

Trinidad & Tobago



April - June 2025

Key Figures



UNHCR protects

26,271

refugees and asylum-seekers in Trinidad and Tobago, including **1,196** children born in the country.



85 per cent

are from Venezuela.



UNHCR donated educational supplies and learning materials to **five child-friendly spaces and schools** across various regions to enhance both the accessibility and quality of education for refugees and asylum-seekers.

Context

Trinidad and Tobago is a signatory to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, but has yet to incorporate these principles into its national legislation and has not yet developed its asylum system.

Trinidad and Tobago elected a new Government on 28 April 2025, led by Prime Minister the Honourable Mrs. **Kamla Persad-Bissessar**, SC, MP. Despite UNHCR reducing its presence in the coming months, the Agency will continue working with the government, presenting an opportunity to re-engage and advance discussions on establishing a national asylum system and the development and implementation of the asylum policy drafted in 2014.

The new Government split the Ministry of **National Security** into Defence and Homeland Security to boost defense and public safety, appointing Wayne Sturge and Roger Alexander as respective ministers.

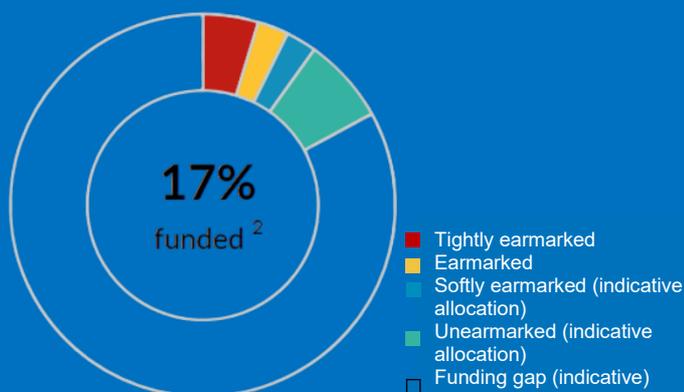
In June, Labour Minister Leroy Baptiste announced plans to modernize labour laws and implement a Workers' Agenda focused on fair wages and expanded social protections, while the Ministry of Defence called on Venezuelan nationals registered under the Migrant Registration Framework to collect their work permit exemption extensions on 9, 10, and 11 June.

UNHCR visited the Icacos community in southern Trinidad to provide assistance and counseling to a group of Indigenous Warao. During the visit, the Agency also informed the community about its planned reduction in presence over the coming months. To support the well-being of Warao children, UNHCR organized recreational activities and games aimed at assessing their language skills and educational needs.



Regional Funding Overview

as of 30 June 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 two funded partners: the Caribbean Centre for Human Rights (CCHR) and La Casita Hispanic Cultural Centre.



Protection | UNHCR and the CCHR provided legal assistance to 122 asylum-seekers and refugees. UNHCR and La Casita provided child protection services to 73 children and their caregivers. Forty-three survivors of violence and their dependents, including women and girls, benefited from specialized response and safe shelter.



Capacity Building | UNHCR trained 49 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.



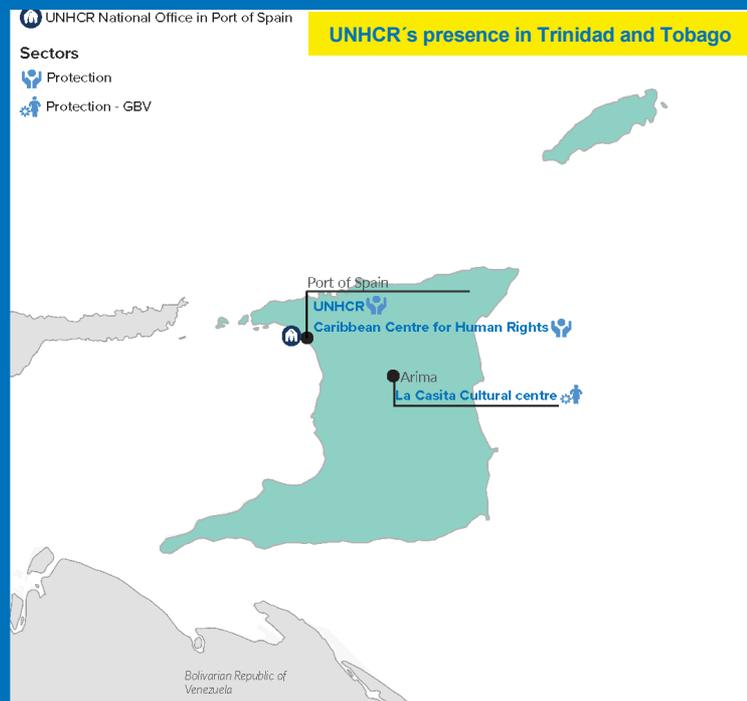
Humanitarian Assistance | UNHCR donated over 250 school supplies, IT devices, furniture, and kitchen supplies to NGO partners, UN agencies, and Child Friendly Spaces. The donations aimed to support partners as they continue to protect and promote the integration of refugees and asylum-seekers.



Registration | UNHCR registered and documented 1,000 people and identified 63 refugees and asylum-seekers who met the criteria to be referred for resettlement.



Sensitization sessions | UNHCR partners reached 615 people through sensitization and information 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 | the European Union | France | 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 | World Food Programme | Private donors in the Republic of Korea, and Australia for UNHCR, the Dutch Postcode Lottery, España con ACNUR, and Japan for UNHCR.

For more information:

Margarida Loureiro, Deputy Representative, loureiro@unhcr.org

Kalifa Clyne, Communications Associate, clyne@unhcr.org

Benedetta Pignatti, External Relations Officer, pignattb@unhcr.org

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