

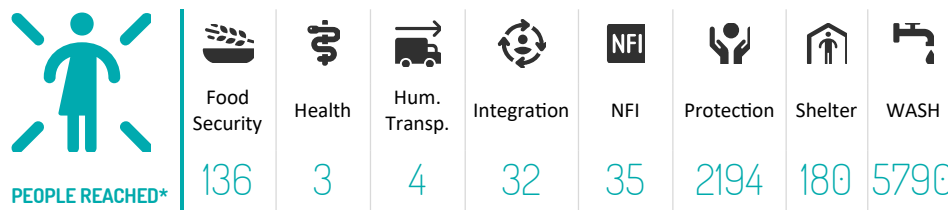


Situation

- During the month of June, Guyana recorded a total number of **248 confirmed cases of COVID-19**, with 12 deaths and 116 recoveries. Eight (8) of the ten (10) administrative regions, including hinterland areas, recorded cases of the virus.
- The **National COVID-19 Task Force (NCTF)** announced a six-phase **re-opening** of Guyana on 17 June. Phases one and two saw the re-opening of some service sectors and government agencies. However, the timelines were delayed due to unexpected increases in COVID-19 cases; emergency measures and the 6.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. curfew remained intact.
- Hinterland, Regions 1, 7 and 9 which borders with Brazil and Venezuela remained closed and mining areas embarked on lockdown. Access to Aranka and Moruca was thus difficult and very limited, affecting partners' ability to provide much needed assistance of **basic emergency necessities**.
- With many businesses still closed, the partial lockdown caused **severe socio economic impacts** on refugees and migrants, with many becoming financially unstable, and unable to cover **basic needs** such as **food, rent, hygiene** items and other essentials. The financial strain has further resulted in Venezuelan refugees and migrants being at risk of eviction. This has also put them at risk of becoming vulnerable to **Human Trafficking and Smuggling (HTS), Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (SEA)**.
- Authorities in Guyana came under international pressure to declare electoral results. More than three months after election day, final results had not been declared.



Refugee Housing Units transformed into medical and quarantine facilities in Moruca



Response

- R4V partners ensured **food assistance** to particularly vulnerable Venezuelan refugees and migrants through the distribution of 136 **food kits** to new beneficiaries. Additionally, 1,737 individuals received **Non-Food Items and WASH support** in the form of hygiene kits, personal care items and female hygiene kits.
- RMRP partners installed six **handwash stations**, three in **Letham, Region 9**, bordering city with Brazil where there are large populations of refugees and migrants, and three in **Region 1**. These were strategically placed in close proximity to a regional public hospital, public areas where sanitation facilities are limited, especially for refugees and migrants, and in areas that experience high levels of mobility.
- One R4V partner joined the efforts of the Ministry of Public Health in preventing the spread of COVID-19 through outreaches to do **health screening** at various points of entry and at schools where students gradually

* Population by end of 2019 | ** From 01/06/2020, total calculated from sectoral maximum | *** Source: FTS Website (fts.unocha.org); Includes paid contributions and committed funds as of June; totals estimated from multi-country contributions.

re-started classes. This partner also translated materials containing relevant information on COVID-19 and preventative measures for dissemination among the refugee and migrant population.

- Furthermore, 260 children including 130 Venezuelan refugee and migrant children in **Regions 1, 2 and 7** received specialised **child protection services** which entailed **prevention and response to violence**, through Child Advocacy Centers supported by R4V partners.
- R4V partners in Guyana focused efforts on providing **support services** which included the distribution of materials on **GBV information**, prevention and response services to 15 Venezuelans. The distribution of condoms to 1,560 sex workers was also undertaken by one RMRP partner in **Regions 1 and 7 of Guyana**, while 11 Peer educators were also **trained on GBV prevention and response in Regions 8, 7 and 1**.
- Partners provided in-person and remote interpretation services to some Venezuelans and government officials on their visits to access to basic rights and services such as medical care, immigration and police services.
- To address the needs for dignified **shelter**, RMRP field staff secured **short term accommodation** solutions including rent subsidies for 180 vulnerable Venezuelan refugees and migrants.
- Under integration, R4V partners assured the opportunity for 32 Venezuelan beneficiaries to get daily work, and other forms of short-term employment to sustain livelihoods and promote self-reliance. Separately, with the aim of supporting the process towards socioeconomic and cultural **integration**, 21 Venezuelans in Guyana participated in two projects centred on the production of face masks and traditional hammocks with the aim of generating income for participants, ultimately











June 2020 Set Up of Hand Wash Stations

strengthening their self-reliance and improving their quality of life. Additionally, one partner teamed up with a local NGO to provide business development training to **12 Venezuelans**, who after successful completion of the course will receive in-kind grants to start their own businesses.

- Finally, with the objective of enhancing the Guyanese Ministry of Public Health’s COVID-19 response, [one R4V partner donated 48 Refugee Housing Units](#) that were assembled and transformed into medical and quarantine facilities in several regions of the country. Health officers and Civil Defence Commission staff were trained to set them up.

Partners by sector

Based on activities reported for the current month.

 FOOD SECURITY	 HEALTH	 NFI	 PROTECTION	 SHELTER	 WASH	 INTERGRATION	 HUM. TRANSP.
IOM, UNHCR	IOM, PAHO/WHO	IOM, UNHCR	HIAS, UNHCR, UNICEF	IOM, UNHCR	UNICEF	UNHCR	IOM

For more information, please contact: Miriam Aertker, Senior Field Coordinator- aertker@unhcr.org | Catalina Acevedo, Caribbean Sub-Regional Platform Coordinator Officer – cacevedo@iom.int

More information available on R4V.info