

Aruba & Curaçao

July - September 2024

Key Figures



Approximately

23,000

Venezuelan refugees and migrants **live** in Aruba and Curaçao.



1,028

Individuals assisted with primary health care consultations in Curaçao.



155

People assisted with counselling and legal assistance in Aruba and Curaçao.

Context

Aruba and Curaçao, two **self-governing constituent countries** of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, are autonomous but not part of the European Union. Neither Dutch asylum law nor European law and directives apply to these countries. The **1967 Protocol** and the **1951 Refugee Convention** do apply to Aruba. Curaçao does not consider itself bound by these instruments.

The air border between Venezuela and Aruba remains closed. The Prime Minister cited Venezuela's ongoing instability, worsened by recent elections and broken diplomatic ties, as reasons. She stressed that reopening the border is a complex and sensitive issue.

Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba have established a regional cooperation platform for migration authorities following discussions at the Four-Country Judicial Consultation in the Netherlands. The initiative aims to enhance collaboration against migration-related crime through information and intelligence sharing.

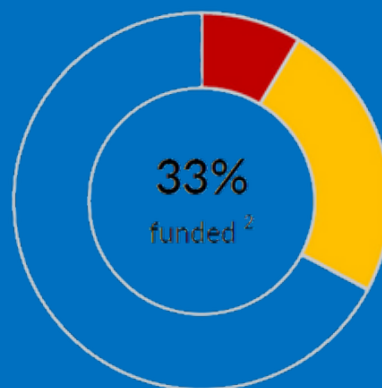
On 1 August, Aruba's Department of Integration, Management, and Admission of Foreign Nationals (DIMAS) introduced changes to provide more flexibility in issuing work permits. The Minister of Labour, Energy, and Integration said these adjustments meet labor market demands while ensuring priority is given to local workers.

UNHCR with Venex, launched the 'Girl Shine' curriculum in Curaçao to prevent gender-based violence against adolescent girls. Adapted from the International Rescue Committee's original, the curriculum is now implemented at Casa del Venezolano, a safe space for the displaced community.



Regional funding Overview

as of 30 September 2024



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

\$56.1 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2024

¹ Financial requirement for the Panama MCO in 2024 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 implementing 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 and partners coordinate to respond to education needs, food security, health, integration, protection, shelter, WASH, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).



Protection | UNHCR and partners provided counselling and legal assistance to 155 individuals in Aruba. In Curacao, UNHCR's partner, Human Rights Defense Curaçao (HRDC), provided legal assistance to eight individuals. The Agency assisted 85 people with their resettlement departures in July and August and conducted a four-day mission in Curaçao, interviewing 32 people for resettlement opportunities.



Health | UNHCR through Salú pa Tur assisted 1,028 individuals in Curaçao with primary health care and maternal care consultations.



Community Engagement and Local Integration | UNHCR, through HIAS, organized 12 events to enhance community outreach and provide information on the new community-based protection approach, Enfoque Comunitario, reaching over 75 people. The Agency granted small grants to the Skuchami Foundation in Curaçao for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) initiatives and Centro pa Desaroyo Aruba (CEDE) for its Summer Camp (WAW Mobiel). The camp sought to integrate children with heightened vulnerabilities, including those forcibly displaced. UNHCR participated in an event organized by HIAS that focused on integrating refugees and migrants into the labor market and raising awareness about new labor policies. Some 150 people attended.



Coordination with Local Authorities | UNHCR continues to engage with the government as part of the ongoing Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) to discuss asylum adjudication policies, appeal procedures, and best practices in accordance with international refugee law standards.

UNHCR meets the Fundación Parlamento Hubenil



UNHCR hosted an informative session with Fundación Parlamento Hubenil (Aruba Youth Parliament). The Agency provided an overview of its mandate and discussed the impact of its work in Aruba and Curaçao. Young leaders discussed how they could collectively shape more inclusive societies, highlighting the importance of empathy and support for refugees in the region.

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

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UNHCR's presence in Aruba & Curaçao

