

# Trinidad & Tobago

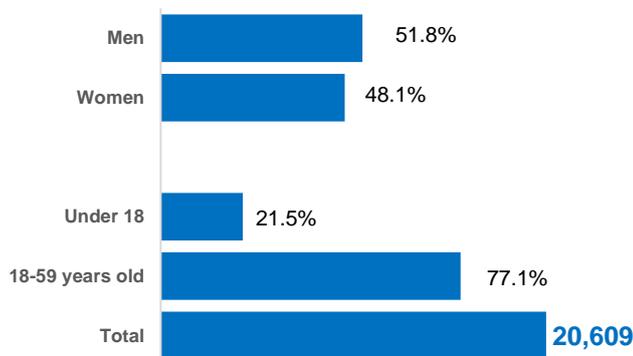
June 2021

Over **20,600** refugees and asylum-seekers are currently registered with UNHCR, the vast majority of whom are of an employable age.

In Trinidad and Tobago UNHCR's registered population of concern originate from 40 different countries. **86%** are Venezuelan and **7%** Cuban.

Over **5,000** displaced persons in T&T have received humanitarian assistance from UNHCR and partners in 2021 thus far, through multipurpose cash or emergency food relief.

## Population of concern\*



\* Figures are as at June 30 2021. Registration at UNCHR premises had been temporarily suspended from 13 March to 26 May 2020, due to COVID 19. 3,402 individual records were inactivated in April 2020 due to registration documentation being expired for more than six months. A further 1,534 individual records were inactivated in December 2020.

## CONTEXT

A State of Emergency remained in effect for Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) with intensified restrictions remaining in place for the entire month of June. Joblessness due to pandemic restrictions, worsened, leaving many locals, refugees and asylum-seekers struggling to access food and pay rent.

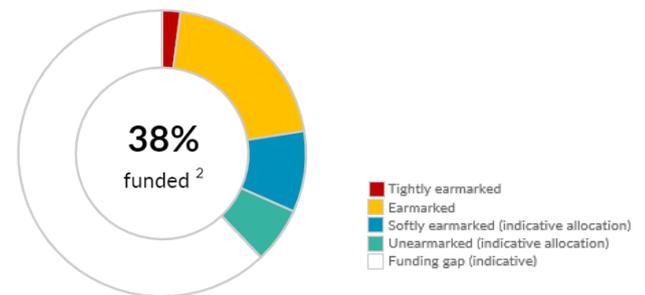
Combatting **food insecurity** among displaced persons became a top priority in June and emergency food relief efforts were scaled up to respond to the rising demand. Reports of gender-based violence incidents, as well as anxiety and depression among the population also increased.

UNHCR continued to work with the government and in coordination with other agencies to provide needed assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in T&T. Displaced persons were also provided with support to manage anxiety and foster resilience in the face of very challenging circumstances.

## FUNDING (AS OF 2 JULY 2021)

**US\$ 48.7 M**

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



1 The financial requirements for Panama MCO include requirements for the operation's regular programme, Coronavirus Emergency, North of Central America Situation and the Venezuela Situation. Trinidad and Tobago is part of the Panama Multi-Country Office along with Aruba, Belize, Cuba, Curaçao, Guyana, Nicaragua and Panama  
2 The percentage funded (38%) and total funding amount (\$18,469,804) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$30,208,713 representing 62% of the financial requirements.

## UNHCR COMMEMORATES WORLD REFUGEE DAY



UNHCR T&T celebrated World Refugee Day virtually, contributing a refreshing **musical collaboration** featuring musicians from T&T and Venezuela. UNHCR also partnered with the **trinidad+tobago film festival** to present online film screenings, exploring the lived experience of refugees and asylum seekers in T&T and Central America. The event was also widely commemorated in local media in a variety of articles, including one which **reported** on the experiences of a Syrian refugee in T&T, an **article** highlighting the economic benefits of integration, and also a profile **feature** of UNHCR T&T Head of National Office, who assumed the position on June 1.

## UNHCR Response and Strategy

UNHCR works with three partners in Trinidad and Tobago and supports the State in the delivery of assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers.

### Main Activities

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



#### Emergency food assistance

Through partner [Living Water Community \(LWC\)](#), UNHCR provided emergency food assistance to **2,488** of the most vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees in June, via [QR code vouchers](#) that are redeemable at participating supermarkets nationwide. Overwhelming demand for emergency food assistance was also recorded in June as economic shutdowns continued. With assistance from UNHCR, LWC scaled up capacity of this programme to respond to overwhelming demand, successfully clearing application backlogs using an automated pre-screening tool to assist with prioritization of the most critical cases. For 2021 thus far, **4,928 individuals** have received this emergency support.



#### Cash-based interventions (CBI)

In June, **13 individuals** facing protection risks with very limited or no ability to achieve self-reliance, were assisted with multipurpose cash grants, bringing the total number of persons receiving this assistance to **104 individuals** thus far for 2021. Of the applications received for cash assistance this month, 100% were unemployed and facing risk of eviction, with 67% being survivors of gender-based violence and 33% living with a chronic or critical illness.



#### Access to medical services

Medical assistance continues to be delivered by UNHCR partner [Family Planning Association \(FPATT\)](#) via telehealth and static clinic locations. Through a hotline dedicated to refugees and asylum-seekers, FPATT prioritized medical emergencies for in-person consultations. In June, FPATT conducted **165 consultations** on sexual and reproductive health and **five pediatric consultations**. For 2021 thus far, FPATT has facilitated **41 pediatric consultations** and **921 consultations** on sexual and reproductive health for refugees and asylum-seekers.



#### Mental health and psychosocial services

Psychosocial support was provided through partner [Rape Crisis Society \(RCS\)](#), who facilitated **84 counselling sessions** for 60 refugees and asylum seekers in June. RCS has delivered **357 counselling sessions** for vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in 2021 thus far.



#### Access to education and training opportunities

In June, around 1,050 refugees and asylum-seekers were able to access remote education services through [Equal Place](#). With reduced economic activity leading to widespread job loss, prioritizing education and connectivity to support learning remained challenging for many families struggling to meet their basic needs. UNHCR is consulting with partners to offer further support.



#### Capacity development and training

UNHCR offered a Media Training Masterclass facilitated by MCO Panama on June 10 and 11. Nine Caribbean media practitioners benefited from this training.

**Thanks to donors in 2021:** The UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the United States of America, the European Union, the United Kingdom and France, as well as to the following donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Algeria | Armenia | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | United Kingdom | Private donors

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Find more information about UNHCR [here](#) and click [here](#) for more on the work of the UNHCR T&T Operation. Follow us on [Facebook!](#)