



Trinidad & Tobago

November - December 2023

Key Figures

 **31,960** people, of whom **3,218** are refugees, and **27,699** are asylum-seekers, live in Trinidad and Tobago.

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

 **126** refugees and asylum-seekers from 47 households received cash assistance in November and December.

Context

The Ministry of National Security distributed the sixth tranche of approved Minister's Permits granted to Venezuelans under the [Migrant Registration Framework \(MRF\)](#). Launched in 2019, the MRF allows registered nationals to apply for a six-month work permit. The permits have been offered for renewal consecutively since that year.

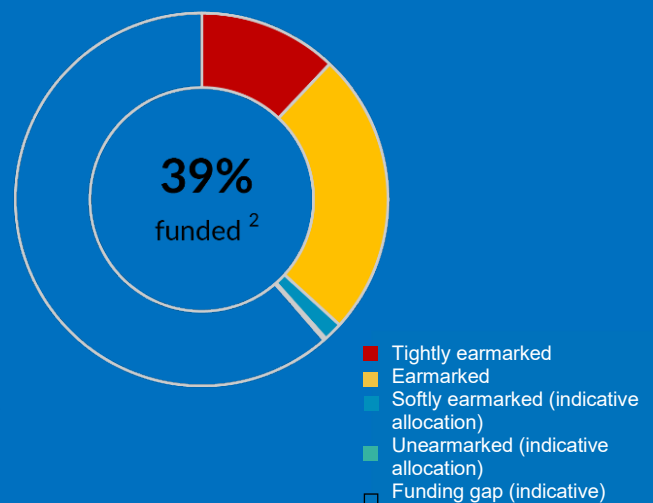
In December, the Government repatriated more than **160 Venezuelans**, including 52 asylum-seekers, whom authorities had ordered to be deported. The Ministry of National Security stated that individuals not registered under the MRF are not entitled to work or enjoy the protection of the country's laws.

A High Court Judge [ruled](#) in favour of compensating two dozen Venezuelans detained in July 2020 for entering irregularly. The ruling established a compensation of TTD\$ 2.4 million (USD 354,000) to this group, as they faced harsh detention conditions, labelled as inhumane and degrading. At least 16 children would benefit from the judge's assessment and receive TTD\$1,760,000 (USD 335,300) in damages. Some 13 adults would also receive TTO\$ 650,000 (USD 95,900). The judge advocated in her ruling for clear immigration laws and policies.

UNHCR joined the R4V Caribbean platform to host an Indigenous People's Forum. The event united Venezuelan Waraos with Trinidad and Tobago's local indigenous groups to discuss solutions for urgent issues affecting their population. One hundred and twenty people participated, including the indigenous communities, Government, and diplomatic officers.

Regional funding Overview

as of 15 December 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 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 144 asylum-seekers and refugees on international protection and access to rights.



Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Response | UNHCR, through the Rape Crisis Society provided over 100 counselling sessions to 87 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 30 GBV survivors.



Case Management | UNHCR, through LWC, provided case management to 60 people, including those with health concerns and people with disabilities.



Registration | UNHCR provided first-time access to documentation to over 725 asylum-seekers. In November and December, UNHCR submitted 46 recognized refugee cases for resettlement.



UNHCR PREMIERES DOCUMENTARY ON ACCESS TO WORK FOR REFUGEES

Over 150 people attended the screening of the UNHCR's [Starting Over](#) documentary on the integration and resilience of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the country. Several representatives of the humanitarian community in Trinidad, including embassies and government officials, attended the screening. With the film, UNHCR advocates for establishing Trinidad and Tobago's asylum system to address the protection needs of refugees and asylum-seekers effectively.

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: Australia for UNHCR | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | España con ACNUR | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Japan for UNHCR | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Sweden for UNHCR | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United Kingdom for UNHCR | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe | USA for UNHCR | Private donors in China, Italy, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

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UNHCR's presence in Trinidad and Tobago

