

Guyana Fact Sheet

February 1, 2024



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

Introduction

Around 29,000 Venezuelans currently live in Guyana. Although the overall migrant population remains small, the challenges are significant – 75% of Venezuelans in Guyana are working in the informal economy and are concentrated in sectors with low pay and challenging working conditions.

There is also a large population of Guyanese returnees from Venezuela, as well as Warao indigenous communities seeking international protection.

HIAS Guyana focuses on helping these groups, particularly single women, women-headed households, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), survivors of torture, older people, people with disabilities and serious medical conditions, and LGBTQ refugees.

HIAS Programs and Focus

HIAS protects and supports refugees to build new lives and reunite with family members in safety and freedom. In Guyana, HIAS provides a comprehensive response to the challenges faced by refugees and migrants through interventions for GBV prevention and response, community-based mental health and psychosocial support, humanitarian assistance, integration support, and emergency response.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response

HIAS promotes participant-centered and evidence-based protection interventions for refugees, migrants, and other people of concern, including host community members. HIAS' comprehensive response helps to reduce the risk of GBV and trafficking. It also ensures

GBV survivors can access quality response services. Programs include providing practical information on GBV and anti-trafficking, hosting group orientation sessions for women at risk, and providing CVA to survivors.

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

HIAS' mental health programs train community members to recognize acute emotional distress in children and adults as a result of crisis and to respond with empathy and respect. HIAS Guyana supports refugees and migrants' well-being by implementing culturally appropriate support programs.



HIAS client Alejandra Ortega meets with a HIAS staff member in Georgetown, Guyana, on June 12, 2023. (Fidal Bassier for HIAS)



GBV Response

Our GBV programming helps reduce the risk of trafficking and violence while ensuring GBV survivors can access quality response services.



CB-MHPSS Support

Our programs train community members to recognize acute emotional distress in children and adults, and to respond with empathy and respect.

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 cash and voucher assistance.

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/FVT), 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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