


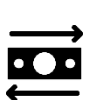
Trinidad & Tobago

January - March 2024

Key Figures

 **33,543** people, of whom **3,255** are refugees, and **29,144** are asylum-seekers, live in Trinidad and Tobago.

 Nearly **86 per cent** of those registered with UNHCR are from Venezuela.

 From January to March, **49** refugees and asylum-seekers from 17 households received cash assistance. Forty-two were new beneficiaries.

Context

Security continues to be a significant concern in Trinidad and Tobago. During the first week of 2024, officials reported **15 murders**, more than twice the number registered during the same period last year. In February, authorities detained a businessman who, in 2023, escaped custody after a court convicted him of **human trafficking**. The 38-year-old man was charged with over 25 criminal offenses, including child prostitution and assault.

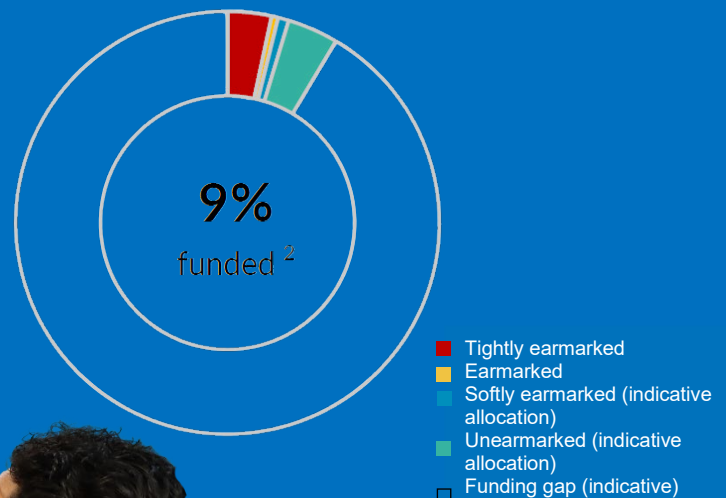
A High Court Judge ruled in favour of compensating a **Venezuelan child** detained from December 2020 to March 2022 at Chaguaramas Heliport. The ruling established a compensation of TTD\$2.4 million (USD 353,190), for his arbitrary 456-day detention.

The **Joint Select Committee** (JSC) on Human Rights, Equality, and Diversity recommended that the Government implement legislative changes to remove the obstacles refugee and migrant children face to access education. The JSC suggested a student permit waiver for asylum-seeking, refugee, and migrant children that allows them to access any educational institution with immediate effect, as well as the establishment of a **special court** to deal with human trafficking and a procedure to report abuse against refugees and migrants.

From January to March, UNHCR registered 1,673 people, and identified 189 refugees and asylum-seekers who met the criteria to be referred for resettlement.

Regional funding Overview

as of 31 March 2024



\$56.1 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2024

¹ Financial requirement for the Panama MCO in 2023 including requirements for the operations and activities in Aruba, Belize, Cuba, Curaçao, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

² The percentage funded is indicative.

UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR works with the Government, other UN agencies, and partners to assist and protect refugees and asylum-seekers in Trinidad and Tobago. UNHCR works with six partners: The Caribbean Centre for Human Rights (CCHR), Family Planning Association (FPATT), Rape Crisis Society (RCS), La Casita, UNICEF, and Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF).



Protection | UNHCR and the CCHR provided legal assistance to 145 asylum-seekers and refugees on international protection and access to rights. UNHCR also trained 133 government officials on international protection and UNHCR's mandate.



Coordination with Authorities | UNHCR met with the Ministry of National Security (MNS) to discuss the registration procedures and explore areas of mutual collaboration. The Agency assisted the Children's Authority with interpretation services for child protection cases, and translated from English to Spanish a students' book on basic life skills. The book will be used in sessions for children survivors of human trafficking.



Community Engagement | UNHCR trained 16 University of The West Indies students on international protection, the Agency's mandate, and the Age, Gender, and Diversity approach (AGD). The students work full-time with vulnerable groups in education and healthcare matters. UNHCR took part in a study conducted by the University on the older population living in the country. The Agency highlighted the risks that ageing forcibly displaced individuals face, such as the lack of access to social services.



Registration | UNHCR provided 1,566 asylum-seekers with first-time access to documentation and recognized 87 refugees. From January to March, the Agency submitted 189 recognized refugee cases for resettlement.



HUMANITARIAN BREAKFAST SERIES - 2024

In March, UNHCR participated in the first 2024 Humanitarian Breakfast series. As a member of the Protection Working Group, the Agency presented on the topic of "Asylum and Migration Systems". The session featured a refugee's testimony who has been in Trinidad and Tobago since 2017 and was registered under the 2019 Registration Migration Framework.

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UNHCR's presence in Trinidad and Tobago

