



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN COUNTRY\*  
**22,000**



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME FORM OF ASSISTANCE\*\*  
**754**



FUNDING SITUATION\*\*\*  
FUNDED: **NOT YET AVAILABLE**  
REQUIREMENT: **13,030,738**

## Situation

- **The number of COVID-19 cases increased throughout the country** from 52 to a total of 82 cases by the end of April 2020; the death toll increased from 2 to 9 persons. Authorities have intensified public health efforts by emphasizing the importance of respecting social distancing, wearing face masks and following good hygiene practices. Additionally, Guyanese airspace and borders remained closed and curfew and partial lockdown measures were extended to 3 May.
- **Restrictive measures led to the closure of many businesses**, prompting a drastic increase in unemployment rates and evictions that negatively affected Venezuelan refugees and migrants as well as the host community. Food shortages were also reported in indigenous villages.
- **Reports indicated an increase in gender-based violence (GBV) incidents affecting Venezuelan women and girls.** Trends of Venezuelan sex workers moving to mining areas in search of livelihood opportunities was noted on the rise.
- **The electoral dispute that followed the 2 March General and Regional Elections continued to impact the country.** On 24 April, the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) approved a 25-day long plan to recount all votes as ordered by the Supreme Court.



PEOPLE REACHED (CURRENT MONTH)



Food Security

754



Integration

12



NFI

720



Protection

490



Shelter

36

## Response

- In April, 1,800 COVID-19 test kits and 14 ventilators were donated to the Guyana Health Ministry through one R4V partner to enhance the Government's capacity to respond to the COVID-19 emergency.
- R4V partners continued to support national communications efforts on COVID-19 prevention and Stay-at-Home measures by translating government messages into Spanish and Warao languages. Informational leaflets were printed and distributed through outreach workers.
- In light of rising food insecurity, R4V partners stepped up food assistance, reaching 754 Venezuelans with food baskets in Regions 1, 4, 7 and 9.
- To improve sanitation conditions and enable respect of hygiene measures, 720 Venezuelans benefitted from the distribution of NFI, which were mainly hygiene products; among the beneficiaries were 223 adult males, 263 female adults and 268 children.



Figure 1: Distribution of food hampers and baby kits to single mothers affected by COVID19 and previously registered with PRIMES.

- Protection activities continued with remote capacity building to develop protocols and referral pathways for 12 local frontline service providers for survivors of GBV. Additionally, 17 at-risk Venezuelans were provided counselling services regarding legal rights and available services remotely.
- During the month, 249 Venezuelan and host community children received

specialised child protection services (prevention and response to violence) in Child Advocacy Centres (CAC) in Regions 1 (Mabaruma) 2 (Essequibo Coast) and 7 (Bartica) through the efforts of one R4V partner. CAC are child friendly one stop locations where children and women can receive psychosocial counselling related to GBV, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse issues. When appropriate, counselling in CAC leads to referral to national institutions and forensic interviews. CAC also disseminated COVID-19 prevention messaging through their bilingual WhatsApp groups and facilitated general questions and clarification requests to government entities such as the Ministry of Public Health, Immigration Department and the Guyana Revenue Authority via phone and text messages.

- With the objective of mitigating eviction risks, emergency shelter support was provided to 36 Venezuelans.



Figure 2: Venezuelan refugees and migrants preparing for the production of cloth masks to be distributed in the community as part of income generating activities, with the support of the Civil Defense Commission. Shelter in Lethem, Region 9.

## Partners by sector

Based on activities reported for the current month.

 FOOD SECURITY	 INTEGRATION	 NFI	 PROTECTION	 SHELTER
IOM, UNHCR	IOM	IOM, UNHCR	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF	IOM, UNHCR