



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE SUBREGION*

224,000



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE**

9,395



FUNDING SITUATION

FUNDED: \$8.42 MILLION

REQUIREMENT: \$ 40.7 MILLION



Situation

- Partners reported that requests for humanitarian assistance resulting from lost livelihoods increased with refugees and migrants (R&Ms) reaching out mainly for food and rent assistance. The COVID-19 [Delta variant increased prevalence](#) in the Sub-region. Separately, Caribbean R4V partners collaborated on the RMRP planning process to establish the main priorities and responses to inform the Caribbean RMRP 2022 Chapter.
- In **Aruba**, [the prohibition of flights from Venezuela to the island was extended](#). Aruban authorities prevented 24 undocumented persons from entering the country. Cases of detention and deportation were also noted by partners. [DIMAS tried to catch up on petitions](#) for entries, including requests from Venezuelans, while [media reports suggested that some applicants could not get information on their appointments with DIMAS](#), however, missed appointments would not be re-scheduled for up to three months. Refuting rumours, the Aruban prime minister indicated that the island will [not be accepting refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan](#) as the island is already receiving Venezuelans.
- In **Curaçao** [the Integracion Responsable programme](#) was extended to December 2021 for undocumented R&Ms to regularize their status. On 6 September, seven detained Venezuelans awaiting deportation [escaped the Curaçaoan detention center](#). Two days later, the coastguards intercepted a boat with seven more Venezuelan nationals attempting irregular entry, and subsequently handed them over to the police. Additionally, [two Venezuelans were arrested](#) for attempted murder, drugs, and human trafficking during house raids. On [11 September, a repatriation flight](#) to Venezuela departed with 78 voluntary returnees and 34 deportees; some R&Ms, however, remained in detention.
- With schools in the **Dominican Republic (DR)** set to re-open for the new schoolyear, COVID-19 protocols for schools were yet to be released. Gaps exist related to children aged 12 and younger who did not receive vaccines, which were only made available to older children. Further, the authorities focussed efforts on reaching host community members and R&Ms with second doses of COVID-19 vaccines, and on third “booster shots”, as turn-out rates were low. The aim is to minimize infection rates and the risk of death through campaigns to maintain persons’ interest in following through with the vaccination process. Separately, the [regularization process for Venezuelans](#) continued with partners supporting through seven information offices countrywide. The next stage, currently being rolled out, will see the delivery of identification cards for all applicants approved for visas, with the anticipated effect of allowing applicants to register with the social security and tax system.
- The Government of **Guyana** has constituted the Multi-Agency Coordinating Committee for addressing the influx of Venezuelans in the country. The national vaccination programme remained accessible to all interested R&Ms. Rising COVID-19 cases and persons not adhering to protocols prompted the authorities to caution against the breach of pandemic measures. Further, shortages of the Sputnik V vaccine resulted in approximately 80,000 persons having to wait for second doses. Additionally, the authorities proposed to better integrate R&Ms into Guyana’s workforce, by making the [Central Recruitment and Manpower Agency \(CRMA\)](#) accessible to them and assisting with job placement in safe environments. Further, secondary schools will reopen when all education stakeholders are fully vaccinated. Gaps exist in the availability of data on students (among whom are R&Ms), teachers, and other staff who tested positive for COVID-19 following the opening of nursery and primary schools, creating challenges in contact tracing. Separately, CARICOM reiterated their [“unwavering support” for Guyana](#) in its border dispute with Venezuela in light of a move by Caracas to strengthen its claim to ownership of the Essequibo region, while [Venezuela snubbed Guyana’s](#) campaign to use the International Court of Justice to settle the border controversy.
- R4V partners in **Trinidad & Tobago (T&T)** are collaborating to distribute food vouchers and address backlogs of food assistance requests, which continue to grow rapidly as [food inflation rates rose by more than 50%](#). Disproportionately affected R&Ms reached out to partners for rent assistance and support with baby items and cleaning supplies. Partners reported their challenges to conduct in-person distributions due to COVID restrictions, and poor internet service created disruptions in vocational training for R&Ms, preventing in-person graduations and distribution of certificates and food vouchers. Regardless of the economy’s phased re-opening, some supplies and materials remain unavailable, delaying workshops’ start dates. 34 Venezuelans in irregular status were [held by officers](#) on 14 September during an anti-crime exercise.

Response



HEALTH

R4V partners in the **DR, Curaçao** and **Aruba** provided R&Ms access to **primary and non-emergency health care services** not usually accessible to them via the public health system. R&Ms had **medical check-ups** through an R4V partner, in collaboration with the **Aruban Positive Foundation**. **Mental health and psychosocial needs** of R&Ms were addressed in **Guyana, Aruba, T&T**, and the **DR** through focused **non-specialized and specialized care services**, including **individual and group support to GBV survivors** and remote **counselling**. In **T&T**, Venezuelan children accessed in-person **paediatric care, while dental care services** were provided to R&Ms and host community in **Curaçao**, and **psychosocial care** was given to R&Ms post COVID-19 infection.



FOOD SECURITY

In **T&T**, partners provided **food vouchers to victims of trafficking (VOTs)**, vulnerable R&Ms, and host community. Additionally, R4V partners in **Aruba** distributed **food vouchers to R&M households**, while **Guyana** partners provided **multipurpose cash assistance** to disproportionately affected R&Ms who qualified for **vouchers**, to the value of US\$71 or US\$33 to purchase both **Food Items (FIs)** and **Non-Food Items (NFIs)**. R&Ms received **food support** from R4V partners in **Curaçao** with the continued implementation of the [nation-wide food aid project until the end of September](#).



EDUCATION

Through the **Equal Place program**, **T&T** partners provided remote **primary and secondary education** to R&M children and developed a Content and Language Integrated Learning methodology to teach **English as a Second Language (ESL)** based on the local curricula. The methodology has accelerated children's ability to improve English proficiency. In **Curaçao**, partners donated **smart TVs and laptops** to schools that cater to Venezuelan children. In **Guyana**, a partner provided **ESL and after-school tutorials** to R&Ms in Lethem-Region 9 through the **"querer es poder"** project from August through September. In **Aruba**, R&M households received financial support through partners' **Back-to-School campaign** to offset enrolment costs for the online educational program.



INTEGRATION

To strengthen **MHPSS care and integration support** to Venezuelans, **Aruban** partners embarked on **beach cleaning campaign**, where Venezuelans and host community came together to facilitate a cleaner, safer environment for their use. R&Ms in **T&T** graduated from advanced 'Make Up Artistry' and 'Party and Piñata Decorations' courses. Some also received **technical and social support** to strengthen their **livelihood projects in agriculture, animal husbandry, and Warao crafts**. R&Ms in **Curaçao** visited the charity shop run by an R4V partner and received **NFI assistance**. In **Guyana**, R&M women accessed **cosmetology training** while their children were provided with **daycare services**.



SHELTER









Venezuelan R&Ms in **Curaçao** received **cash for rent support** and in the **DR**, **rental debt payment support** from R4V partners to aid with short-term shelter needs. In **Guyana**, an R4V partner assisted an R&M mother with children who received **temporary accommodation at a shelter** while another partner provided **cash-based assistance** to families **in need of housing**. This allowed them to cover one month's rent and the initial deposit. **T&T** partners provided **multipurpose cash assistance** to R&Ms to meet dire needs, as they reported 60% of R&Ms were **unable to pay rent** while 47% were either **evicted or at risk of eviction** and 53% could not meet their basic needs.



PROTECTION

Venezuelan **R&M VoTs** in **T&T** received assistance with **biometric registration and resettlement** to ensure legal protection. In **Curaçao**, **VoTs** and **GBV survivors** received **psychosocial care**, and hygiene kits were distributed for sex workers. Additionally, R4V partners provided **legal assistance** on labour rights, migratory and asylum procedures in the **DR, T&T**, and **Aruba**, focusing on R&Ms at-risk of GBV, or those at-risk of deportation. In **Guyana** and **Aruba**, GBV prevention and response, advocacy activities and identification, and referral of R&M child protection cases to relevant public service providers were delivered to R&Ms. Partners also provided **case management services**. In **Aruba**, **multi-sectoral protection assessments** were carried out by partners to identify risks and gaps, as well as monitor R&Ms situation.

People Reached*

SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
 EDUCATION	19				900	919
 FOOD SECURITY	172				807	979
 HEALTH	95	1037	14	3796	188	5130
 INTEGRATION					82	82
 CVA	50	16	41	305	21	433
 PROTECTION	68	18	21	86	808	1001
 SHELTER		47	43	356	92	538
 WASH				313		313

Covid-19 Situation**

COUNTRY	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
CASES IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	+6.34%	+7.85%	+2.53%	+24.58%	+13.07%
DEATHS IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS MONTH	+13.7%	+13.19%	+0.95%	+26.37%	+14.79%
INDIVIDUALS FULLY VACCINATED IN RELATION TO TOTAL POPULATION	69.79%	54.24%	44.81%	23.53%	35.49%

Operational Overview*

	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
PARTNERS	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR	IOM, UNHCR, Unidat di Barrio, Salut Pa Tur	UNHCR, HAI, Dominican Institute for Integrated Development, Venezuelan Emigrant Foundation	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Protection	FPATT, IOM, Living Water Community, Rape Crisis Society, UNHCR, UNICEF, Panamerican Development Foundation
SECTORS					

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Francesca Tabellini, Caribbean Sub-Regional Coordination Officer, IOM, ftabellini@iom.int

Heidi Hunter, Information Management Officer/Interim R4V Coordinator, UNHCR, hunter@unhcr.org

R4V - RESPONSE FOR VENEZUELA: [HTTPS://R4V.INFO/EN/CARIBBEAN](https://r4v.info/en/caribbean)

FINANCIAL TRACKING SYSTEM: [HTTPS://FTS.UNOCHA.ORG/APPEALS/1021/SUMMARY](https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1021/summary)

* Based on current month activities | ** As of 30/09/2021; Sources: [COVID Live Update Worldometer \(worldometers.info\)](https://www.worldometers.info/) and [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccinations \(Our World in Data\)](https://ourworldindata.org/)