

Trinidad & Tobago

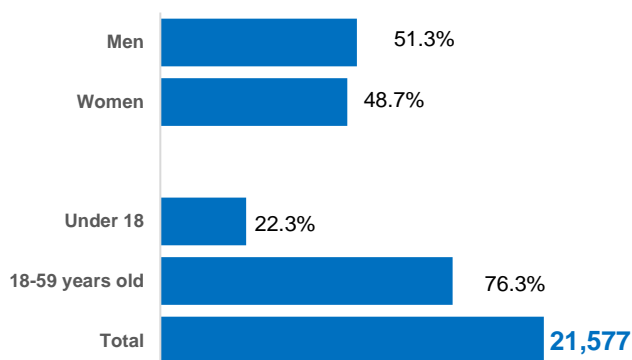
November - December 2021

More than **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 provide access to an asylum process with more than **8,500 asylum-seekers** receiving UNHCR documentation for the first time in 2021.

Population of concern*



* Data as of 31 December 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

Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) reported the highest numbers of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations between November and December since the beginning of the pandemic, **causing** great strain to the country's healthcare system. The State of Emergency in place since May **ended** on 17 November, while COVID-19 vaccination drives continued, including refugees and asylum-seekers.

Displaced persons continued to approach UNHCR seeking to access asylum procedures and humanitarian assistance. Attempts to enter T&T via irregular routes continued to be **reported**.

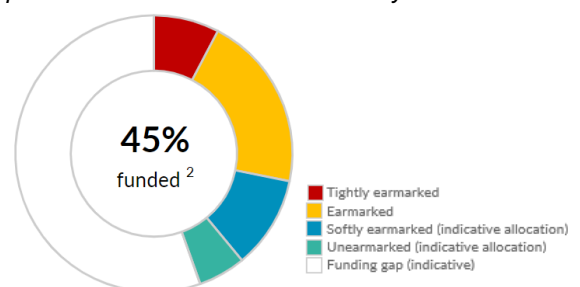
Trinidad and Tobago completed its **Universal Periodic Review**, where it was noted that the Ministry of National Security is finalising a policy to allow for the State to assume full responsibility of the refugee status determination (RSD) process.

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

STATE OF PLAY: FUNDING RECEIVED VS. FUNDING NEEDS (AS OF 29 DECEMBER 2021)

US\$ 48.7 M

requested for the Panama Multi-Country Office¹ for 2021



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

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

UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE MEETS WITH T&T GOVERNMENT MINISTERS



On 9 December 2021, the Representative for UNHCR Multi-country Office (MCO) in Panama, Philippa Candler, met with the Trinidad and Tobago Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., and the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, the Honourable Amery Browne, at their respective offices in Port of Spain. Ms. Candler was accompanied by UNHCR T&T colleagues, who shared updates on UNHCR's activities in the country, while seeking guidance on plans for 2022. Areas of collaboration were also discussed in detail, as UNHCR seeks to continue its support to the T&T Government in its response to forcibly displaced persons and the local communities that host them.

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:



Emergency Food Assistance

In 2021, UNHCR through partner [Living Water Community \(LWC\)](#) provided emergency food assistance to **8,944** of the most vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees via [QR code vouchers](#) redeemable at participating supermarkets nationwide. Even as jobs became more available and business sectors reopened, accrued rent payments often take priority over food due to threats of eviction while [food inflation](#) has reduced the ability of many forcibly displaced people to sustain themselves.



Cash-based Interventions and Assistance

In 2021, **394 individuals** with very limited or no ability to achieve self-reliance and facing multiple protection risks were assisted with multipurpose cash grants. Protection risks included people with critical or chronic illnesses, survivors of gender-based violence, people facing eviction or homelessness, people with severe mental or physical disability, and others in emergency situations facing serious risks to their health and physical integrity.



Health

Medical assistance continues to be delivered through partner [Family Planning Association \(FPATT\)](#) via telehealth and at clinic locations. In 2021, FPATT provided **117 pediatric** and **2,147 sexual and reproductive health consultations** for refugees and asylum-seekers in Trinidad and Tobago. FPATT also continues to provide access to medical care for forcibly displaced people living in remote locations, such as Icacos, through a mobile health clinic.



Mental Health and Psychosocial Services

In 2021, UNHCR delivered psychosocial support through partner [Rape Crisis Society \(RCS\)](#), providing **761 remote counselling sessions**, helping refugees and asylum-seekers cope with the forced displacement experience, particularly those who have experienced severe trauma as a result of gender-based violence, human trafficking, intimate partner violence, exploitation, and discrimination.



Education and Training Opportunities

More than 1,400 students have accessed to education in 2021 through the [Equal Place \(EP\) programme](#), which delivers tailored learning on two globally recognized platforms: NotesMaster (in English) and Dawere (in Spanish). Access to these platforms is provided at no cost to students or their families.



Documentation and RSD Procedure

In 2021, UNHCR provided [access to documentation](#) for the first time to **8,544 asylum-seekers**, 5,943 of whom received a UNHCR certificate and 2,601 a UNHCR identification card. In addition, **838 asylum-seekers** completed their [refugee status determination](#) interviews.

The UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: United States of America, Spain, European Union, France, United Kingdom, 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, Sweden, and United States of America.

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