

Guyana

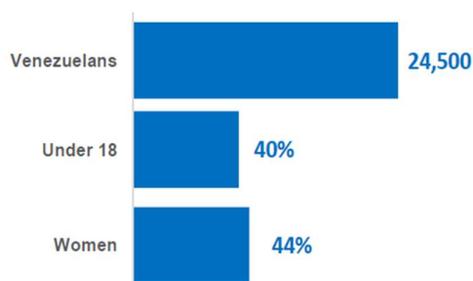
September - October 2022

Guyana hosts **24,500 refugees and migrants from Venezuela**, as well as 206 refugees and asylum seekers from other nationalities, including Cubans and Haitians.

UNHCR joined an **inter-agency mission led by the UN Resident Coordinator** to Mabaruma, to understand and assess the protection and development context, particularly the situation of children, women and indigenous people.

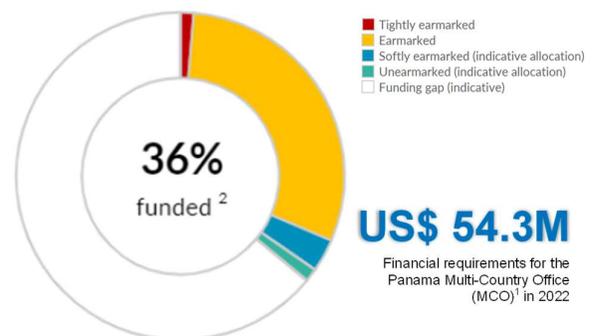
The Government continues issuing stay permits to Venezuelans upon arrival. The permit is valid for **six months** and requires **periodic renewal**.

People UNHCR protects*



* Source: UNHCR internal estimates, as of 31 August 2022

STATE OF PLAY: FUNDING RECEIVED VS. FUNDING NEEDS (AS OF 25 OCTOBER 2022)



¹ The financial requirements for the **Panama Multi-Country Office** include those for the Coronavirus Emergency and the Venezuela Situation. **Guyana** is part of the **Panama MCO** since 2021 along with Panama, Nicaragua, Belize, Cuba and the Southern Caribbean.

² The percentage funded includes indicative allocations of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

Context

UNHCR supports the government in the provision of assistance and protection services to refugees and migrants with specific needs, and to vulnerable host communities while working in coordination with other **Interagency Response Platform partners**.

UNHCR delivers **humanitarian aid**, including food kits and sanitary items, as well as **support** and **counseling** to facilitate access to government services for refugees and migrants.

Gender-based Violence continues to be a major problem, particularly for **Venezuelan** refugee and migrant women, who engage in sex work as a coping mechanism, and indigenous women. Risk of **Trafficking-in-Persons** and **Child Protection** concerns are also consistently present, especially in mining areas.



UNHCR distributed food hampers and mosquito nets at the White Water community, where 2,600 persons, including refugees, migrants and host community members, benefited from the assistance.

UNHCR Response and Strategy

UNHCR works with four partners in Guyana and supports the State in the delivery of assistance and protection services to refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, and host communities. UNHCR works in coordination with other response partners to provide access to education, food security, health, integration, protection, shelter, WASH, and cash assistance, among others. See the R4V Subregional portal for more information.

Main Activities

Alongside the government, partner organizations, civil society, development actors, and UN Agencies, UNHCR undertakes protection and solutions activities, including:



Protection | UNHCR provided information on access to protection services to 708 refugees and migrants (233 women, 148 men, 170 girls, 157 boys). In addition, 204 persons (78 women, 47 men, 49 girls, 30 boys) were referred to relevant government services.



Gender-based Violence | In remote mining areas, UNHCR and partner Guyana Sex Work Coalition (GSWC), sensitized 81 women who engage in survival sex on HIV, sexually transmitted infections and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and provided HIV testing and counselling to 114 women. A total of 105 hygiene kits were distributed, and six key community members were sensitized on Gender-based Violence (GBV) and the specific needs of Venezuelan women who engage in survival sex. UNHCR through partner HIAS reached 70 persons with GBV prevention messages and counselling on rights, services and referral pathways. Over 20 persons participated in community-based initiatives, including awareness raising on the importance of renewing stay permits. HIAS also provided case management services to 18 GBV survivors. UNHCR through Blossom Inc. conducted six forensic interviews with Venezuelan and Guyanese children who survived sexual abuse. Case management services were provided to 20 Venezuelan children.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) | UNHCR delivered hygiene kits to 25 refugees and migrants. UNHCR donated 71 jerry cans to 43 members of vulnerable host communities, as well as 25 baby kits in regions 1, 2 and 4. In addition, UNHCR distributed 396 soap bars to 50 vulnerable individuals with limited access to WASH.



Cash-based Interventions and In-kind Assistance | UNHCR through HIAS distributed multipurpose cash assistance to 199 refugees and migrants. UNHCR distributed food hampers to 307 households in regions 1 and 4, including in the White Water community, where 2,600 persons benefited from it.



Health | UNHCR coordinated with local authorities to support cases medically evacuated from the regions to Georgetown, for the required assistance. In Regions 1, 2 and 4, UNHCR accompanied and provided counselling on access to health services, such as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, immunization and Covid-19 prevention. UNHCR and the UN Team met with the Regional Health Officer during a mission in Mabaruma to discuss health needs of refugees and migrants, as well as the support agencies can offer to the Ministry of Health, including data collection, translation and water and sanitation.



Education | UNHCR supports the education and integration of 521 children in Regions 1,3 and 7 with English as Second Language (ESL) classes, through a partnership with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and direct implementation of community-based education for out-of-school children in remote areas. UNHCR coordinated with local authorities in Region 1 and with parents of students in the community of Farm Corps, the installation of the RHUs donated by the Agency to provisionally support community-based classes.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Canada, the European Union, France, Guyana, the United States of America, 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: Australia | Austria | Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom. Private donors in Australia | Canada | Germany | Italy | Japan | the Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | and the United States.

For more information:

In Guyana | **Henri-Sylvain Yakara**, Head of National Office, yakara@unhcr.org

In MCO Panama | **Viola Eleonora Bruttomesso**, Associate Communications Officer, bruttome@unhcr.org

UNHCR Guyana: Operational Presence

