

# Guyana

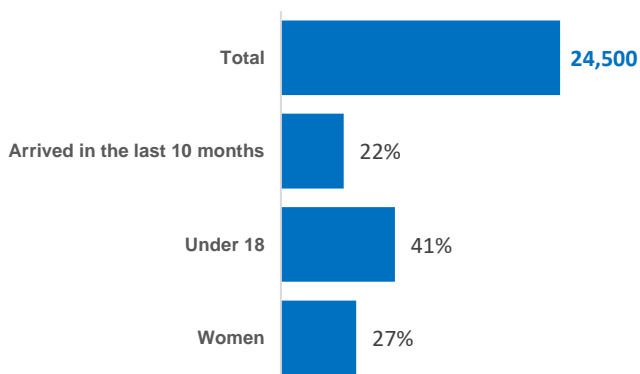
September – October 2021

Guyana hosts an estimated **24,500** Venezuelan refugees and migrants as of October 2021.

Guyana continues to receive Venezuelan refugees and migrants, who often travel across irregular areas to reach safety as land borders remain closed.

Venezuelans are issued with a Government stay permit upon arrival, which is valid for three months and requires periodic renewal.

## Population of concern\*

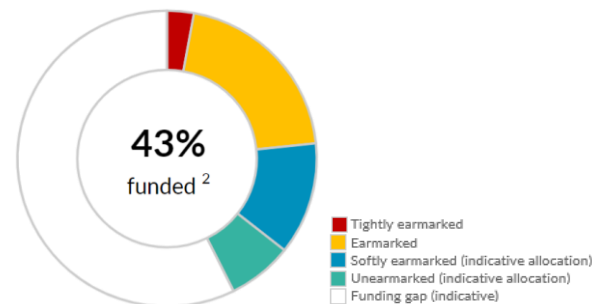


\* As per UNHCR internal estimates

## FUNDING (AS OF 9 NOVEMBER 2021)

**US\$ 48.7 M**

requested for the Panama Multi-Country Office for 2021<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The financial requirements for the Panama MCO include requirements for the Coronavirus Emergency and the Venezuela Situation. Guyana is part of the Panama Multi-Country Office in 2021, along with Aruba, Curaçao, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Cuba, Panama, Nicaragua, and Belize.

<sup>2</sup> The percentage funded includes indicative allocations of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

## CONTEXT

Between September and October, UNHCR observed the arrival of an average of 150 individuals per month at the monitored border entry points in Regions 1 and 2, including Venezuelan indigenous Waraos.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to burden the healthcare system and seriously hinder access to livelihoods and employment for refugees, asylum-seekers, and local communities. Between September and October, UNHCR delivered aid, including food kits and sanitary items, and provided interpretation support to facilitate access to Government services.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) continues to be a major concern, particularly for Venezuelan refugees and migrants who have been victims of trafficking and/or engage in survival sex.

UNHCR continues to support the Government of Guyana in the delivery of assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers (including women, children and survivors of GBV) and to local communities, while working in coordination with partners under the [R4V Inter Agency Response Platform](#).

## UNHCR opens protection center for boys and girls in remote areas of Guyana



UNHCR, Blossom Inc., the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, the Agency for Children and Protection, and the Regional Democratic Council of Region 1, inaugurated an [Advocacy Centre for Children](#) in Port Kaituma, to help children and their guardians access prevention, response, and reporting services for incidents of physical and sexual abuse, as well as MHPSS services in different languages for all children, including refugees and nationals. This is the first of its kind in Port Kaituma.

## UNHCR Response and Strategy

UNHCR works with 4 partners in Guyana, and supports the State in the delivery of assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers. UNHCR also works in coordination with other partners under the R4V Platform to provide responses on education, food security, health, integration, protection, shelter, WASH, cash assistance among others. See the [R4V Subregional portal](#) for more information.

## Main Activities

Alongside the government, partner organizations, civil society, faith-based organizations, development actors and UN Agencies, UNHCR undertakes protection and solutions activities, including:

### Gender-based Violence

UNHCR through our partner HIAS delivered multipurpose cash and material support (including shelter, interregional transportation, and medical tests such as EEG and CT scans) to over 220 persons. HIAS reached 414 persons with community-based GBV prevention messaging in remote and difficult to access mining communities in region 7. An additional 183 persons received information on rights, services, and referral pathways, 35 men and boys were trained as active agents in GBV prevention and gender equality, and approximately 20 women participated in workshops on menstrual hygiene, and sexual and reproductive health (SRH).

### Child Protection

UNHCR through our partner Blossom Inc. conducted 23 forensic interviews with Guyanese children who survived sexual abuse, provided case management services to 11 Venezuelan children, and supported 17 GBV survivors with trauma focused therapy. GBV Awareness Outreach sessions were conducted with 270 people, including refugees and host community members, and 138 teachers, local authorities, and host community leaders were trained to carry out identification, sensitization, referral for prevention, and response to GBV and other forms of child abuse.

### Documentation

In coordination with the Immigration Department of Guyana, UNHCR also facilitated issuance and renewal of stay permit documentation for over 300 individuals during a joint medical outreach in Region 1, together with the First Lady of Guyana Office, the US Embassy, the Central Islamic Organization of Guyana, IOM, and other key actors.

### Hygiene and Sanitation

In September and October 2021, UNHCR delivered **239 hygiene and sanitation kits** to vulnerable persons as part of the COVID-19 response, including disinfection liquid, soap, hand sanitizer, tooth paste and brush, shampoo, and sanitary napkins, as well as information pamphlets on best practices to mitigate the spread of the virus.

### Food & Cash Assistance

Between September and October 2021, UNHCR has provided food items to **208 individuals**, and delivered multipurpose cash to **42 extremely vulnerable people**.

### Health

UNHCR donated **200 mosquito nets** to the Central Islamic Organization of Guyana as part of a public health outreach and provided **technical support** to the Ministry of Health/National AIDS Programme Secretariat for the roll-out of the periodic Biological Behavioral Surveillance Survey (BBSS).

### Education

UNHCR resumed its English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in remote areas for up to **300 children** in Region 1, Mabaruma. UNHCR's educational support mechanisms also provide guidance to parents on enrolling children into schools, help persons access services, and foster social cohesion through outreach and dialogue.

### Livelihoods

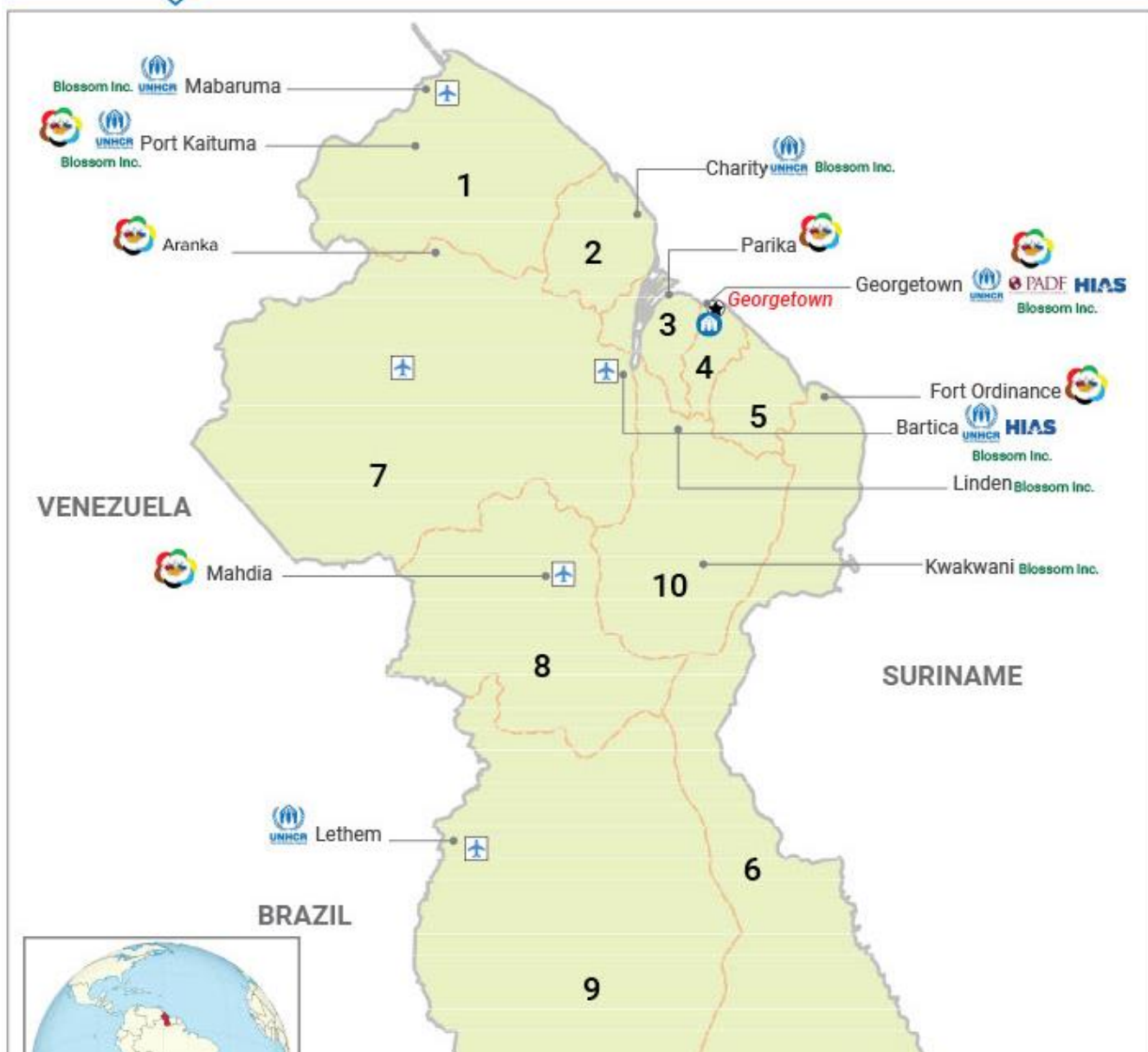
UNHCR resumed its quick impact livelihoods project for the production of traditional woven hammocks (also known as *chinchorros*) with 20 Venezuelan Warao women, who were provided with nylon and rope. UNHCR will buy the *chinchorros* back for distribution to vulnerable individuals.

**Thanks to donors:** The UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, the European Union, and the UN Programme On HIV/AIDS as well as to the following donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Denmark | Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Holy See | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | Turkey | United Kingdom | United States of America | Uruguay | Private donors, including Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, and Sweden

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