

Overview

2021 has been marked by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccination campaigns to mitigate them. For R4V partners, most of the work in the first half of 2021 revolved around supporting refugees and migrants (R&Ms) to cope with increased vulnerability due to the pandemic, ensuring their access to COVID-19 vaccination campaigns and related health treatments, adapting activities to remote modalities when possible and continuing actions and projects planned in the [RMRP 2021](#).

Partners estimate the population in need within the Caribbean sub-region has increased by almost 13% as of June 2021, when compared with [the previous year](#). Although needs are rising, funding has not increased. As of June 2021, the Caribbean RMRP had met less than 20% of its funding requirements. However, partners continue to respond to the needs of R&Ms. As demonstrated in the graph below, [almost 50,000 persons were provided with various forms of assistance](#) in the Caribbean between January and June 2021.

48,312

Total Beneficiaries of the Year

Aruba	Curaçao	DR	Guyana	T&T
2,692	3,437	10,827	14,851	16,505



People reached in the Caribbean Sub-Region through R4V activities carried out between January and June 2021

Nonetheless, limited funding prevented R4V platform partners from responding to immediate humanitarian needs, forcing them to prioritize beneficiaries through a needs-based approach to aid the most vulnerable.

In the **Dominican Republic**, R4V partners were prevented from providing cash support to cover education costs, such as educational material, registration fees, legalization of documents required to enroll in school. Other activities that were not implemented include the establishment of a network of Support Spaces for orientation to Venezuelan R&Ms; as well as the implementation of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection (CP) case management by R4V partners. With additional funds, the R4V Platform in the DR would have expanded its reach and targeted population across various humanitarian activities, including support for medical expenses for emergency consultations or procedures related to COVID-19; provision of multipurpose cash-based transfers for emergency needs; and emergency accommodation. Additionally, R4V members in the DR would have been able to further expand community support groups (both Venezuelan community-based associations as well as host community structures). While the normalization plan is being successfully implemented by the DR government with R4V Platform support, many Venezuelans will continue to be in need of emergency CBI, accommodation, and other humanitarian support for what remains of 2021, while their regularization is underway.

In **Guyana**, there were limitations to provide safe and dignified shelter, particularly with regards to the improvement of infrastructure. The investment needed in this area is large given the challenges to access and transport material to remote areas where shelter is most needed. In addition, the housing market is also limited, so cash for rent is difficult to implement. The impact on R&M is the lack of access to safe and dignified shelter, including lack of access to WASH facilities and increased protection risks, particularly for GBV and child protection.

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, limited funding prevented R4V partners from fully responding to immediate humanitarian needs such as food and shelter, forcing partners to prioritize, and leaving many of those in need of assistance without. Underfunding also meant that temporary education interventions could not be expanded with more facilitators and connectivity solutions to respond to over approximately 2,500 children who remain without access to education. It also meant that existing gaps in R&M access to secondary and tertiary healthcare remained without solutions, as partners were unable to support with prescriptions and treatments for non-communicable diseases and more serious medical conditions. The ability to support durable solutions for R&Ms was also impacted, as funding for self-reliance tools and activities remained limited. Additionally, lockdown measures and the economic fallout due to the pandemic exacerbated R&Ms' ability to be self-sufficient as many were unable to meet their basic needs. This resulted in funding being reallocated for direct emergency assistance initiatives to ensure that vulnerable R&Ms and host community members could be provided with the basic needs related to food, shelter and NFI.

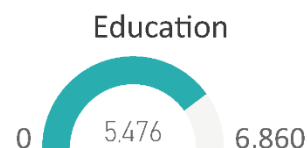
For **Aruba and Curaçao**, lack of funding meant that material donations for students, included much needed tablets and laptops, and access to internet after to do their homework was impacted. Less R&M children and adults could access language courses in Papiamentu and Dutch, impacting their integration in society. Venezuelan R&M women also had less access to specialized health consultations, affecting their health and wellbeing.

As a **result of these shortcomings**, Venezuelans, especially women and girls, continue to face practical obstacles in terms of limited capacity and the timeliness of GBV response services, as well as Child Protection and health-related services. Venezuelan children in vulnerable households may also lack the required support to adequately access education. Furthermore, several Venezuelans in need of secondary or tertiary healthcare, and mental health services (notably psychiatric care) will face substantial obstacles. R&Ms will also face more challenges for adequate housing and shelter, with less adequate infrastructure conditions.

Sectors¹

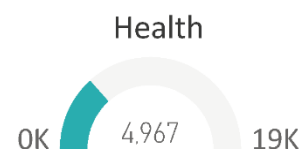
EDUCATION

R4V partners reached roughly **80% of the targeted population** so far in 2021 with education programs, accounting for more than five thousand people. The five Caribbean R4V countries reformulated educational programs to cope with the pandemic context, moving mainly to virtual classes. Partners offered **after-school remote remedial classes** and other educational programmes, assisting beneficiaries with **cash-based interventions** and **second language classes** for Venezuelan children and adults separately, to promote integration. **School kits and material assistance** were provided to the most vulnerable Venezuelan families to address the financial barriers that keep their children from attending school. Efforts to **accredit degrees** from Venezuela continued. **Online schooling** enabled more stable attendance in 2021, and **online university-level courses** were offered through partnerships between R4V partners and online educational platforms in one Caribbean country. Due to the prolonged impact of the pandemic, R4V partners offered **tele-counselling psychosocial support services** to R&M children and their parents. More information can be found in the [Education Sector Background Notes](#).



HEALTH

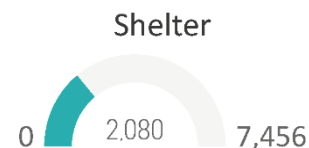
R4V partners continued **promoting access to health services** as a priority across all five sub-regional countries, reaching approximately 26% of the targeted population so far in the first semester of 2021. They maintained **successful telehealth initiatives** in Aruba and Trinidad and Tobago, **secured testing and treatment** of persons with chronic, complex, and life-threatening diseases, and assisted pregnant and lactating women, through cash-based interventions. **Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)** also continued to feature prominently as a priority area of intervention, with some countries focusing their services on survivors of gender-based violence and victims of trafficking. Access to **preventive and primary health assistance** for R&Ms in vulnerable conditions, regardless of their status, was also facilitated. Services included general check-ups, health screening fairs, and psychological assistance in Spanish. In some Caribbean countries, partners purchased medicines for those in need, and facilitated the provision of lab tests and dental services via specialized clinics. Furthermore, partners continued carrying out **sensitization campaigns** on contraception and family planning to address Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH).



Specifically, on the pandemic and other diseases, sub-regional countries **implemented basic disease control measures** to raise awareness on diseases and available services, while advocating for inclusion of R&Ms in **vaccination plans**. Partners provided **language support services** to encourage R&Ms to get tested for COVID-19, and during vaccination campaigns, when they also helped with **registration efforts**. Furthermore, **hotlines remained**

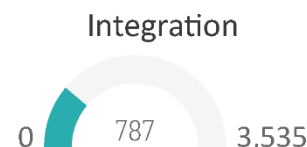
¹ Graphs in the beginning of each sector refer to the response by R4V Partners regarding the following numbers: *People targeted for 2021 vs people reached with assistance from January to June 2021*.

available since 2020 for partners to provide support to R&Ms during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, partners provided **shelter assistance to help people affected by COVID-19 during quarantine** periods. So far, partners reached approximately 28% of the targeted persons for shelter activities. For further information and details on the health sector and related RMRP activities, as well as vaccination plans and COVID-19 cases across the sub-region, please refer to the [Health Background Notes](#).



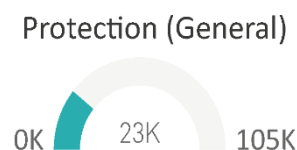
INTEGRATION

In 2021, R4V partners fostered the socioeconomic, language and cultural integration of R&Ms in host countries. They have worked on **promoting livelihoods, access to work, recognition of diplomas, vocational training, language courses**, activities to **reduce xenophobia, promote co-existence and awareness raising**. Aiming at including Venezuelans into the fabric of host societies, R4V partners continue to advocate for the **regularization of R&Ms** and the **development of policies** conducive to their integration. These efforts are complemented by other priority activities, including labour market assessments, skills mapping among the Venezuelan community, dissemination of information on how to sponsor job permits, sensitization on labour rights and against labour exploitation, and ensuring that the response to integration needs is development-oriented with a view towards maintaining stability. A major achievement in this sector for 2021 was the **normalization campaign** in the DR, which received support from R4V partners to establish and operate information centers to help R&Ms register and benefit from this government program. In Curaçao, the government announced a possibility of regularizing certain eligible R&Ms, however, access for Venezuelans is uncertain due to stringent requirements. Finally, in T&T, in the beginning of 2021, Venezuelans registered in the June 2019 exercise were called to re-register to be granted six-month extensions on their stay permits. Further details on all programs and achievements for the Integration sector are available in the [Integration Background Notes](#).



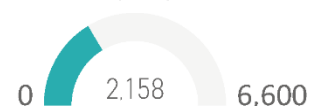
PROTECTION

With the pandemic deteriorating the protection setting in the Caribbean, R4V partners strengthened *inter alia* **registration assistance, the provision of legal advice, case management, psychosocial support, advocacy, and capacity development**, often through remote modalities. Protection interventions covered R&Ms and host community members, and already reached about **22% of the targeted population**. In some countries, R4V partners conducted **refugee status determination and resettlement** of the most vulnerable cases amongst Venezuelans. Capacity building sessions were delivered to partners and collaborating agencies. For example, bilingual trainings (Spanish/English) were delivered on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Combatting food and shelter insecurity amongst the vulnerable Venezuelan population and host communities was prioritized by R4V partners to respond to exacerbated needs owing to COVID-19-induced disruption of livelihoods, and to mitigate protection risks. **Food and WASH kits** were distributed in most countries,



as well as **food assistance through vouchers** from identified suppliers. Food security activities reached **42% of the targeted population** in the first half of 2021.

Multipurpose CBI



According to the R4V Caribbean Situation Report for June 2021, the pandemic had a severe impact in R&Ms, with one partner noting an increase in requests for food support by approximately 648% over April and May. R4V partners also delivered **cash-based interventions (CBI)** to persons in need of **emergency support** to cover basic needs, attaining in total in this area nearly **33% of the targeted population**. To prioritize the distribution of limited CBI funds to the most vulnerable, the recipients earmarked for this benefit were female heads, survivors of GBV, VoTs and women with health needs. In addition, partners provided **shelter assistance** through rental subsidies, CBI, and emergency accommodation for those at risk of eviction and in other vulnerable situations.

On **GBV** specifically, partners provided information, prevention and response services to R&Ms and members of the host community, as well as relevant trainings across the sub-region. Sensitization sessions and support groups also continued, with some health services being delivered through telehealth.

At the beginning of the year, Caribbean R4V Partners launched the [2020 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons \(TIP\)](#) which highlights regional profiles on matters of **human trafficking** and data on several countries related to this issue. Several cases of TiP were identified in the first semester of this year, with partners working to **support victims**, mainly through MHPSS, as well as with **cash-based interventions**. For more information on this topic, refer to [Trafficking in Persons Background Notes](#). More details on the legal frameworks in place for international protection are available in the [Legal Framework Factsheet](#).

Way Forward

The Sub-regional Platform will continue **advocating for the inclusion** of Venezuelan R&Ms in national response plans. This includes promoting access to essential services and assistance, the adoption of **measures to regularize their stay and the suspension of evictions**. Particularly in relation to the pandemic, partners will continue advocating for and supporting national efforts on access to COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination. Moreover, partners will continue to advocate for inclusion of R&Ms in national social protection systems. R4V partners will **prioritize the delivery of life-saving assistance**, such as CBI, food and NFI distribution, medical aid, psycho-social support, shelter emergency assistance and protection interventions. In addition, R4V partners will focus on supporting education actions that are being resumed in the second semester of 2021. **2021 RMRP activities** continue to be monitored, and support will be provided to ensure the smooth running of planned programmes and activities. For the second semester of 2021, partners will also focus on the RMRP 2022 planning process. Needs assessments are being finalized, and next steps include data analysis, building assumptions and projecting targeted populations for next year's response plan.

[R4V Caribbean Website](#) for further information, statistics, and reports
