FACT SHEET

Guyana

UNHCR ACNUR
La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

January - March 2025

Key Figures

23,412 forcibly displaced Venezuelans received stay permits since 2018.

Guyana also hosts **94** refugees and asylum-seekers of various nationalities.

485 people received information sessions on international protection and how to access Government services.

113 forcibly displaced people received case management and protection services.

Context

Guyana is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention nor its 1967 Protocol. Authorities provide legal stay permits to forcibly displaced people, and Guyana's policy ensures access to health and education services for everyone, regardless of status. In Guyana, forcibly displaced groups face limited livelihood opportunities and language barriers, which remain obstacles to their integration. Access to sanitary facilities and potable water remains challenging, especially for Indigenous people in remote areas.

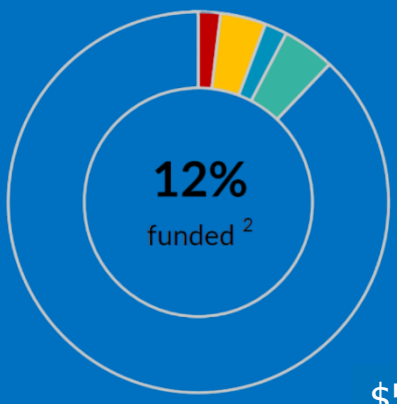
Guyana's Government formally protested Venezuela's announcement to hold regional elections in May 2025 for the governor of the disputed Essequibo region. Guyana emphasized that this action violates the Joint Declaration of Argyle and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) binding order issued on 1 December 2023. The ICJ had instructed Venezuela to refrain from actions that could alter the status quo in Essequibo, currently administered by Guyana.

On 1 March, a Venezuelan naval vessel entered Guyana's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and approached an offshore oil platform. The Government condemned the incident and lodged a formal diplomatic protest. This event took place against ongoing proceedings at the ICJ.

UNHCR, through Shades of the Sky (SOTS), enhanced its HIV prevention and response programme. SOTS conducted visits to remote communities in regions 3 and 4, delivering awareness sessions on sexual and reproductive health and STI prevention. With the Ministry of Health, including the National AIDS Programme Secretariat, SOTS provided voluntary HIV/HPV counseling and testing and offered on-the-spot vaccinations, increasing access to essential health services for displaced populations in remote areas.

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

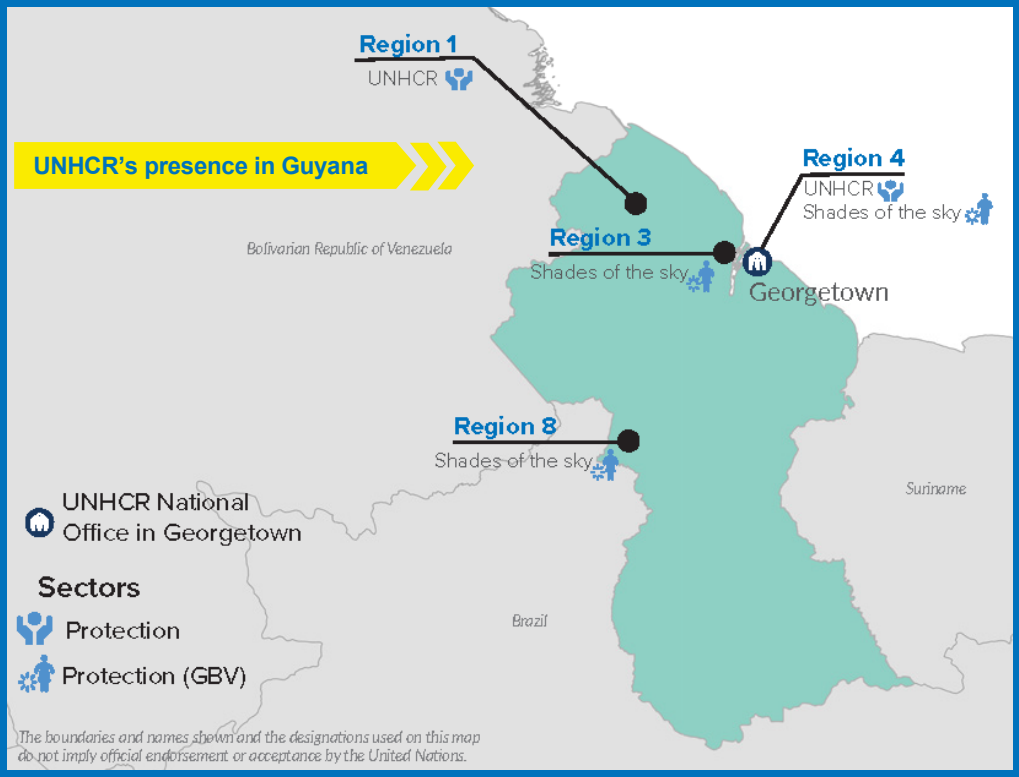
UNHCR works with partners and supports the State in providing assistance and protection services to refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, and host communities. UNHCR coordinates with other partners to grant access to education, food security, health, integration, protection, shelter, WASH, and cash assistance. See the R4V Subregional portal for more information.

Protection | UNHCR counselled 372 forcibly displaced people, and assisted 93 with accessing governmental services, supporting them in obtaining documentation, and enhancing access to health and education services. Through partner HIAS Guyana, UNHCR supported 96 forcibly displaced individuals through case management services.

Cash-Based Interventions | UNHCR and HIAS provided 75 forcibly displaced people from 29 households, direct assistance to cover basic needs in Regions 3 and 4.

Response to Violence Against Women and Girls | UNHCR, through partners HIAS and SOTS provided specialized protection services to 253 forcibly displaced people.

Integration | UNHCR and the National Agriculture Research and Extension Institution (NAREI) organized a community fair under the theme: "Roots and Crafts: Celebrating Forests and Indigenous Wisdom". The event linked local farmers and craft makers to customers and featured traditional games and other activities to promote peaceful coexistence between the host and forcibly displaced communities.



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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