

Trinidad and Tobago

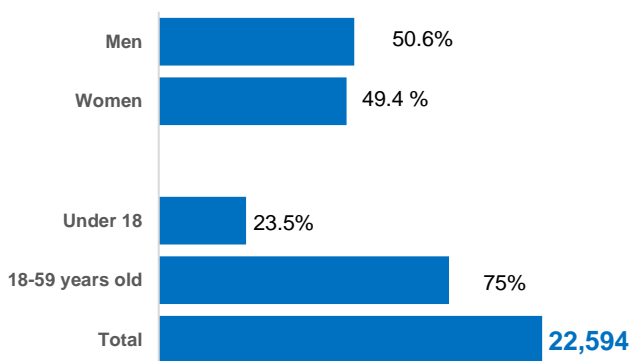
July - August 2022

More than **22,500 refugees** and **asylum-seekers** are currently registered with UNHCR, most of whom are of **employable age**.

People registered with UNHCR come from **37 different countries**, **87 per cent** of whom are **Venezuelan** and **six per cent Cuban**.

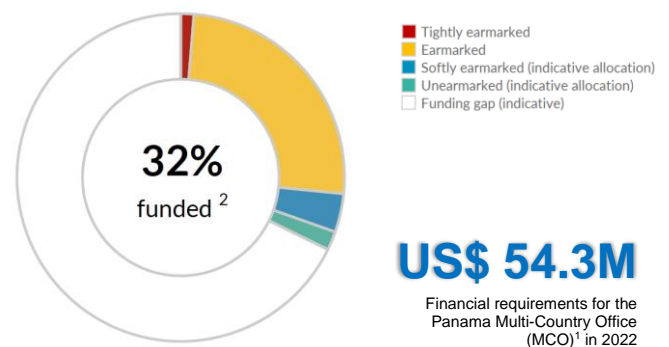
UNHCR continues to enhance access to medical services including for sexual and reproductive health. More than **1,000 refugees and asylum-seekers** received over **4,400 medical services** in 2022 thus far.

Population of concern*



* Data as of 31 August 2022.

STATE OF PLAY: FUNDING RECEIVED VS. FUNDING NEEDS (AS OF 30 AUGUST 2022)



¹ The financial requirements for the Panama MCO include requirements for the Coronavirus Emergency and the Venezuela Situation. **Trinidad and Tobago** is part of the **Panama Multi-Country Office** since 2021 along with Panama, Belize, Nicaragua, Cuba and the Southern Caribbean.

² The percentage funded includes indicative allocations of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

CONTEXT

In Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), the government revised **entry requirements** and launched a paediatric **vaccinations program**, inclusive for refugees and migrants.

UNHCR and partners continue to receive requests of humanitarian assistance and legal support for asylum procedures. News reports suggest **Venezuelans in T&T** are requesting assistance to return home, due to the rising cost of food, limited livelihood opportunities and lack of access to education for children of refugees and other vulnerable groups.

UNHCR also noted increased calls in the public domain for the integration and inclusion of refugee and migrant children in the public school system.

UNHCR continues its work with the Government and other agencies to provide needed support, assistance, and protection to forcibly displaced people in T&T.

Highlights

UNHCR premiered its film *"The Challengers"*, to an audience of 200 guests, including donors, partners, supporters, and members of *The Challengers Volleyball Team*. Following the premiere, there was a discussion panel.



As part of the project *Inclusive Cities/Cities of Solidarity*, UNHCR and UN Habitat, participated in meetings with the **European Union in T&T**, and the Government. UNHCR distributed 42 tablets to refugee and migrant children participating in *The Heroes Foundation's* education and youth 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, development actors, and UN Agencies, UNHCR undertakes protection and solutions activities, including:



Food Assistance | UNHCR with **Living Water Community (LWC)** provided emergency food assistance to **52 vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees** using **QR code vouchers**, redeemable at participating supermarkets nationwide. Significant increases in food prices left refugees and asylum-seekers already vulnerable to food insecurity at heightened risk. In 2022 thus far, **330 individuals** received food assistance.



Cash-based Interventions | In July and August 2022, **29 individuals with limited or no ability to achieve self-reliance and facing multiple protection risks** received support with multipurpose cash assistance. Protection risks included people with critical or chronic illnesses, survivors of gender-based violence, people facing eviction or homelessness, people with a severe mental or physical disability, and others in emergencies facing serious risks to their health and physical integrity. For 2022 thus far **159 individuals** have received multipurpose cash assistance.



Health | UNHCR provides medical assistance to vulnerable groups through **Family Planning Association (FPATT)**. FPATT **provided 903 sexual and reproductive health services for 133 refugees and asylum-seekers**, and thus far, **726 refugees and asylum-seekers accessed 4,318 medical assistance services**.



Mental Health and Psychosocial Services | UNHCR delivered mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) through the **Rape Crisis Society (RCS)**, providing **98 counselling sessions** to help refugees and asylum-seekers cope with forced displacement, particularly those who have experienced severe trauma as a result of gender-based violence (GBV), human trafficking, intimate partner violence, exploitation, and discrimination. For 2022 thus far, **139 refugees and asylum-seekers** received MHPSS.



Advocacy and Public Information | With the support of the European Union, UNHCR produced and disseminated stories highlighting inclusion and integration as part of the '**Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity**' project currently being implemented in Chaguanas. In July, UNHCR premiered its short documentary film, *The Challengers*, as part of this project.



Documentation and RSD Procedure | UNHCR provided first-time access to documentation to **503 asylum-seekers** (329 UNHCR certificates and 112 UNHCR identification cards). In addition, **11 asylum-seekers** completed their **refugee status determination (RSD) interviews**, and **15 refugees were resettled to a third country** through UNHCR resettlement programme.



Capacity Building | UNHCR delivered four workshops on international refugee protection, UNHCR's mandate, and activities for **126 participants** from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and sponsored a workshop on specific needs – mental health and emotional trauma for **41 members** of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force. UNHCR supported participants from the Caribbean Centre for Human Rights and the TT Police Service to attend the twenty-first Online Course on International Refugee Law hosted by the Sanremo Institute.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Canada, the European Union, France, Guyana, the United States of America, and the UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. We also thank the fundamental support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom. Private donors in Australia | Canada | Germany | Italy | Japan | the Republic of Korea | Spain | and the United States

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