FACT SHEET

Trinidad & Tobago

January - March 2025

Key Figures

UNHCR protects

37,906

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as **1,387** children born in the country.

86 per cent

are from Venezuela.

UNHCR donated **eight** **smart devices** to the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management to support including refugees and asylum-seekers in disaster responses.

Context

Trinidad and Tobago is a signatory to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, but has yet to incorporate these principles into the national legislation and has yet to develop the asylum system.

In February, a shipwreck occurred while persons were allegedly being smuggled from Venezuela to Trinidad and Tobago, resulting in at least four deaths. Among the passengers were refugees registered with UNHCR, highlighting the perilous journeys forcibly displaced groups undertake in search of safety.

The Foreign Affairs Minister, Amery Browne, informed the Senate that refugee and migrant children, whose parents did not participate in the 2019 registration exercise, were not eligible to attend public schools. He explained that alternative modalities and support facilities are available for the 1,000 ineligible children affected by this policy.

On 16 March, Dr. Keith Rowley resigned as Prime Minister after serving for 10 years. Minister Stuart Young was appointed the new Prime Minister and announced an election date of 28 April 2025.

In January, UNHCR and its partners organized an event in Chaguanas, providing refugees with essential services such as legal assistance, registration, and UNHCR card renewals. La Casita distributed clothing, while the Caribbean Centre for Human Rights conducted "Know Your Rights" sessions, informing refugees about their rights and responsibilities.

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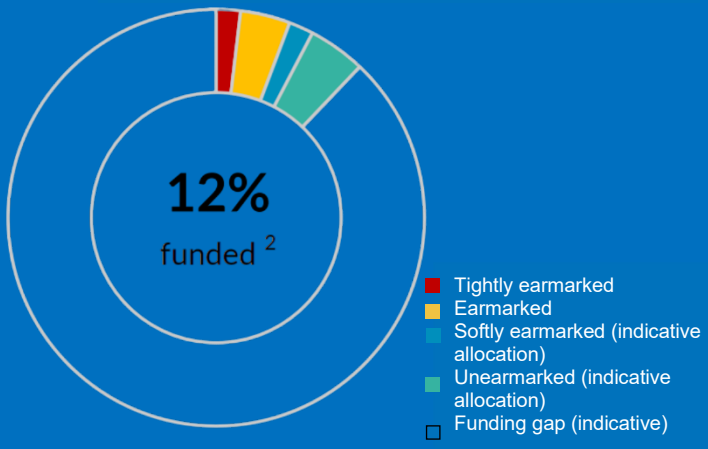
Regional Funding Overview

as of 31 March 2025



$53.4 million

[1] Financial requirement for MCO Panama in 2025, including requirements for the operations and activities in its area of responsibility in Central America and the Caribbean.

[2] The percentage funded is indicative.

UNHCR RESPONSE

UNHCR collaborates with the Government, other UN agencies, and partners to assist and protect refugees and asylum-seekers in Trinidad and Tobago. UNHCR works with three partners: the Caribbean Centre for Human Rights (CCHR), the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT), and La Casita Hispanic Cultural Centre.

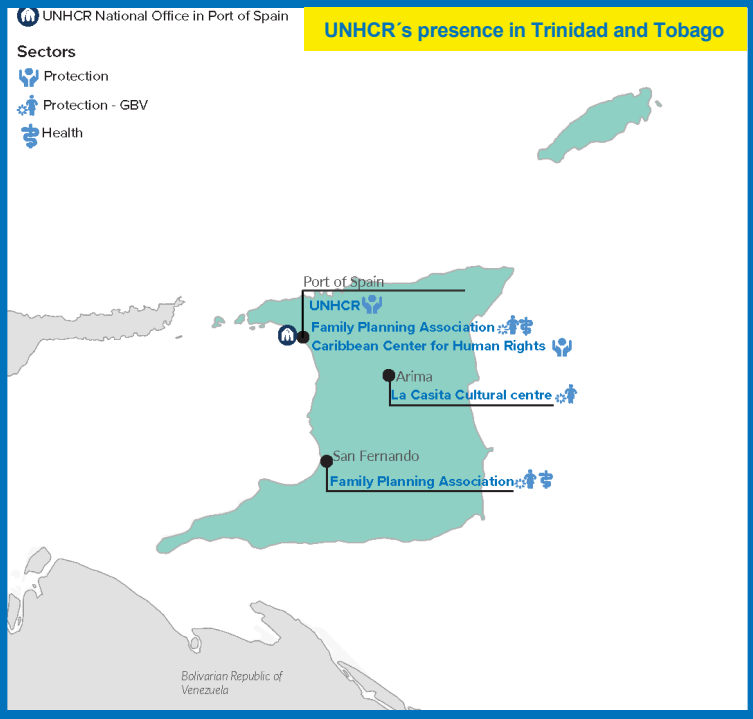
Protection | UNHCR and the CCHR provided legal assistance to 146 asylum-seekers and refugees on international protection and access to rights. The Agency provided child protection services to 86 children and their caregivers. Thirty-five survivors of violence and their dependents, including women and girls, benefited from specialized response and safe shelter.

Capacity Building | UNHCR trained 66 government officials to strengthen their capacities to identify and refer asylum-seekers and refugees. Participants included police and Immigration authorities as part of a coordinated effort between UNHCR and the Police Academy to provide awareness on refugee protection.

Education | UNHCR donated 80 education kits and several boxes of stationery to public schools and child-friendly spaces hosting refugees nationwide.

Registration | UNHCR registered and documented 932 people and identified 83 refugees and asylum-seekers who met the criteria to be referred for resettlement.

Sensitization sessions | UNHCR partners reached 554 people through sensitization and information sharing sessions, including on refugee rights and responsibilities and access to partner services.



UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Australia | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Ireland | the Republic of Korea | The Kingdom of the Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | the United States of America | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors including the Dutch Postcode Lottery and España con ACNUR.

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