



# Trinidad & Tobago

September - October 2023

## Key Figures

 **31,389** people, of whom **3,297** are refugees, and **26,992** are asylum-seekers live in Trinidad and Tobago.

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

 **113** refugees and asylum-seekers, including gender-based violence (GBV) survivors accessed UNHCR support spaces.

## Context

The Ministry of National Security completed the renewal of cards as part of the Migrant Registration Framework (MRF) and announced that the process re-registered 7,000 people.

The Minister of Education stated that refugee and migrant children cannot attend public schools until authorities sort out the problems with student permits.

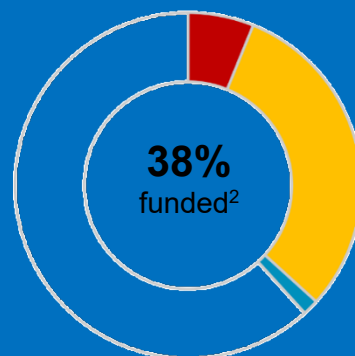
Local NGOs report that no refugee or migrant children have been enrolled in the national education system, as the current requirements make most refugee and migrant children ineligible.

On 4 September, 1,000 Venezuelan children returned to Equal Place's virtual educational system.

UNHCR partnered with the Rotary Club of Central Port of Spain to support the Model United Nations (MUN) event. Refugees and asylum-seekers participated in the MUN event, which culminated in a debate on Human Trafficking and Smuggling. UNHCR briefed participants on international protection and shared advocacy messages supporting refugees.

## Regional funding Overview

as of 31 October 2023



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

**\$55.4 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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: Living Water Community (LWC), Family Planning Association (FPATT), Rape Crisis Society (RCS), La Casita, UNICEF, and Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF).



**Legal Assistance** | UNHCR, through Living Water Community (LWC), provided legal assistance to 137 asylum-seekers and refugees on international protection and access to rights.



**Advocacy** | In partnership with the Media Institute of the Caribbean, UNHCR trained 25 journalists from the three main media outlets in the country on international protection for refugees and asylum-seekers, best practices for reporting on refugees, terminology and special considerations for women and girls.



**Case Management** | UNHCR through LWC provided case management to 107 people, including those with health concerns, older people and people with disability.



**Registration** | UNHCR provided first-time access to documentation to over 1,430 asylum-seekers. In September and October, UNHCR submitted 72 recognized refugee cases for resettlement.



### CORE RELIEF ITEMS DISTRIBUTION FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

In October, UNHCR donated 3,275 multi-purpose sleeping mats, 419 solar lamps, and 117 kitchen sets to the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) to assist all people affected by natural disasters, especially flooding.

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, Spain 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 | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | private donors in Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

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# UNHCR's presence in Trinidad and Tobago

