

Call for Expression of Interest

Strengthening of access to non-specialized and specialized MHPSS for undocumented GBV survivors and women at risk, and children in need of protection

1 Timeline

Posted	May 27, 2021
Clarification Request Deadline	Jun 14, 2021
Application Deadline	Jun 16, 2021
Notification of Results	Jul 16, 2021
Start Date	Aug 15, 2021
End Date	Dec 31, 2021

2 Locations

- A Curacao
 - a Curaçao

3 Sector(s) and area(s) of specialization

- A Protection
 - a Prevention of and response to crime/violence, including SGBV

4 Issuing Agency

UNHCR

5 Project Background

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is a multilateral, inter-governmental institution, established by the United Nations General Assembly as its subsidiary organ in 1949.¹ UNHCR Multi-Country Office in Panama, oversees the operation in the Southern Caribbean. UNHCR and its non-governmental partners aim to ensure protection for asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants in particular by providing support for counseling, legal aid, and humanitarian assistance. UNHCR has a small presence in Aruba since late 2018. The office in Aruba covers its operations and interventions in Curaçao. Venezuela continues to experience a significant outflow of Venezuelans to neighboring countries, other countries in the region, and countries further afield. While individual circumstances and reasons for these movements vary, international protection considerations have become apparent for a very significant proportion of Venezuelans in Curaçao. It is estimated that as of the end of 2020, some 17,000 Venezuelans are residing in Curaçao. Protection environment Refugees and migrants from Venezuela living in Curaçao are primarily undocumented. The lack of regular status has ripple effects on all aspects of their daily life, having no access to services, including to the national healthcare system and social security. It prevents them from enjoying their rights and integrating in the island, and from contributing (via taxes and employment). The difficulties to regularize their stay, also leads to exploitative forms of employment, abuse and rights violations, for which Venezuelans are reluctant to go to the authorities to lodge complaints due to the fear of being detained or deported. These are, in brief, the main concerns

expressed by refugees and migrants from Venezuela during the Response for Venezuelans' (R4V) participatory assessment conducted in March 2020 in Willemstad, Curaçao. Gender-Based Violence and child protection Gender-Based Violence (GBV) remains a particular concern in Curaçao. Some undocumented women engage in unequal relationships with local men causing financial dependency and/or undue expectations to regularize their status. Partners reported that some of these women face mental health issues. Meanwhile, organizations in Curaçao have reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a rise of intimate partner violence as well as child abuse and neglect in the domestic sphere. Prevailing social norms with regards to gender roles and perceptions towards Venezuelans, has led to incidents of intimidation and sexual harassment, to which women, girls, and LGBTI persons are most vulnerable. Female Venezuelan women reported experiencing abuse at work or in the street, including GBV incidents. Girls aged 10 to 15 expressed fear of sexual harassment in the public space and indicated having received indecent proposals by local men. GBV incidents go largely unreported as survivors prefer keeping it to themselves or seeking help with family or close friends. Specific vulnerabilities also exist among persons presumed to have been trafficked and/or engaged in sex work, including women, girls and LGBTI persons. Venezuelan and local sex workers are at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and ostracism from communities. Moreover, men and boys who are grappling with poverty and economic exploitation, are vulnerable to sexual violence and exploitation, although limited needs assessment data on this is available in Curaçao. Besides child abuse and neglect in the domestic sphere, partners in Curaçao reported that undocumented children face mental health issues, including behavioral disorders related to challenges in adapting to their new socio-economic environment. This could be particularly challenging when children live in overcrowded accommodation and are being bullied at school. Venezuelan children emphasized feelings of social isolation, which they attributed to the language barriers. They reported deportation and detention as one of their major concerns, as they worry their parents will be detained and deported. Out of fear of detention and deportation and in order to avoid exposure to authorities, their parents sometimes do not let them go out and spend time outside. Key gaps in GBV prevention and response mechanisms as well as child protection services remain, and are heightened for undocumented GBV survivors, who cannot access public services, including particularly psychosocial services. In the absence of national protocols, structured referral pathways and coordinated service provision are lacking, and GBV case management services are provided in an ad hoc manner. Furthermore, most survivors avoid making official police reports for fear of detention or deportation, and due to a lack of trust in the legal and justice systems.

6 **Expected Results**

Objective and expected outcome: Access to non-specialized and specialized MHPSS for undocumented GBV survivors, women at risk, and children in need of protection, is improved At minimum the following activities should be included: 1. Provision of comprehensive GBV case management services, including through home visits, family/parenting support and child protection support if needed, by a full-time social worker 2. Leadership in inter-agency GBV case management coordination by the social worker, including the active strengthening of referral mechanisms as well as capacity building of operational partners in safe and dignified referrals 3. Facilitation of structured support group sessions for GBV survivors and women at high risk, by the social worker and with support of a community-based outreach staff. Other activities that could be partially funded through this Call for Expression of Interest include: 4. Facilitate community-based mental health initiatives, for example through activities in community/neighbourhood centres, awareness raising/communication with communities, needs assessment, workshops, and skills trainings 5. Provision of specialized MHPSS services to undocumented GBV survivors, women at risk and/or children, through individual consultations by specialized personnel such as a psychologist, psychiatrist, or pedagogic expert. Amidst COVID-19 restrictions, services are anticipated to provided both in-person as well as remotely.

7 **Indicative Budget**

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8 **Other Information**

UNHCR Multi-Country Office Panama invites all potential local, regional or international non-profit organizations, to apply for this Call for Expression of Interest. Potential partners are requested to apply by submitting the following documents through the Partner Portal <https://www.unpartnerportal.org/>: ✓ Annex A Partner Declaration (to be duly filled and signed by those who are not yet registered as partner with UNHCR at the Partner Portal). ✓ Annex D Concept Note in English clearly outlining the proposed interventions and responding to the selection criteria listed in the section

above. The length of the Concept Note should not exceed 5 pages. The partners unable to register in the Partner Portal can send their submission package by email to: panpaipm@unhcr.org, indicating “CFEI MHPSS Curaçao” in the subject line. Please note: the late submissions or those sent to another email address will not be accepted.

9 Selection Criteria

Name	Description	Weight
Sector expertise and experience	The partner describes their approach to the implementation of the activities 1, 2 and 3 (see above), and the added value they bring to the project – 20%; the partner demonstrates their ability to implement the activities 4 and 5 (see above) – 10%.	30
Project management	The partner describes their project management and coordination mechanisms and capacity – 10%, the partner describes their financial management mechanisms and capacity – 10%, the partner states their experience implementing other projects of similar scope, or donor funds – 5%.	25
Local experience and presence	Local registration, presence, and current activities in the location (10%); inclusion of refugees and migrants into existing programmes or current engagement with these populations (5%); community engagement and relationships with refugees and migrants, other organizations, and key institutions	20
Contribution of resource	The partner should list the resources they plan to contribute to the project (5%) and be able to clearly articulate the resources requested from UNHCR (5%) to achieve the maximum score of 10% for this criterion.	10
Cost effectiveness	Level of direct costs and administrative costs imposed on the Project in relation to project deliverables. The partner should include the estimated budget for the interventions proposed, as well as the estimated direct and administrative costs in the concept note for UNHCR to be able to evaluate the cost effectiveness of the proposed interventions, for a maximum score of 15% for this criterion.	15

10 Attachments

Description	URL
Concept Note	Download the document here
Partner Declaration	Download the document here

11 Concept Note Template

[Download the document here](#)

12 For more information on this partnership opportunity, and to apply, please visit

[UN Partner Portal](#)