

Trinidad & Tobago

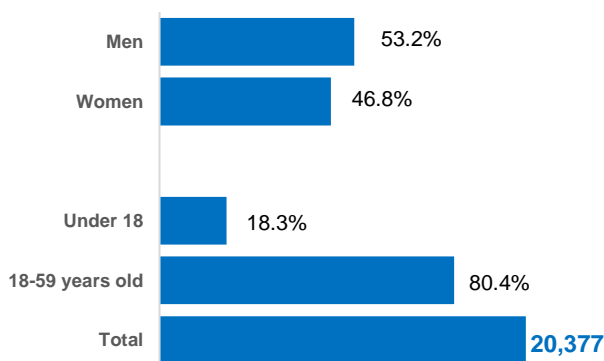
December 2020

Around **20,300** refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR, the vast majority of whom are in a productive age.

Trinidad and Tobago continues to receive an outflow of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. **85.9%** of UNHCR's persons of concern are Venezuelan.

Applications for cash assistance highlight the increased risks faced by refugees and asylum-seekers. **95%** of applicants reported to be struggling to meet their needs of rent and food.

Population of concern*



* Figures are as at December 31 st 2020 . Registration at UNCHR premises had been temporarily suspended from March 13 to May 26 due to COVID 19. 3,402 individual records were inactivated in April due to registration documentation being expired for more than six months. A further 1,534 individual records were inactivated in December 2020.

CONTEXT

The outflow of Venezuelans to Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) continued in December despite borders remaining closed, through irregular and often life-threatening means. In one tragic incident, the bodies of over 30 Venezuelans were found after their boat reportedly capsized near the Venezuelan coast. The incident prompted a [joint statement](#) from UNHCR and IOM and an another [statement](#) from the OHCHR. Meanwhile, detentions and deportations of Venezuelans entering the country irregularly continued in December, as did legal cases in [national courts challenging judgements made](#) for the deportation of children, including of an 11-year-old girl who would have been separated from her mother. Additionally, nine out of 16 children who were detained in November, were released from state quarantine and reunited with their parents.

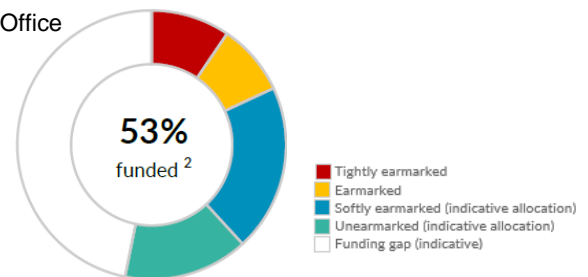
UNHCR and the government continued to provide much needed assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in T&T. Pending the issuance of an official notice, Government authorities [indicated](#) that Venezuelans registered with the government are likely to have their documentation renewed into 2021, allowing them to remain and access employment in the country.

In addition, UNHCR conducted weekly field-missions registering persons with specific needs living in remote areas around T&T. Moreover, UNHCR also facilitated the resettlement of two refugee families to Australia in December, despite the many challenges amid COVID-19 travel restrictions.

FUNDING (AS OF 15 DECEMBER 2020)

US\$ 48.5 M

requested for United States of America Multi-Country Office



1 The financial requirements for the United States of America MCO include requirements for the Coronavirus Emergency and the Venezuela Situation. Trinidad and Tobago is part of the United States of America Multi-Country Office along with Aruba, Curaçao, Guyana, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the United States of America.

2 The percentage funded includes indicative allocations of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions



REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS MAKE ENDS MEET THROUGH SAN RAFAEL COLLECTIVE SOAPMAKING PROJECT

Refugee and asylum-seeker women are engaged in an all-natural soapmaking project carried out by a group of women on the San Rafael compound, which houses a diverse profile of vulnerable refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants. The soaps are made from locally produced goat milk and other ingredients like cocoa butter sourced from a local company that also employs asylum-seekers and refugees. This project is part of an agricultural cash-for-work programme at the San Rafael Collective, supported by UNHCR and managed by partner Living Water Community.

UNHCR Response and Strategy

UNHCR works with three partners in Trinidad and Tobago and supports the State in the delivery of assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers.

Main Activities

Alongside the government, partner organizations, civil society, faith-based organizations, development actors and UN Agencies, UNHCR undertakes protection and solutions activities, including:



Emergency food assistance

Through implementing partner **Living Water Community (LWC)**, **3,227 people** were provided with emergency food assistance in December, **receiving QR coded e-vouchers that are redeemable** at participating supermarkets in communities nationwide. In 2021, the community referral system for the programme will be strengthened and dedicated phone line will be launched. New supermarkets will also be added to the network in remote communities with large concentrations of refugees and migrants.



Cash-based interventions (CBI)

Multi-purpose cash grants were approved for **287 individuals** facing protection risks and with very limited or no ability to achieve self-reliance. Applications for cash assistance continued to demonstrate the heightened risks faced by refugees and asylum-seekers. 95% of cash applicants reported not being able to meet their basic needs, particularly rent and food. 73% of applicants identified that in order to meet the needs of the household, they were forced to reduce the quantity of food consumed. One-third of referrals for CBI stated someone in their household was a victim of trafficking with 50% of referrals stating that they were survivors of some form of SGBV.



Access to medical services

Health services continued to be delivered through a combination of telehealth and static clinic modalities. UNHCR implementing partner **Family Planning Association (FPATT)** conducted **221 consultations** on sexual and reproductive health for 198 refugees and asylum-seekers during December, including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). In addition, **15 pediatric care consultations** were conducted in December.



Mental health and psychosocial services

Psychosocial support was provided for refugees and asylum-seekers, with partner **Rape Crisis Society** facilitating **107 counselling sessions**, including for 38 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.



Access to education and training opportunities

In December, **37 new participants** were able to access remote education services through **Equal Place**, with a total of **1,080 students** accessing lessons.



Registration and verification

UNHCR's field mission exercises, aimed at providing registration services to persons living in remote areas of T&T, continued in December with missions to San Fernando, Couva and Rio Claro. Overall, **282 persons** whose documentation had expired were verified in person and provided with new UNHCR identification, and an additional 10 persons with specific needs received UNHCR registration.

Thanks to donors in 2020: The UNHCR United States of America MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the United States of America and the European Union, as well as to the following donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | Private donors Australia | Private donors Germany | Private donors Italy | Private donors Japan | Private donors Republic of Korea | Private donors Japan | Private donors Spain | Private donors United Kingdom | Private donors USA

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