

Aruba Fact Sheet

February 2024



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

Introduction

With a population of just over 110,000, Aruba hosts an estimated 17,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants, among other people affected by displacement. Limited assistance is provided to displaced people in Aruba, particularly in terms of legal recognition of their status. In response to this, HIAS has designed programs that aim to foster inclusion and integration. HIAS serves vulnerable groups, including single women, women-headed households, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), older people, people with disabilities and serious medical conditions, and LGBTQ+ people.

In the Caribbean

The Caribbean region has historically experienced significant mixed migratory flows. In recent years, thousands of people have arrived to Caribbean island states and overseas territories seeking safety and opportunities. In this context, HIAS has designed a flexible remote program that seeks to empower asylum seekers and refugees by providing individual psychosocial support, economic inclusion activities, and the provision of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to allow recipients to access basic services.

HIAS Programs and Focus

In Aruba, HIAS assesses and responds to the needs of vulnerable people affected by displacement by empowering them to manage potential risks and to live in dignity and safety. HIAS Aruba promotes local integration by providing and increasing access to basic services and rights.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response

Our GBV services are driven by the needs and the voices of survivors. HIAS' GBV programming helps forcibly displaced women, girls, and LGBTQ+ individuals pursue their future goals free from violence and gender-based discrimination. HIAS Aruba's GBV prevention and response program provides case management services, CVA, and mental health support groups. HIAS also provides capacity building to front line responders and government authorities on a variety of topics related to gender and the management of GBV. HIAS is working closely with key government departments to promote the integration and protection of refugee and migrant GBV survivors.



HIAS Aruba celebrates World Refugee Day. (HIAS)



GBV Response

Our GBV programming helps forcibly displaced women, girls, and LGBTQ+ individuals access their rights.



CB-MHPSS Support

HIAS Aruba offers community-based mental health and psychosocial support through group and individual sessions.



Economic Inclusion

Our programs give people the chance to enhance their self-reliance and build independent and meaningful futures.

Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (CB-MHPSS)

Our mental health programs empower key community members to recognize acute emotional distress in children and adults and provide people with tools to respond with empathy and respect. HIAS Aruba offers community and peer support groups and provides clients access to appropriate mental health and psychosocial care through community referral mechanisms. HIAS also provides capacity building to community leaders, local non-profits, and international organizations on psychological first aid and other psychosocial competencies for individuals in distress.

Economic Inclusion

Access to dignified, sustainable, and safe livelihoods is at the core of our economic inclusion interventions in Aruba. Our programs give people the chance to enhance their self-reliance, increase resilience, regain dignity, and build independent and meaningful futures. HIAS Aruba's Economic Inclusion Program helps people learn hard and soft skills to access sustainable, dignified jobs and to integrate into their communities. HIAS Aruba also offers English and Papiamentu language courses as well as academic and vocational courses. HIAS works together with a network of volunteers, key government departments, and private sector organizations to promote integration and resilience through education programs.

HIAS in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

HIAS advocates for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, other displaced populations, and local host communities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. As part of a comprehensive regional response to meet the urgent needs of these populations, HIAS co-leads and participates in several coordination platforms and partnerships with a focus on protection, socioeconomic integration, MHPSS, food security, GBV, and CVA.

HIAS currently has programs in 11 countries in LAC (Aruba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela) and partners with a wide range of government agencies, UN entities (UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, UNV/VVT), the private sector (Airbnb, TATA Consultancy Services, and Manpower), and other NGOs and consortia, including Save the Children, Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council and World Vision.

Contact

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