

Aruba & Curaçao

July - August 2023

Key Figures



Approximately

31,000

Venezuelan refugees and migrants live in Aruba and Curacao.



1 in 6

Displaced people in Aruba need international protection.



1 in 11

Displaced people in Curacao need international protection.

Aruba and Curaçao are the first and third countries in the world with the largest number of refugees and migrants compared to their local populations.

Context

The 1967 Protocol and the 1951 Refugee Convention apply to Aruba. Curaçao does not consider itself bound by these instruments, often exposing refugees and asylum-seekers to abuse, exploitation, and detention.

In July, The Joint Court of Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba granted an appeal filed by a Venezuelan asylum-seeker demanding the Government's compensation due to a prolonged stay in a detention centre. The decision was based on Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

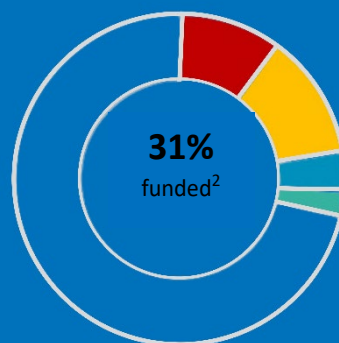
In August, the first instance Court in Curacao confirmed in a ruling that detentions that failed to prove authorities' efforts to conduct deportation assessments within a reasonable time of six months are unlawful. Following this, the detentions of several Venezuelan asylum-seekers were declared unlawful.

UNHCR continues to engage with partners in both countries to facilitate access to legal counselling, primary healthcare, and assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers, including promoting integration, peaceful co-existence, and self-reliance.

In Aruba, UNHCR and HIAS trained 17 people on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response, focusing on a survivor-centered approach and engagement of men and boys in the prevention of GBV.

Regional funding Overview

as of 31 August 2023



- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

\$55.4 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023

¹ Financial requirement for the Panama MCO in 2023 including requirements for the operations and activities in Aruba, Belize, Cuba, Curaçao, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

² The percentage funded is indicative.

UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR works with one partner in Aruba and two in Curaçao and supports both States in delivering assistance and protection to refugees and asylum seekers. In the framework of the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants (R4V), UNHCR works in coordination with partners to respond to education needs, food security, health, integration, protection, shelter, WASH, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).



Protection | UNHCR identified and pre-screened 29 people for resettlement and interviewed an additional 108 in July. UNHCR, through its helpline and helpdesk, counselled 135 people on the asylum procedure and immigration permits. The Agency works with 25 community mobilizers who distribute key information on international protection. In July, UNHCR held an information session with 13 community mobilizers to discuss the asylum procedure, labour rights, tenant rights, and humanitarian parole.



Health | UNHCR through *Salù pa Tur* (SPT) assisted 1,233 people in Curaçao with 2,500 primary health consultations. The Agency provided 30 individuals with psychological care and treated 114 people for diabetes and hypertension. SPT covered the specialized HIV treatment of 12 refugees and asylum-seekers.



Cash-based Assistance | In Aruba, UNHCR, through HIAS, provided 35 individuals with multipurpose cash-based assistance to cover basic needs and provided medical vouchers to 27 people to enhance their access to healthcare.



Gender-based Violence (GBV) prevention | In Curacao, UNHCR trained seven members of the PSI Skuchami Foundation on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). PSI Skuchami is a local organization that provides MHPSS services for the local community and undocumented people.



UNHCR'S COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION RESPONSE

As part of its community-based protection programme, UNHCR, through HIAS, organizes integration activities for refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants in Aruba. In August, the Agency conducted “Pintura y Manualidades”, a weeklong workshop that included recreational and cultural activities for up to 30 children ages five to twelve.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the United States of America, the European Union, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Guyana, and the UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. We also thank the fundamental support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Belgium | Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | private donors in Australia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

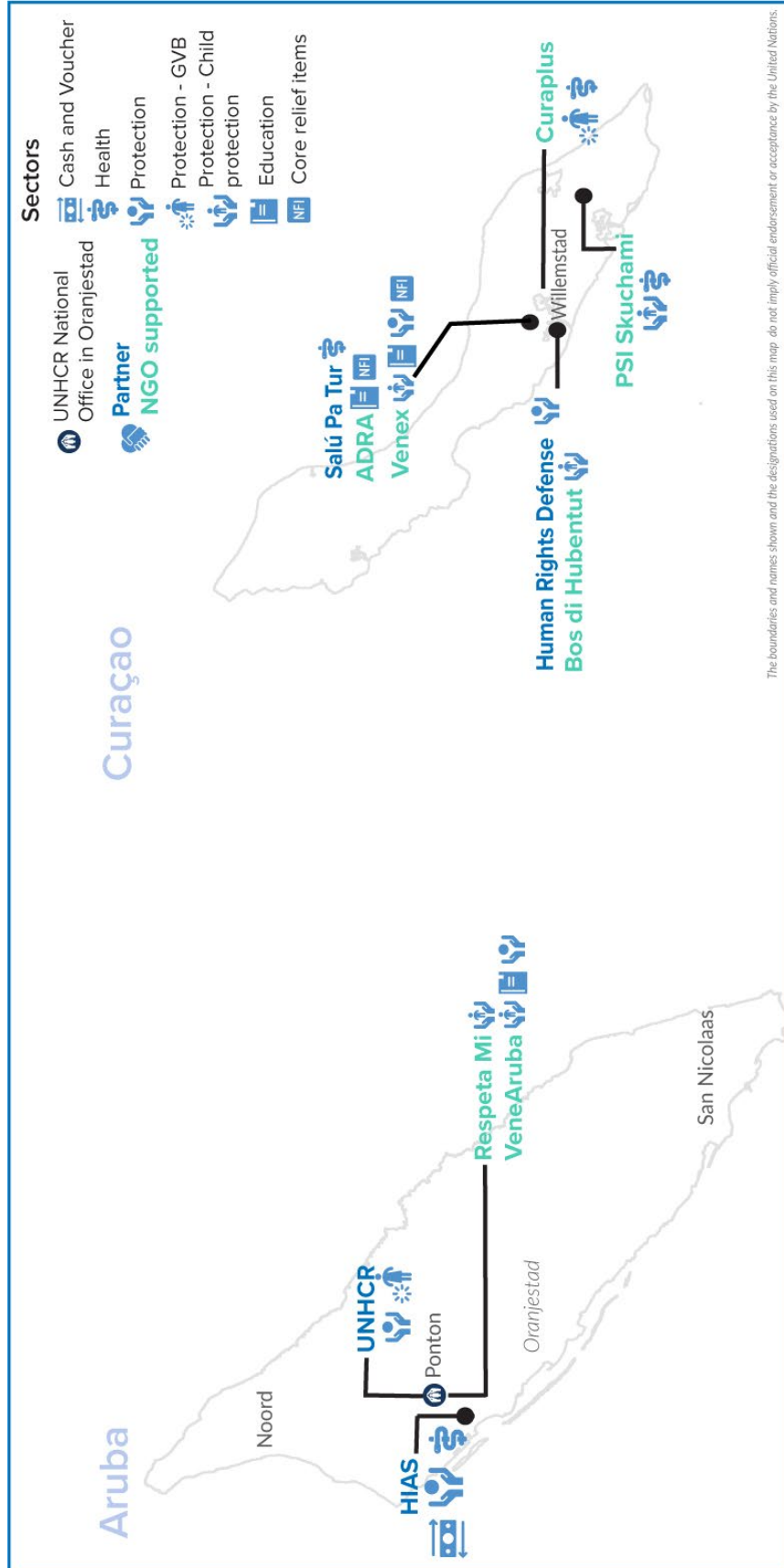
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UNHCR's presence in Aruba & Curaçao



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