UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

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UNHCR's registration in Havana, Cuba

Registration Snapshot

January - February 2025

Registration - recording, verifying, and updating biographical, biometric, and socioeconomic data - is the first step to protecting forcibly displaced and stateless persons. It allows for the **identification of specific needs, the provision of targeted assistance, and the attainment of durable solutions.** Registration protects against arbitrary arrest, detention, and refoulement, helps keep families together and facilitates reunification.

The Population Registration and Identity Management Ecosystem (**PRIMES**) is a set of interoperable tools developed by UNHCR to enhance registration, case management, and identity management for the persons we protect.

1,085

Forcibly displaced and stateless people from **773 households** were registered in all countries under MCO Panama in 2025

MAIN FIGURES – PEOPLE REGISTERED

51% Male **49%** Female **802** Adults, **2%** over 60 years **283** Children, **35%** under five years

813 People biometrically registered through BIMS** **24** Nationalities registered, mainly Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia, Jamaica **82%** Asylum seekers, **0.6%** refugees, **15%** other people UNHCR protects

PROTECTION RESPONSE THROUGH PRIMES

557 Specific protection needs identified, related to
- **Legal and physical protection: 277**
- **Child protection: 101**
- **Serious medical conditions: 81**
- **Violence against women and girls: 26**
- **Single parents: 23**
- **Women at risk: 20**
- **Disabilities: 15**
- **Unaccompanied/separated children: 11**
- **Older person at risk: 3**

225 Counselling sessions provided

297 Assistance delivered, mainly for basic needs, transport and documentation

1,347 UNHCR Documents*** issued in Cuba, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago

42 Asylum seekers helped to get permanent residency under Belize Amnesty

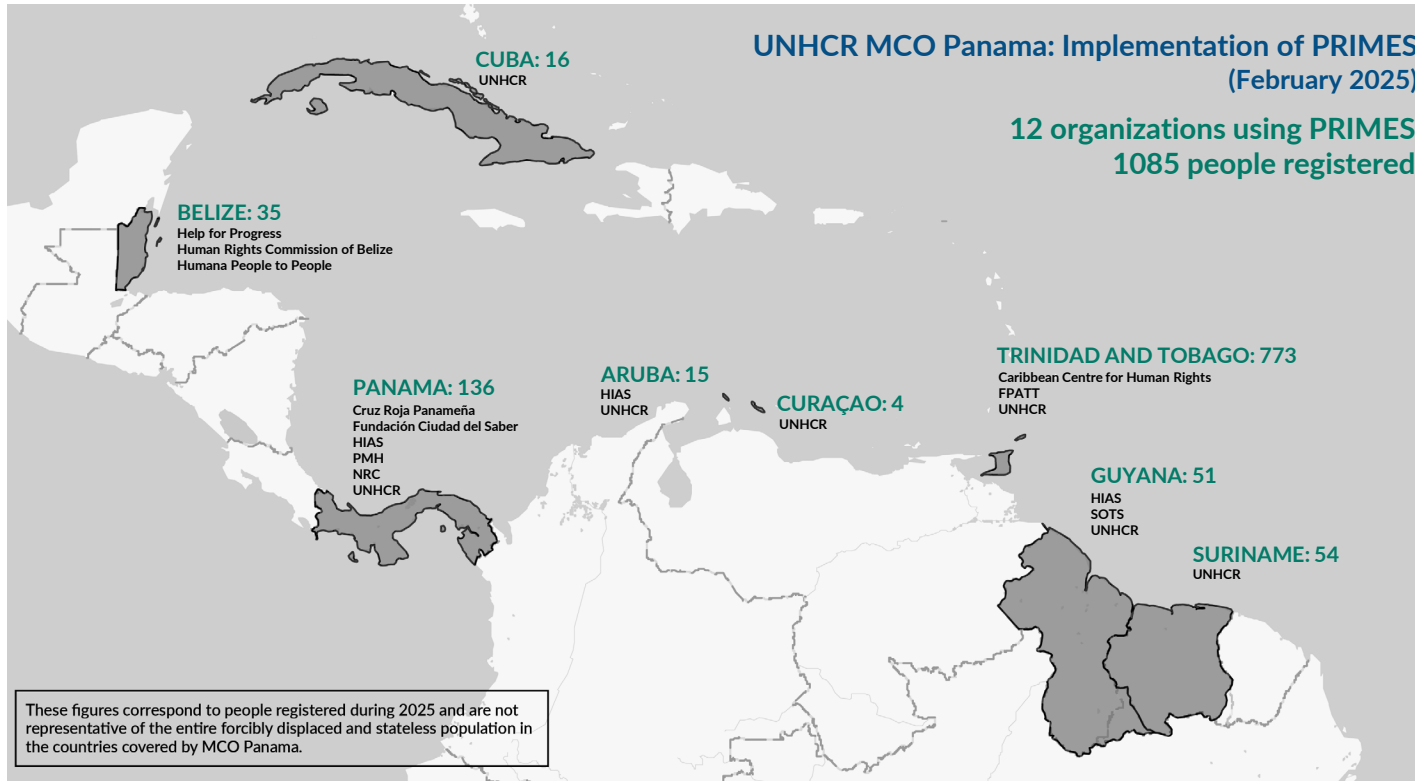**14** Refugee Status Determination cases finalized (36 individuals)

49 Cases interviewed for resettlement (93 individuals)

*These figures are not representative of the entire forcibly displaced and stateless population in the countries covered by MCO Panama.   ** Biometric Identity Management System: biometric registration includes fingerprint and iris scans and a facial photograph.
*** UNHCR Documents are Certificates or Cards attesting to an individual's recognition as a Mandate Refugee or as an Asylum Seeker to certify that they are persons protected by UNHCR

UNHCR MCO Panama: Implementation of PRIMES (February 2025)

12 organizations using PRIMES
1085 people registered

CUBA: 16
UNHCR

BELIZE: 35
Help for Progress
Human Rights Commission of Belize
Humana People to People

PANAMA: 136
Cruz Roja Panameña
Fundación Ciudad del Saber
HIAS
PMH
NRC
UNHCR

ARUBA: 15
HIAS
UNHCR

CURAÇAO: 4
UNHCR

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: 773
Caribbean Centre for Human Rights
FPATT
UNHCR

GUYANA: 51
HIAS
SOTS
UNHCR

SURINAME: 54
UNHCR

These figures correspond to people registered during 2025 and are not representative of the entire forcibly displaced and stateless population in the countries covered by MCO Panama.

STRATEGIC REGISTRATION GOALS

✓ **Ensure high-standard registration** at the internal level for efficient case management, mandate RSD (Cuba, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago) and RST (Aruba, Curaçao, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago).

✓ **Enhance partners' capacity** and integrity in case management procedures and data protection.

✓ **Support governments** to build or strengthen digitalized registration, case management and identity management systems to ensure fair and efficient national asylum procedures.

How does PRIMES enhance registration, case management, and identity management for forcibly displaced and stateless persons?

✓ **Data Integrity and Accuracy**.
✓ **Security and Privacy** through encryption and access controls, preventing fraud and corruption.
✓ **Collaboration** between partners, facilitating joint efforts, avoiding duplication, and reducing revictimization.
✓ **Digital identity for persons we protect**, enabling their socio-economic inclusion within host communities.
✓ **Field-proofing**, though tools working in online, offline, and GSM* environments.
✓ **Scalability**, enabling seamless expansion to support potential large-scale and emergency displacements.

The boundaries, names, and designations shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
*GSM: Global System for Mobile Communications, the most widely used cellular-wireless telecommunications standard.
UNHCR MCO PANAMA | **Creation date:** 17 March 2025 | **Sources:** UNHCR monitoring data | **Feedback:** panpaim@unhcr.org