

# Trinidad & Tobago

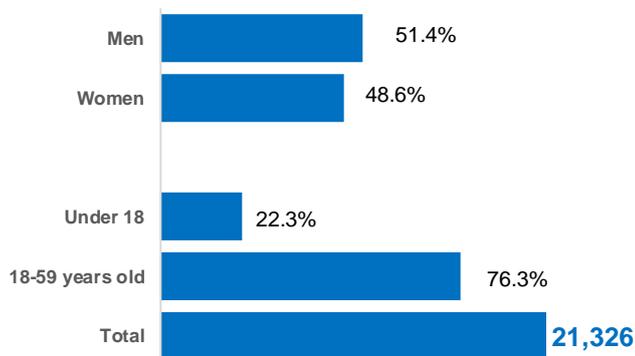
September 2021

Over **21,000** refugees and asylum-seekers are currently registered with UNHCR, the most of whom are of an employable age.

In Trinidad and Tobago UNHCR's registered people of concern are from 40 different countries, **86%** of whom are Venezuelan and **6%** Cuban.

UNHCR continues to work with law enforcement and judicial officers in Trinidad and Tobago to build and strengthen capacity in international protection.

## Population of concern\*



\* Figures are as of 30 September 2021. Registration at UNHCR 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 curfew restrictions eased from 27 September. COVID-19 vaccination drives continue and include refugees and migrants.

Reports of attempts at irregular entry into the country by sea continued, with groups including children being intercepted and detained on arrival at shore.

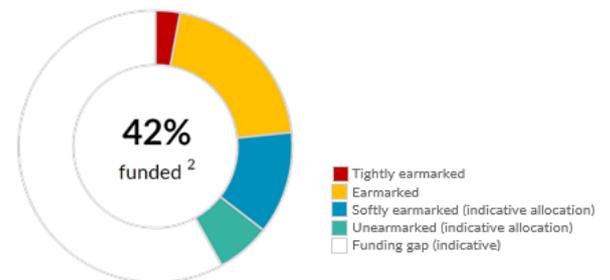
Persons continued to approach UNHCR and partners in September to seek asylum and assistance. Asylum-seekers receiving case management presented heightened vulnerabilities, including persons with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence, and unaccompanied children.

UNHCR continues to work with the government and o agencies to provide needed support, assistance protection to forcibly displaced persons in T&T.

## FUNDING (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 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, Suriname and Panama  
2 The percentage funded (42%) and total funding amount (\$20,413,466) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$28,265,051 representing 58% of the financial requirements.

## DISTRIBUTION OF CORE RELIEF ITEMS



UNHCR distributed over 11,000 core relief items to civil society organisations and government agencies in Trinidad and Tobago. In total, 24 organisations received blankets, solar lanterns, and mosquito nets for further delivery to vulnerable populations across Trinidad and Tobago.

## UNHCR RELEASES GLOBAL EDUCATION REPORT

UNHCR released its *Global Education Report* on 7 September 2021, calling for an enhanced international effort to guarantee education for refugee children and youth, as global levels of school and university enrolment remain critically low. The report included a case study of a teenaged Venezuelan asylum-seeker in T&T, who is currently enrolled in the *Equal Place* programme.



## 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

In September, UNHCR through partner [Living Water Community](#) (LWC) provided emergency food assistance to 669 of the most vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees via [QR code vouchers](#) redeemable at participating supermarkets nationwide. Thus far in 2021, 7,770 **individuals** have received this emergency support.



#### Cash-based interventions (CBI)

In September, **42 individuals** with very limited or no ability to achieve self-reliance and facing protection risks were assisted with unrestricted cash, bringing the total number up to **185 people** through 2021. In September, 56% of applicants for cash assistance were unemployed, 69% were unable to pay rent, and 56% were either evicted or facing substantial risk of eviction. 19% of applicants were also living with chronic/critical illnesses.



#### Access to medical services

Medical assistance continues to be delivered through partner [Family Planning Association](#) (FPATT) via telehealth and at clinic locations. In September, FPATT conducted **187 consultations** on sexual and reproductive health and **7 pediatric consultations**, with 47% of beneficiaries receiving health services from FPATT for the first time. Thus far in 2021, FPATT has provided **72 pediatric** and **1,432** sexual and reproductive health **consultations** for refugees and asylum-seekers.



#### Mental health and psychosocial services

Psychosocial support was provided through partner [Rape Crisis Society](#) (RCS), who provided **61 counselling sessions** for 39 refugees and asylum-seekers in September. RCS has delivered **579 counselling sessions** for vulnerable displaced persons so far in 2021.



#### Access to education and training opportunities

Over 1,400 students have been enrolled in the [Equal Place \(EP\) programme](#), **943** of whom consistently accessed the remote education services in September. **Fourteen** EP students were among over 100 students worldwide to graduate from the DAWERE programme after successfully completing all coursework and assessments. The graduating students will receive a US-based high-school diploma to certify completion of secondary studies.



#### Capacity development and training

In September, UNHCR conducted two virtual workshops with the [Police Academy](#) in Port of Spain for approximately 100 local and regional law enforcement officers. Moreover, UNHCR delivered a lecture on the organization's mandate and the refugee situation in Trinidad and Tobago at the [Judicial Research Counsel Symposium 2021](#), under the theme ***Safety beyond Borders, Demystifying the Migrant Story in Trinidad and Tobago***.

**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

For more information:

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, [Shemuel London](#), Senior Reporting Assistant, [london@unhcr.org](mailto:london@unhcr.org)

In **MCO Panama**, [Diana Diaz Rodriguez](#), Associate Communications Officer, [diazdi@unhcr.org](mailto:diazdi@unhcr.org)

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