FACT SHEET

Aruba & Curaçao

January – March 2025

Key Figures

24,863
Colombians and Venezuelans, including refugees and asylum-seekers, live in Aruba and Curaçao.

267
People assisted with primary health care consultations in Curaçao.

70
People, including survivors of violence, received mental health and psychosocial 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 do apply to Aruba. Curaçao does not consider itself bound by these instruments.

Aruba's Immigration Department (DIMAS) announced that in 2024, the Government received 17,783 permit applications, nearly 3,000 more than the annual average. The Prime Minister's Annual Report also noted 293 asylum applications (307 individuals), mainly from Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador.

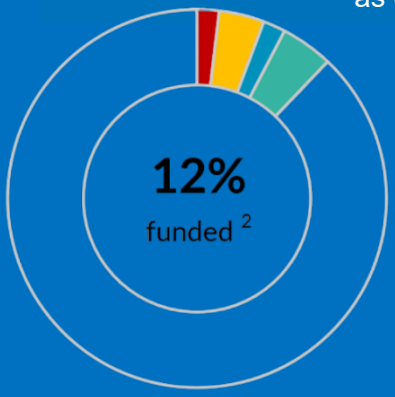
In Curacao, the Minister of Finance signed a proposal to provide financial aid to local NGOs impacted by the US freeze on foreign funding. The proposal includes a subsidy of 477,909 Antillean Guilders for UNHCR's partner Salu Pa Tur, a health clinic that supports forcibly displaced groups.

On 21 March 2025, Curaçao held its general elections, where the ruling party, *Movementu Futuro Kòrsou (MFK)*, achieved a historic victory. By winning 13 of 21 seats, MFK secured the island's first-ever absolute majority in Parliament.

UNHCR participated in the premiere of the documentary "Hidden Life: Testimonies of Venezuelans in Aruba and Curaçao" to a sold-out audience at the Movies that Matter festival in The Hague, Netherlands. Commissioned in 2024 through UNHCR's collaboration with the Dutch Postcode Lottery, this film highlights the challenges faced by forcibly displaced individuals and showcases UNHCR's efforts to assist them. Nearly 160 people attended.

Regional Funding Overview

as of 31 March 2025



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

$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.

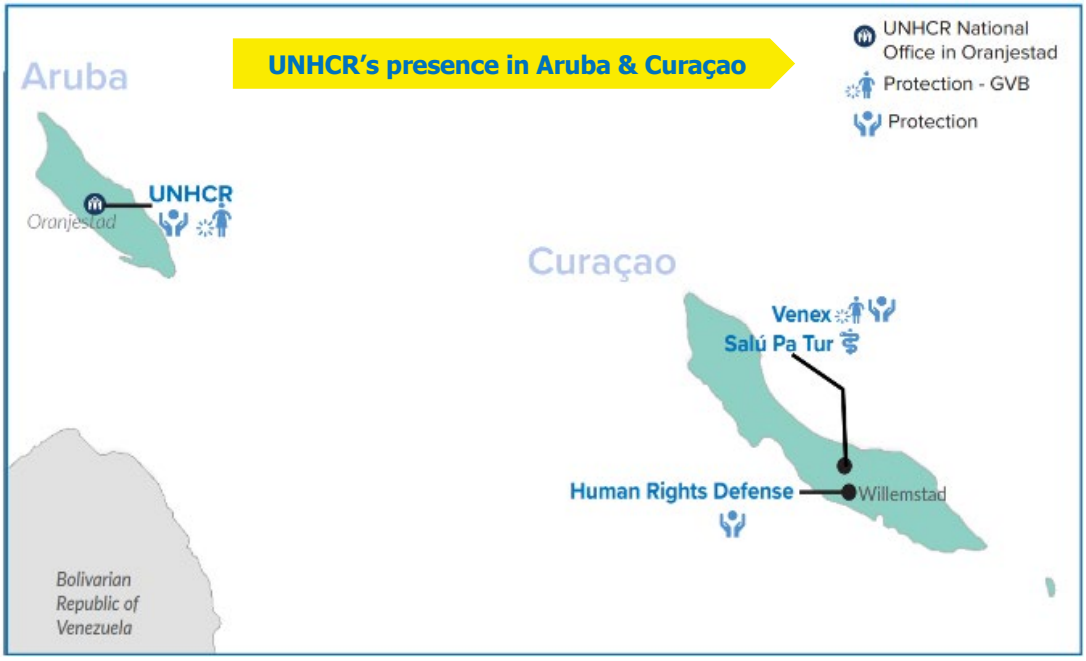
Protection | UNHCR and partners provided legal assistance and counselling services to over 150 people in Aruba and Curaçao, including vulnerable women and girls. HIAS held its final community information session in March before closing operations in Aruba and Curaçao due to financial cuts. UNHCR and partners will continue providing key support activities for affected populations.

Health | UNHCR through Salú pa Tur assisted 267 individuals in Curaçao through 445 primary health care and maternal care consultations.

Commemorating International Women's Day | UNHCR participated in the planning and organizing of the International Women's Day commemoration event. Led by the Center for Human Rights of Women (CEDEHM), this event was a collaborative effort involving UNHCR, HIAS, and the Fundación Contra la Violencia Relacional (FCVR). The event aimed to empower women and promote gender equality.

Coordination | The University of Aruba's Faculty of Law, in collaboration with CEDE ARUBA, UNHCR, HIAS, and IOM, is hosting three Tienda di Ley (Law Clinic) sessions on inheritance law and migration procedures. The clinic provides free legal assistance to asylum-seekers and undocumented individuals, covering labor rights, housing, contracts, and regularization pathways.

Advocacy | UNHCR provided cameras, microphones, and other communication equipment to a group of forcibly displaced individuals in Curaçao who voluntarily produced a video series on the challenges and risks they face. The donation will support their production and raise awareness about their experiences.



UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Australia | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Ireland | the Republic of Korea | The Kingdom of the Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | the United States of America | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors including the Dutch Postcode Lottery and España con ACNUR.

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