

# Guyana

May - June 2023

## Key Figures



Guyana hosts **21,611** Venezuelan refugees and migrants and **190** refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities.



Nearly **370** forcibly displaced Venezuelans participated in UNHCR's interventions on gender - based violence (GBV) prevention and gender equality promotion.



**228** people received information and awareness sessions on international protection, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and GBV prevention.

## Context

The Parliament approved a new Trafficking in Persons (TiP) Bill, previously introduced by the Minister of Human Services and Social Security. The bill replaces a 2005 Act and focuses on combating TiP following international best practices.

A fire broke out at the female dormitory in Mahdia Secondary School in Region 8, a mining community near Brazil's border. The fire killed 19 children and adolescents, primarily indigenous girls aged 12 to 18 from remote villages.

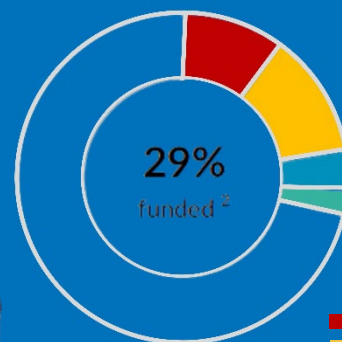
Guyana was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2024-2025 with 191 votes.

In June, UNHCR hosted an event observing World Refugee Day (WRD) with the participation of some 100 people. During the event, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance reinforced Guyana's commitment to safeguard the rights of displaced populations and ensure their protection.

As part of WRD, UNHCR launched a poetry contest for children of all nationalities, with the theme "Hope away from home, a world where refugees are included". Winners received prizes and read their **poems** at UNHCR's main event.

## Regional funding Overview

as of 27 April 2023



- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

**\$55.4 million**  
UNHCR's financial requirements 2023

<sup>1</sup> Financial requirement for the Panama MCO in 2023 including requirements for the operations and activities in Aruba, Belize, Cuba, Curaçao, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

<sup>2</sup> The percentage funded is indicative.

## UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR works with partners in Guyana and supports the State in providing assistance and protection services to refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, and host communities. UNHCR coordinates with other response partners to provide access to education, food security, health, integration, protection, shelter, WASH, and cash assistance. See the R4V Subregional portal for more information.



**Protection** | UNHCR provided information on access to protection services, including documentation and rights, to 485 forcibly displaced Venezuelans (161 women, 95 men, 116 girls, 113 boys). In addition, UNHCR accompanied 68 people (37 women, 10 men, 14 boys, and 7 girls) to protection and documentation services. UNHCR, through Blossom Inc., has provided case management services to 78 children and their caregivers. It provided Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to 41 girls and boys survivors of child abuse and in need of mental healthcare support.



**Gender-based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response** | UNHCR and the Guyana Sex Work Coalition (GSWC) conducted awareness sessions on HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights among 45 women who engaged in survival sex. UNHCR, with HIAS, provided case management services to 42 survivors of GBV and assisted eight individuals with MHPSS.



**Cash-based Interventions and Assistance** | UNHCR and HIAS distributed multi-purpose cash assistance to over 51 forcibly displaced Venezuelans, reaching 12 households.



**Education** | In partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNHCR supported access to education and the integration of 722 children in schools – in regions 1, 2, 3, and 7 – through English as Second Language (ESL) classes. UNHCR held community-based ESL classes for 137 out-of-school children and 88 adults in indigenous communities in Region 1.



### COMMUNITY FAIR CONMEMORATING THE WORLD REFUGEE DAY (WRD)

UNHCR hosted a community fair with the participation of over 80 people, including forcibly displaced Venezuelans and members of their host community. People participated in cultural performances, traditional games, sports competitions, and painting activities. UNHCR also provided participants information on international protection and the Agency's mandate.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the United States of America, the European Union, Guyana, and the UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. We also thank the fundamental support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Belgium | Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | private donors in Australia, Japan the Republic of Korea, and Spain.

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# UNHCR's presence in Guyana

