

Trinidad & Tobago

January-February 2023

Key Figures



25,500

Refugees and asylum-seekers live in Trinidad and Tobago. **Twenty-five per cent** of them are children.



86 per cent

Of those registered with UNHCR in Trinidad and Tobago are Venezuelans.



1,086

Medical and reproductive health services provided to refugees and asylum-seekers, including GBV survivors.

Context

Trinidad and Tobago has over 25,000 asylum-seekers and refugees from 38 countries. UNHCR works with the Government and other agencies to provide needed support, assistance, and protection to forcibly displaced people in the country.

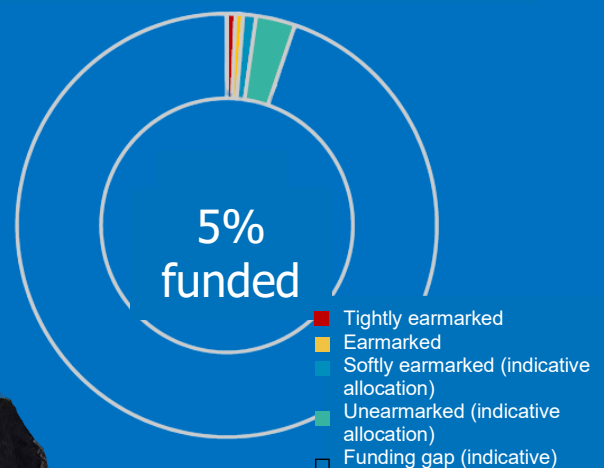
In January, the Ministry of National Security extended work permits for non-nationals legally registered during the Amnesty process in 2019. Authorities approved 9,133 permit renewals during that month and are processing another 4,710.

In February, the Government met with Venezuelan officials to start the negotiation for the development of the Dragon natural gas field and the subsequent production and sale of gas products, with implications for the country's economy.

In February, UNHCR hosted a delegation from the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and visited UNHCR's partner La Casita Hispanic Cultural Centre to discuss the critical support provided by the local NGO to refugees and asylum-seekers in Trinidad and Tobago.

Regional funding Overview

as of February 28th, 2023



\$55.4 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023

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 five partners: Living Water Community (LWC), Family Planning Association (FPATT), Rape Crisis Society (RCS), La Casita, and Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF).



Protection | UNHCR provided first-time access to documentation to 1,035 asylum-seekers. UNHCR discontinued the issuance of pre-registration certificates, previously done by partner LWC. After UNHCR conducted their refugee status determination (RSD) interviews in January and February, the Agency recognized 35 refugees, and submitted 67 cases for resettlement. A total of 17 people were resettled to a third country.



Health | UNHCR, through Family Planning Association (FPATT), provided 1,086 sexual and reproductive health services for 277 refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR, through its partner, the Rape Crisis Society (RCS), provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and counselling sessions to 53 refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly those who have experienced severe trauma as a result of gender-based violence (GBV), human trafficking, exploitation, and discrimination.



Cash-based Interventions and Assistance | UNHCR distributed multi-purpose cash assistance to three households and seven individuals to cover their basic needs.



Education | UNHCR, in partnership with UNICEF and LWC, supported access to education for 1,008 primary-school and secondary-school children (of whom 196 were new students) through the Equal Place Program. In January, classes resumed online with daily in-person activities in Icacos and Siparia. The classes focused on English as a Second Language (ESL) and preparing secondary-level students to transition to Dawere Global, where they can obtain a high school diploma.



UNHCR met Pride TT, a local organization advocating for LGBTIQ+ rights

In January, UNHCR met with the co-chair of Trinidad and Tobago Pride, the organization in charge of preparing the annual LGBTIQ+ Pride celebrations. The Agency shared its ongoing projects, highlighting the support to members of the refugee LGBTIQ+ community.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the European Union, 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 | Canada | Denmark | Germany | Ireland Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland |

For more information:

Philippa Candler, Representative, candler@unhcr.org
Viola Eleonora Bruttomesso, Associate Communications Officer, bruttome@unhcr.org

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UNHCR's presence in Trinidad and Tobago

