

Situation Report



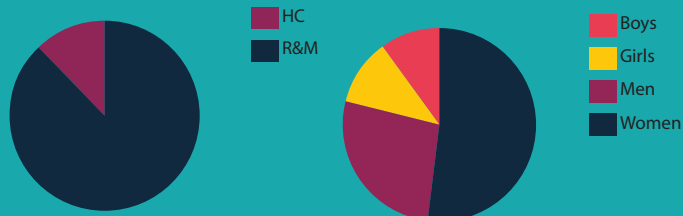
217,130
refugees and migrants from Venezuela in the Caribbean¹



19,583
persons reached with direct assistance³



Funding Situation:
\$962.4K funded of \$72.65M required²



Refugees & Migrants from Venezuela	17,178	Women	10,142	Girls	2,101
Host Communities	2,405	Men	5,309	Boys	2,031

People Reached by Sector



Education
2,972



Protection
13,851



Food Security
2,369



Child Protection
191



Health
1,650



GBV
2,793



Humanitarian Transportation
40



Human Trafficking & Smuggling
452



Integration
729



Shelter
1,323



WASH
2,034



Cash and Voucher Assistance

USD \$29K distributed to 4,883 persons for Food, Integration, Protection, Shelter, and Multipurpose Cash.



Capacity Building

35 persons trained on prevention, mitigation and response to GBV amongst refugees and migrants.
268 persons trained to strengthen the protection environment.



Campaigns

613 persons reached with awareness sessions to prevent GBV against refugees and migrants and affected host communities.

(1) Projected population by end of 2023 (2) Source: FTS. Funding can take some months to update, and does not include funding provided at regional level, so the actual figure may be higher. (3) All assistance figures are cumulative for the year to date.

Situation

- **Aruban** media reported various [boat entries](#) of Venezuelans into the country, marking an increase in irregular [boat arrivals](#) from mid-2023.
- On 8 September, the **Curaçao** Prosecutor's Office (OM CUR) noted a rise in child smuggling, primarily between Venezuela and Curaçao and issued a [warning](#) to all parties, including parents and guardians, to defer from this activity.¹ The Curaçao parliament also [raised concerns regarding human trafficking](#) and the entry of minors to the country via irregular routes.
- In one case in September, a boat carrying Venezuelans (including 5 children) was [intercepted](#) near Curaçao. Parents of the children, already in Curaçao, were detained while seeking reunification due to suspicion of human smuggling. Court proceedings initiated by an R4V partner led to a ruling for children to be reunited with their parents.
- The President of the **Dominican Republic**, who initiated the Venezuelan Normalization Plan, announced plans to run for reelection in 2024 as the Modern Revolutionary Party candidate.
- The call for a consultative [referendum](#) by Venezuela's National Assembly regarding the territorial dispute with **Guyana** escalated political tensions between the two countries. Around [80 Venezuelans that arrived in Guyana were temporarily detained by local authorities](#) due to initial fear that these arrivals were linked to the territorial dispute but were later released. Further, the Ministry of Home Affairs in [Guyana collaborated with the OAS to tackle human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, particularly among Venezuelans](#), aiming to strengthen the anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling capacities of OAS Member States, demonstrating the government's commitment to protecting vulnerable refugees and migrants from exploitation and trafficking.
- The academic year in **Trinidad and Tobago** began on 4 September 2023; however, Venezuelan children registered under the migrant registration framework were not included in schools, despite government announcements on their inclusion in July. Since the announcement, the government indicated that their inclusion into the national education system may possibly occur as of January 2024. In Trinidad and Tobago, the Ministry of National Security announced that the second tranche of approved Minister's [Permits for registered Venezuelan nationals](#) were ready. As of October, 7,000 of the initial 16,000 registered Venezuelans have renewed their permits.

Response

Education

R4V partners played a pivotal role in enhancing education for refugee and migrant children across the sub-region in September and October. In **Curaçao**, one partner's after-school program provided language support in Dutch, Papiamentu, and English, benefitting 65 Venezuelan and 24 host community children with additional academic assistance. In the **Dominican Republic**, four vulnerable Venezuelan families received multipurpose cash transfers from partners to assist with various expenses, including basic services and educational commitments. In **Guyana**, an R4V partner collaborated with the Ministry of Education to deliver education support to refugee and migrant children, investing in resources like blackboards, fans, water dispensers, and ESL books, thereby supporting several schools with supplies and facility improvements. 743 refugees and migrants attended ESL Community-Based classes in Region 1, while 45 children (24 girls and 21 boys) were successfully enrolled in the formal government school system at different levels in Regions 1 and 9. Additionally, in **Trinidad and Tobago**, R4V partners through the Education Working Group continued to carry out advocacy efforts through periodic meetings concerning the Government's commitment to integrate refugees and migrants children into the education system

¹ Smuggled children, ages four to fifteen, frequently travel on vessels that easily capsize, and which sometimes also transports drugs and firearms, posing a tremendous risk to the children.



Food Security

In **Guyana**, partners provided cash voucher assistance for food purchases to 15 households. These vouchers, redeemable at a participating supermarket in Region 4, helped 62 individuals, including 54 Venezuelans, procure essential food items. R4V partners in **Curaçao** provided food vouchers to 34 Venezuelan refugees and migrants in October. **Dominican Republic** partners delivered 1,400 food kits and vouchers to vulnerable refugees and migrants, particularly those without formal work access.



Protection

Through safe spaces for adolescent girls and boys, **Aruba** partners assisted seven Venezuelan adolescents with peer support groups and unstructured activities. In **Curaçao**, partners provided legal orientation and representation to 25 Venezuelan refugees and migrants and 5 host community members. **Dominican Republic** partners supported 15 vulnerable refugee and migrant families with multipurpose cash transfers to assist with basic needs. **Trinidad and Tobago** partners offered capacity-building for officials and protection services to 46 Venezuelans, emphasizing gender-based violence (GBV) prevention. Partners of the Protection Working Group also trained 56 government officials and other key stakeholders on the international protection of refugees and provided legal counselling and representation for detained persons. Additionally, they supported refugees and migrants with birth registration and civil documentation. Trinidad and Tobago partners assisted 1,236 Venezuelans with asylum registrations within two months. In **Guyana**, partners offered specialized protection services, aiding 66 Venezuelans.



GBV

A **Dominican Republic** partner conducted information and sensitization sessions on GBV, reaching 266 Venezuelans and trained 17 individuals in GBV response. In **Guyana**, partners addressed GBV among refugees, migrants, and host community members in Regions 1, 3, 4 and 7. Activities included capacity building for 229 individuals including from CSOs, teachers, police officers, and community leaders. They focused on protecting women, girls, and LGBTQI+ individuals, providing GBV case management services, ensuring the survivor-centered approach is respected. Other activities spanned support planning, legal aid, and emergency support like shelter and necessities for survivors. Additionally, awareness-raising efforts were carried out in Region 7 on prevention of GBV, sexual and reproductive health, and trafficking. The distribution of 227 dignity kits to GBV survivors included health and protection information to raise awareness on hygiene, reproductive health, GBV-related issues, and available services. **Aruban** partners carried out community awareness programs on GBV and positive masculinities and case management services, reaching 16 Venezuelans. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, one partner provided support to Venezuelan GBV survivors using the Advocate Support Model, including mental health and psychosocial support.



Child Protection

In **Guyana**, two households in Region 7 received two months of rental assistance and case management support for critical child protection concerns in September. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, October saw a cybercrime training on "Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse" with participation from various local police units, NGOs, and UN agencies, reaching 27 individuals. To raise awareness about child protection and abuse prevention in local communities, a partner in Trinidad prepared a Child Protection Presentation for dissemination through churches and schools that work with refugee and migrant children.



Health

Partners in **Curaçao** provided primary healthcare to 22 Venezuelans, mental health and psychosocial support, and psychological support to 32 Venezuelans and seven host community members. Partners supported dental care services (reaching 28 Venezuelans in September and 33 in October), provided glasses (5 in September and 18 in October) and post-natal care (5 Venezuelans). In October, one partner provided papillomavirus testing to 115 Venezuelans. In the **Dominican Republic**, partners assisted 8 Venezuelans in September with medical consultations, lab tests, and specialized testing. In October, they supported 11 beneficiaries with high-cost medicines and specialized tests. In **Guyana**, two Venezuelans, a mother and her baby, received emergency medical services financed by partners. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, 73 Venezuelans got assistance in September and 84 in October, including doctor consultations and health screenings. Of the 187 services provided through the partner's static clinic, 75 persons were

given prescriptions and referrals for further procedures, and 23 Venezuelans accessed medical services for the first time. Partners also provided mental health and psychosocial support to refugees and migrants from Venezuela.



Integration

In the **Dominican Republic**, 1,879 Venezuelan refugees and migrants received orientation related to the [Normalization Plan for Venezuelans \(PNV\)](#) in September, utilizing partners' information centres across various provinces.. Meanwhile, socio-economic integration efforts included partners supporting Venezuelan refugees and migrants in entrepreneurship initiatives, including providing bakery equipment to two Venezuelan women to support their economic ventures. Further, the Dominican Republic's R4V Inclusive Cities project's digital platforms, including their [website](#) and social media materials and tools, were disseminated to promote social cohesion and integration of refugees, migrants, and host communities. This focused on older people, adolescents, and LGBTQI+ persons, reached individuals with messages to combat xenophobia and discrimination. A **Curaçao** partner provided information to 61 Venezuelans on services offered by other R4V partners at their Charity Shop/Information Hub.



Shelter

Partners offered rent subsidies in **Curaçao** and the **Dominican Republic**, supporting 3 and 83 Venezuelan refugees and migrants, respectively. **Guyana** partners in September helped 16 Venezuelans with rental assistance, prioritizing assistance based on criteria like unemployment and single parenthood. In October, **Guyana** partners further supported nine Venezuelans with temporary shelter and 25 through multipurpose cash assistance for basic needs, including rent. Also, two partners in Guyana collaborated to assist an additional 136 Venezuelans with rent subsidies across two regions, focusing on vulnerable groups such as survivors of GBV and refugees and migrants with medical issues.



Trafficking in Persons

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the Police Service alongside local NGOs and UN agencies received training on online child sexual exploitation and abuse as a form of human trafficking in October. The workshops focused on providing psychosocial and specialized support for victims of trafficking (VoTs). The sessions focused on the prevention, identification, assistance, protection, and prosecution of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.



WASH

In September, **Guyana** partners distributed WASH kits to 90 Venezuelan refugees and migrants. In October in **Curaçao**, hygiene kits containing shampoo, shower gel, menstrual pads, and tampons were distributed to 65 Venezuelans. These activities were accompanied by promotion of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices, including menstrual hygiene.

Active Partners*

Aruba: HIAS, PADF, *VeneAruba Solidaria*

Curaçao: IOM, PADF, *Human Rights Defence Curaçao, Salú pa Tur Foundation, Venex Curaçao Foundation*

Dominican Republic: UNHCR, UN Habitat, *Fundación de Emigrantes y Refugiados Sin Fronteras Para El Mundo (FERFM), Dominican Institute for Integrated Development, Heartland Alliance International, Venezuelan Emigrant Foundation (FEV)*

Guyana: IOM, HIAS, UNHCR, *Blossoms Inc, Guyana Sex Workers Coalition, Ministry of Education*

Trinidad and Tobago: UNHCR, UNODC, UN Habitat, PADF, *La Casita, Women's Institute for Alternative Development, Family Planning Association, Living Water Community*

* Appealing Partner, Implementing Partner. Based on partners reporting monthly activities to the R4V Platform.

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