

Trinidad and Tobago

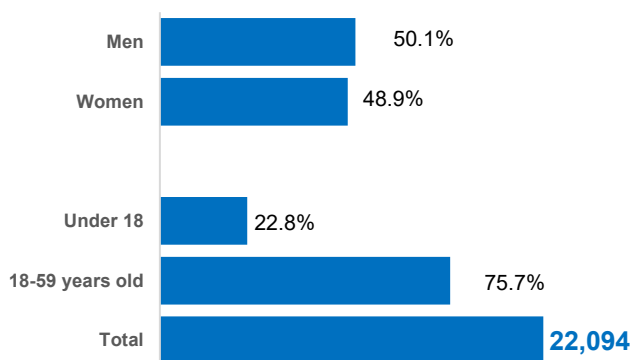
January - February 2022

More than 22,000 refugees and asylum-seekers are currently registered with UNHCR, most of whom are of an employable age.

In Trinidad and Tobago, people of concern registered with UNHCR come from 38 different countries, 87% of whom are Venezuelan and 6% Cuban.

UNHCR continues to provide access to the asylum process, with more than 1,100 asylum-seekers having received UNHCR documentation and 100 receiving refugee status determination between January and February 2022

Population of concern*



* Data as of 28 February 2022. 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

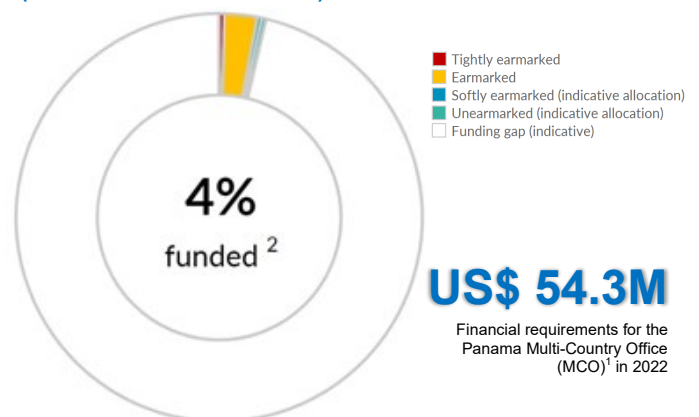
In Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), Venezuelans registered with the government during a 2019 exercise had their cards extended until 31 December 2022. Refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities and Venezuelans who were unable to register during this exercise, remain undocumented – aside from asylum-seekers who receive UNHCR documentation.

Attempts to enter via irregular routes continue to be reported, along with returns to Venezuela. A child was fatally injured during one of the irregular entry attempts in February, prompting a joint statement from UN agencies on the issue.

Individuals continued to approach UNHCR seeking to access asylum procedures and humanitarian assistance. High living costs and other pandemic-exacerbated challenges for refugees and asylum-seekers in Trinidad and Tobago have prompted over 2,000 people to return to Venezuela since borders opened in July 2021.

UNHCR continues to work with the government and 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 22 FEBRUARY 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 in 2021 along with Panama, Belize, Nicaragua, Cuba and the Southern Caribbean.

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

Highlights

Kena Moldonado, a Venezuelan refugee living in Trinidad and Tobago, is one of 14 chefs featured in regional cookbook *Fusion Cuisine*, which contains stories and recipes from refugees and forcibly displaced people in Latin America and the Caribbean, who tell part of their story through food.



UNHCR started implementing capacity building and anti-xenophobia activities in the framework of the *Inclusive Cities* project in Chaguanas – the city with the highest concentration of refugees and asylum-seekers in Trinidad and Tobago. A website was also launched, where stories of inclusion have been shared. The project is funded by the European Union and implemented in collaboration with IOM and UN Habitat.

UNHCR T&T launched its Official Twitter account @UNHCRTT. Followers will have access to updated details on the forcibly displaced people in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the latest information on activities and programmes carried out by UNHCR in Trinidad and Tobago.





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:


 **Documentation and RSD Procedure** | Between January and February 2022, UNHCR provided first-time **access to documentation** to **1,170 asylum-seekers**, 617 of whom received a UNHCR certificate and 559, a UNHCR identification card. In addition, **101 asylum-seekers** completed their **refugee status determination (RSD) interviews**. **Eight refugees** were also able to restart their lives in Australia through UNHCR's **resettlement programme**.


 **Food Assistance** | In the first two months of 2022, UNHCR through partner **Living Water Community (LWC)** provided **emergency food assistance** to **376 extremely vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees** via **QR code vouchers**, redeemable at participating supermarkets nationwide. Even as livelihood opportunities became more available and business sectors reopened, accrued rent payments remain a priority over food purchases due to threats of eviction and lack of shelter alternatives.

 **Cash-based Interventions and Assistance** | So far in 2022, **41 individuals** with very limited or no ability to achieve self-reliance and facing multiple protection risks were supported 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 severe mental or physical disability, and others in emergency situations facing serious risks to their health and physical integrity.

 **Health** | UNHCR continues to deliver **medical assistance** through **Family Planning Association (FPATT)** via telehealth and at clinics. In the first two months of 2022, FPATT provided 816 sexual and reproductive health and diagnostic services for **284 refugees and asylum-seekers** in Trinidad and Tobago. A Medical Assistance Review Committee has been initialized to discuss and prioritize individuals who require specialized medical attention for critical illnesses.

 **Mental Health and Psychosocial Services** | Between January and February 2022, UNHCR delivered psychosocial support through partner **Rape Crisis Society (RCS)**, providing **remote counselling sessions** to help **61 refugees and asylum-seekers** cope with the forced displacement experiences, particularly those who have been subject of severe trauma as a result of gender-based violence, human trafficking, intimate partner violence, exploitation, and discrimination.

 **Education and Training Opportunities** | **More than 1,744 children** enrolled in the **Equal Place (EP) programme**, which delivers accredited education and tailored learning via 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

 **Capacity Building** | UNHCR delivered a **workshop** for **30 participants** including judges, magistrates, registrars, judicial research counsels on "**Non-Refoulement as a Principle of Customary International Law**" through the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago.

The UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: European Union, as well as to the following donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Algeria | Armenia | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Denmark | Estonia | Finland | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Netherlands | Norway | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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UNHCR and Persons of Concern in Trinidad and Tobago

