FACT SHEET

Trinidad & Tobago

July - August 2023

Key Figures

30,000
Refugees (**3,392**) and asylum-seekers (**25,743**) live in Trinidad and Tobago.

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

UNHCR assisted **311** refugees and asylum-seekers, including gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, with access to free sexual and reproductive health services.

Context

In July, during the R4V Humanitarian Breakfast Series, the Minister of Foreign Affairs announced the government's intention to grant access to primary school education for refugee and migrant children by September 2023.

The High Court delivered a judgment stating that the 1951 Refugee Convention obligations do not apply to Trinidad and Tobago, as they are not incorporated into domestic law. The Court of Appeal will decide whether it applies in the country.

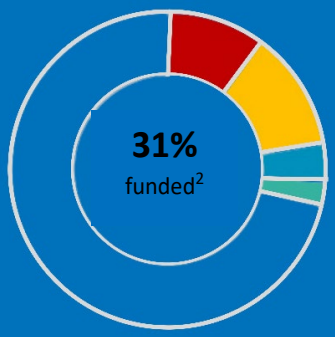
Police officials detained nearly 200 Venezuelan refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants. Despite several judicial actions, many were refouled and deported.

In August, the Ministry of National Security announced that Venezuelans registered in the Migrant Registration Framework (MRF) could collect their renewed registration cards.

UNHCR promotes inclusion through livelihood programs. As of August, the Agency has supported nearly 40 people to complete technical and vocational training, including refugees, asylum-seekers, and host community members.

Regional funding Overview

as of 31 August 2023



- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

$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 trained 70 police officers on international protection and UNHCR's mandate. UNHCR, through Living Water Community (LWC), provided legal assistance to 166 asylum-seekers and refugees on international protection and access to rights.

Health | UNHCR, through the Family Planning Association (FPATT), assisted over 200 refugees and asylum-seekers with sexual and reproductive health services. UNHCR, through the Rape Crisis Society (RCS), provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and counselling sessions to 95 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 provided multi-purpose cash assistance to 43 refugees and asylum-seekers to cover their basic needs, reaching 23 households.

Registration | UNHCR provided first-time access to documentation to over 1,720 asylum-seekers. After conducting refugee status determination (RSD) interviews in July and August, UNHCR recognized 44 refugees and submitted 32 cases for resettlement.

WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

UNHCR participated in the Walk-Run against Human Trafficking event organized by IOM and the Counter-Trafficking Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (CTU) with an information booth. The agency provided information on international protection to over 200 attendees and conducted an interactive activity with a Monopoly-style game (Refugeoly), which simulates the challenges faced by forcibly displaced persons.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the United States of America, the European Union, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Guyana, 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 | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | private donors in Australia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

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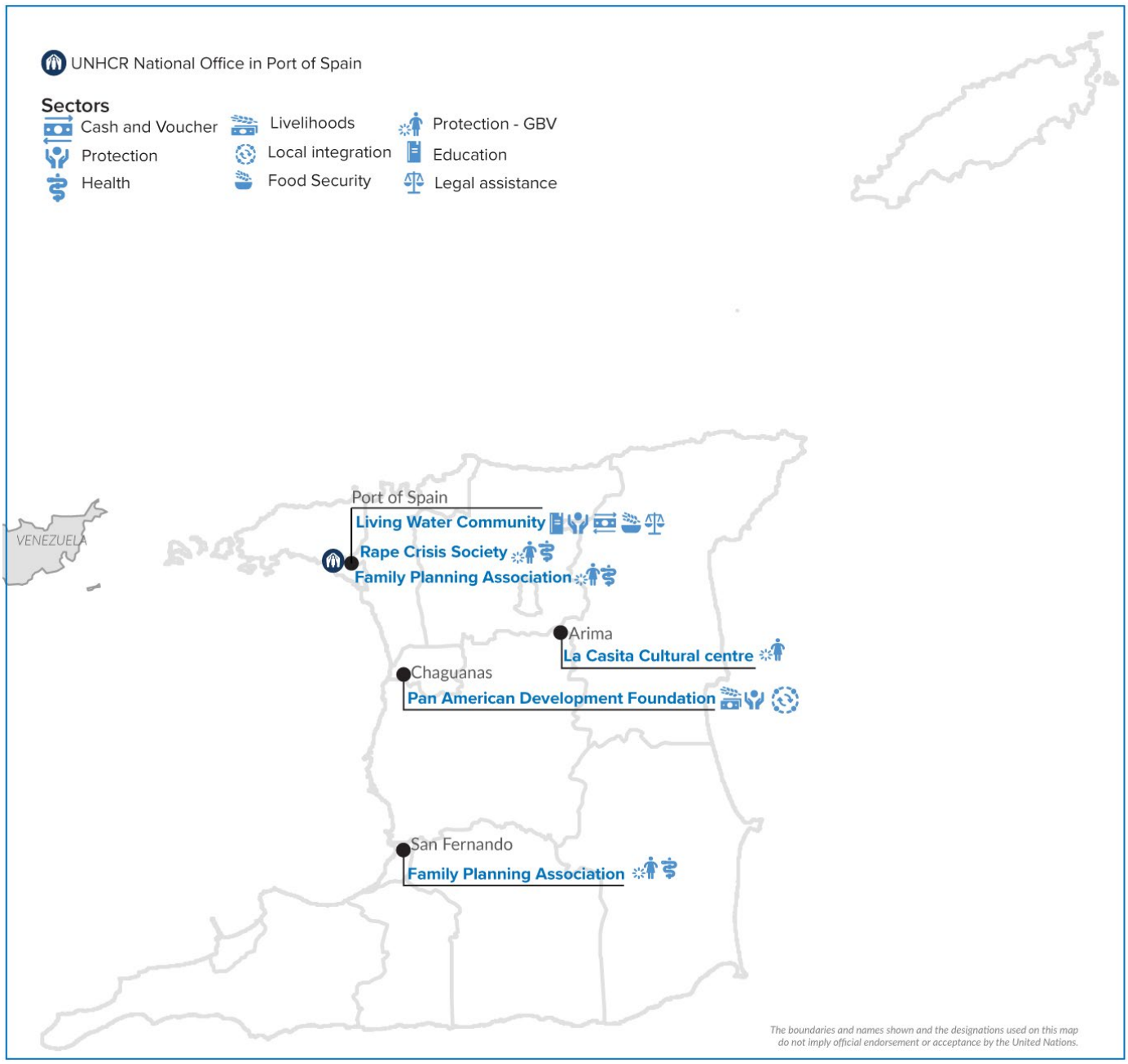
UNHCR´s presence in Trinidad and Tobago