 SHELTER			82	211	1	294
 WASH				250		250
 COVID-19 (CROSS-SECTOR)	217	52	201	211	1165	1778

Operational Overview*

	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
PARTNERS	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR	IOM, <i>Salú pa Tur</i> , UNHCR	<i>FUNCOVERD</i> , <i>Heartland Alliance</i> , <i>IDDI</i> , IOM, UNHCR	<i>Blossoms Inc</i> , <i>CDC</i> , <i>Guyana Sex Workers Coalition</i> , HIAS, IOM, <i>Ministries of Health and Social Protection</i> , <i>PADF</i> , UNHCR, UNICEF	<i>FPATT</i> , IOM, <i>Living Water Community</i> , <i>Moruga Poverty Reduction Center</i> , <i>Rape Crisis Society</i> , UNHCR
SECTORS					

PARTNERS IN THE RESPONSE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND, UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND, UNICEF NATIONAL COMMITTEE/CANADA, US FUND FOR UNICEF **

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R4V- Response for Venezuela: <https://r4v.info/es/situations/platform/location/7493>

FINANCIAL TRACKING SYSTEM: [HTTPS://FTS.UNOCHA.ORG.APPEALS/726/SUMMARY](https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/726/SUMMARY)