

Trinidad & Tobago

March -April 2023

Key Figures



26,663

Refugees and asylum-seekers live in Trinidad and Tobago. **Twenty-five per cent** are children.



Nearly **87 per cent**

of those registered with UNHCR are from Venezuela.



UNHCR conducted **90** sessions on Mental Health and Psychosocial support for refugees and asylum-seekers.

Context

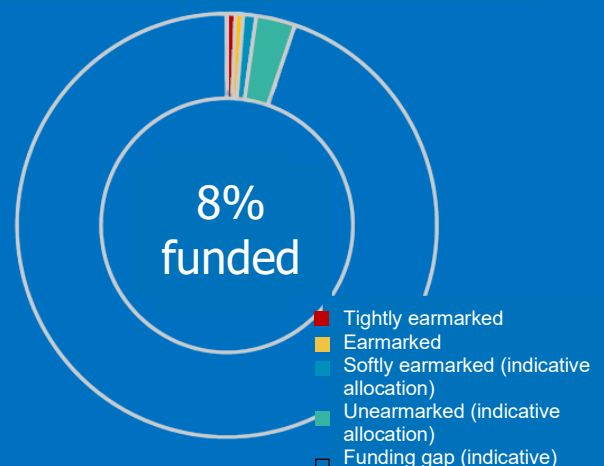
Trinidad and Tobago has over 26,000 asylum-seekers and refugees from 41 countries. UNHCR works with the Government and partners to provide support, assistance, and protection to forcibly displaced people.

In March, the United States released its 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices, placing Trinidad and Tobago on its Tier 2 watchlist for Human Trafficking. Human Rights attorneys are calling on the Government to adopt international standards to address these issues and the alleged human rights violations toward refugees and migrants in the islands.

In April, a High Court Judge set 18 July as the date to deliver the judgment for a case of a Venezuelan asylum-seeker for whom the authorities ordered deportation. This decision intends to resolve the long-standing issue regarding applying local immigration laws over the country's international non-refoulement obligations to refugees.

Regional funding Overview

as of 27 April 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.

In Trinidad and Tobago, UNHCR registered 1,134 people, enabling them to access essential services and documentation.



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 five partners: Living Water Community (LWC), Family Planning Association (FPATT), Rape Crisis Society (RCS), La Casita, and Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF).



Protection | UNHCR trained 142 police officers on international protection and facilitated a workshop for 22 judiciary members on unlawful detention and alternatives. UNHCR, through Living Water Community (LWC), provided legal assistance to 58 asylum-seekers and refugees on international protection and access to rights. As of April, UNHCR has counselled over 160 people.



Health | UNHCR, through Family Planning Association (FPATT), provided 1,116 sexual and reproductive health services for 175 refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR, through its partner, the Rape Crisis Society (RCS), provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and counselling sessions to 77 refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly those who have experienced severe trauma as a result of gender-based violence (GBV), human trafficking, exploitation, and discrimination.



Cash-based Interventions and Assistance | UNHCR provided multi-purpose cash assistance to 92 refugees and asylum-seekers to cover their basic needs, reaching 40 households.



Registration | UNHCR provided first-time access to documentation to over 1,100 asylum-seekers. After conducting refugee status determination (RSD) interviews in March and April, UNHCR recognized 21 refugees and submitted 60 cases for resettlement.



Strategic Moments of Reflection: Planning together with refugees and partners

UNHCR organized a workshop called “Strategic Moments of Reflection” to discuss with partners, refugees, and asylum-seekers, the Agency’s achievements and challenges, and the upcoming protection and advocacy activities for 2024. Approximately 30 people participated in the event.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the European Union, the United States of America, 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 | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Spain | Switzerland | private donors in Australia

For more information:

Philippa Candler, Representative, candler@unhcr.org

Viola Eleonora Bruttomesso, Associate Communications Officer, bruttome@unhcr.org

Links: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

UNHCR's presence in Trinidad and Tobago

