

CARIBBEAN



REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN
THE SUBREGION*
150,000



PEOPLE REACHED WITH SOME
FORM OF ASSISTANCE**
3595



FUNDING SITUATION***

FUNDED: \$11.34 MILLION

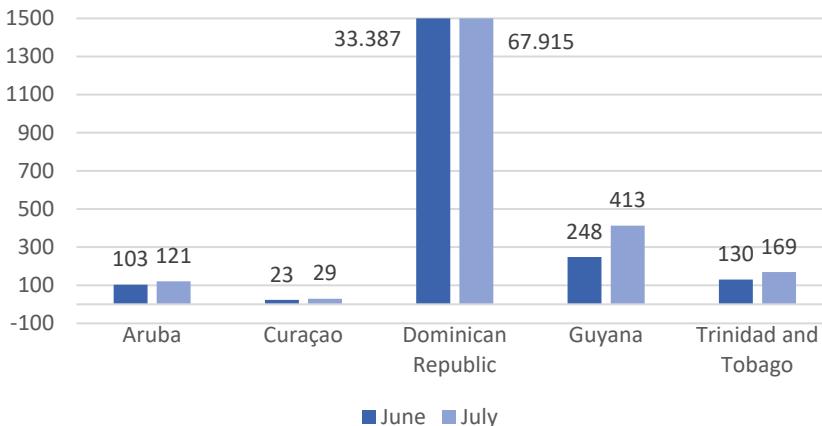
REQUIREMENT: \$ 46.36 MILLION



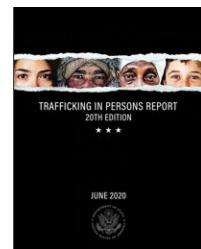
Situation

- In the midst of prolonged impacts of COVID-19 on the Caribbean sub region, and after months of restrictive measures, **Venezuelan refugees and migrants** continued to be disproportionately affected. Many face difficulties in re-engaging in stable income generating activities, and need support to cover basic needs such as shelter and food. Irregular entries in Guyana continued, exposing refugees and migrants to further protection risks. An increasing number of **detentions** were noted in Trinidad and Tobago, where 167 deportations of Venezuelans were reported.
- Although Caribbean countries tried to keep contagions at bay through restrictive measures and physical distancing,** government sources feeding the [COVID-19 live tracking Worldometer](#) indicated all Caribbean sub-regional countries saw increases in COVID-19 positive cases. Aruba had an additional 18 cases, reaching 121 cases. Curaçao had six new cases to reach a total of 29 cases. The Dominican Republic (DR) moved from 33,387 to 67,915 cases, more than twice the number they began with in July. They also reported 413 deaths. Guyana reported 413 cases, an increase of 165 infected, with 7 additional deaths and Trinidad & Tobago (T&T) also had an additional 39 infected in July reaching a total of 169 cases. Despite the rising cases, countries announced **gradual re-opening of non-essential services and easing of some border restrictions to cope with economic pressures.**

Covid-29 evolution in the sub-region



- Aruba** saw a progressive downgrade of restrictive measures; students preparing for the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) resumed in-person classes while reported cases of COVID-19 infected persons with no recent travel history prompted concerns about community spread. Approximately 500 Venezuelans previously registered on the [DIMAS website](#) have not yet been repatriated. The US State Department 2020 report on trafficking downgraded Aruba for a second consecutive year [from "tier 1" to "tier 2" and then from "tier 2" to "tier 2 watch list"](#), despite the government acknowledging the vulnerability of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.
- Curaçao** re-opened borders with the European Union imposing new entry requirements for leisure travel between Curaçao, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. As a result, inbound travel increased in July. Separately, given the economic consequences brought on by the pandemic, the government applied for



US State Department
2020 report on trafficking

* Estimated population by end of 2020 | ** From 01/07/2020, 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.

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a new 'corona loan' from the Government of the Netherlands, which could help the island address the major financial consequences.

- Presidential elections in the **Dominican Republic**, formerly delayed by the pandemic, were held even with rising infections. The proceedings had high voter turn-out, putting an end to the 16 year mandate of the Dominican Liberation Party with the election of the candidate of the Modern Revolutionary Party. The country re-opened to tourists in July, requiring visitors to present a negative COVID-19 test result to have freedom of movement inside the country. The re-opening saw the service and tourism sectors operating at 100% in spite of doubled COVID-19 numbers, to remain competitive in Caribbean tourism.
- Recent COVID-19 outbreaks in Regions 1 and 7 of **Guyana** led the Government to implement further lockdown measures, blocking transit of persons to and from these areas. The lockdown was met with protests from residents in Region 1, the Moruca/Santa Rosa area. As businesses slowly re-opened in other regions, owners seemed to prioritize hiring host community members over Venezuelans. Refugees and migrants continued to enter Guyana irregularly while RMRP partners also continued receiving notifications of persons at risk of evictions.
- After reporting no new cases of COVID-19 since April, Trinidad and Tobago reported new clusters of infection in July. Instances of xenophobia, discrimination and evictions were described to R4V partners and seen in traditional and social media. 30 security officials were arrested, having been implicated in human trafficking activities. The government announced its intention to prosecute individuals facilitating the irregular arrival and stay of refugees and migrants. A CARICOM study on human trafficking conducted by Dr Justine Pierre suggested strong trafficking links between Venezuela and Trinidad with a high local demand for sex and prostitution in Trinidad. Authorities condemned these acts and announced measures such as prosecution of individuals facilitating the irregular arrival and stay of refugees and migrants to further prevent irregular entry into the country while borders remain closed.

Response

- To ensure safe and dignified access to essential goods and services for refugees and migrants from Venezuela during July, R4V partners provided **non food items** (including feminine hygiene and baby kits) to 145 beneficiaries in Guyana and 17 in Trinidad and Tobago.
- As a response to the increasing risks of homelessness for Venezuelans, partners in the Dominican Republic and **Guyana** provided **short-term accommodation** for 315 and 156 Venezuelans respectively.
- **Food assistance** was also provided to over 730 refugees, migrants and members of the host community in Aruba, Guyana the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago.
- In Guyana, a total of 1,484 households received support through the shock responsive cash transfer mechanism provided by the Ministry of Social Protection, with the **financial and technical support of one partner**. The support is based on needs related to access to **food, rent, education** and others. 90% of the recipients were Venezuelan refugees and migrants and the remaining 10% returnee Guyanese. Additionally, partners provided **cash-based interventions (CBI)** to over 780 people in



R4V partners in Trinidad & Tobago assisting persons in need in July

Dominican Republic, Curaçao and Trinidad and Tobago to help them fulfill basic needs.

- Health activities featured prominently in the **Dominican Republic**, where partners provided assistance to cover medical costs, medicines, chemotherapy and **obstetric**

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gynaecological consultations for pregnant women. Additionally, 425 Venezuelans in Curaçao received **primary health care**, and in Guyana, partners carried out nutritional intervention campaigns, providing **7,000** pregnant and lactating women with support, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) guidance and hygienic practices (WASH). In **Trinidad and Tobago**, 176 **consultations on sexual and reproductive health** were delivered for refugees and migrants, 31 Venezuelans received a pro-bono orthopaedic consultation and 17 Venezuelan children had **paediatric health** consultations, many of whom had not seen a doctor since birth.

- With the aim of preventing and responding to protection risks, partners in Aruba provided protection and **psychosocial care for survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV)** and **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)** for 319 Venezuelan refugees and migrants. As part of a **GBV information, prevention, and response campaign**, one partner in Guyana distributed 3,400 condoms to sex workers and partners in Trinidad and Tobago provided counselling to 93 persons, 35 of whom were Venezuelans, incidents related to GBV were also reported. Furthermore, in **Guyana** and the **Dominican Republic**, 238 and 58 Venezuelan children, respectively, received **specialised child protection services** related to **prevention of and response to violence**.

- Partners provided 58 Venezuelans in the Dominican Republic with **specialized legal assistance** to access to

asylum, regularization, and residency/naturalization procedures. Meanwhile, 12 Venezuelan minors benefitted from **legal aid** representation facilitated through child advocacy centres. In Trinidad & Tobago, partners provided legal assistance to 19 detained Venezuelans and 17 were referred to the Legal Aid clinic for matters such as refoulement cases. Advocacy letters were sent to national security authorities, on behalf of 379 persons, including 84 children who were deported in seven incidents from the start of 2020 to the end of July.

- With the objective of achieving socio-economic integration and enhancing social cohesion, **integration** activities resumed in Aruba, including the facilitation of three budget and marketing courses to 34 Venezuelans. Refugees and migrants learnt how to capitalise their own abilities and developed a marketing project and a sales pitch. They created a community business where six of them produce food products while the rest are in charge of the selling and distribution. Thanks to this initiative, they obtained the income to survive



Advertisement of community business selling Venezuelan food



PEOPLE REACHED*



Education

910



Food Security

734



Health

446



Integration

36



NFI

121



Protection

1879



Shelter

471



WASH

490



CBI

2362

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People Reached*

SECTOR	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TOTAL
EDUCATION					910	910
FOOD SECURITY	284		18	37	395	734
HEALTH		425	19	2		446
INTEGRATION	34				2	36
MULTIPURPOSE CBI	152	227	457	1484	42	2362
NFI				104	17	121
PROTECTION	319		58	786	761	1879
SHELTER			315	156		471
WASH				490		490
COVID-19 (CROSS-SECTOR)	284	227	457	62	395	1425

Operational Overview*

	ARUBA	CURAÇAO	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	GUYANA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
PARTNERS	HIAS, IOM, UNHCR	IOM, Salú pa Tur, UNHCR	FUNCOVERD, Globalize Radio, Heartland Alliance, IDDI, IOM, UNHCR	Blossoms Inc, Guyana Sex Workers Coalition, HIAS, IOM, Ministries of Health and Social Protection, UNHCR, UNICEF	FPATT, IOM, Living Water Community, Moruga Poverty Reduction Center, Por Amor a Dios, Rape Crisis Society, Trinidad & Tobago Coast Guard, UNHCR, UNICEF
SECTORS	 	 	 	 	

PARTNERS IN THE RESPONSE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND, UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND, UNICEF NATIONAL COMMITTEE/CANADA, US FUND FOR UNICEF **

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R4V- Response for Venezuela: <https://r4v.info/en/situations/platform>

FINANCIAL TRACKING SYSTEM: [HTTPS://FTS.UNOCHA.ORG.APPEALS/726/SUMMARY](https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/726/SUMMARY)

* Based on activities reported in current month | ** FTS Website: fts.unocha.org