

Trinidad & Tobago

July - September 2024

Key Figures



UNHCR protects **36,163** people in Trinidad and Tobago: **3,382** refugees, **31,487** asylum-seekers, and **1,290** correspond to their children born in the country.



Nearly **86 per cent** are from Venezuela.



From July to September, **66** refugees and asylum-seekers from 24 households received cash assistance. Forty-two were new beneficiaries (13 households).

Context

The [Ministry of Public Security](#) announced that the fifth tranche of Minister's Permits for Venezuelans under the Migrant Registration Framework (MRF) was ready for collection.

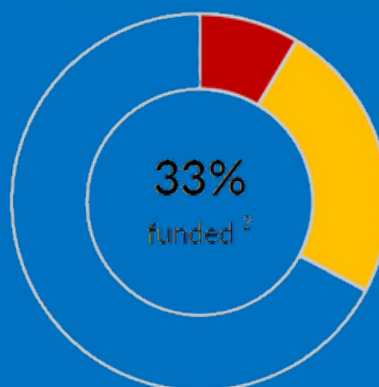
On 2 September, **23 refugee and migrant children** enrolled in the national school system, marking a historic milestone. An amendment to the Immigration Act allows Venezuelans under 18, whose parents or guardians are registered in the MRF, to enroll in national schools, subject to space availability and completion of a [Student Permit Exemption](#). Authorities have approved **111 permits**. In the previous month, UNHCR and UNICEF, together with the parents of refugee and migrant children, attended the Ministry of Education's ceremony to hand over their student exemption certificates.

More refugee and migrant children are expected to enroll shortly. UNHCR, as co-chair of the Education Working Group, continues to advocate for more refugees to be included in the next phase of admissions, allowing them to pursue their academic goals and dreams and advancing the rights of children to education.

A young asylum-seeker holds a shirt while shopping for school uniforms in August. She was one of 23 refugees and migrants enrolled in national public schools.

Regional funding Overview

as of 30 September 2024



- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

\$56.1 million

¹ Financial requirement for the Panama MCO in 2024 including requirements for the operations and activities in [Aruba](#), [Belize](#), [Cuba](#), [Curaçao](#), [Guyana](#), [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 four partners: The Caribbean Centre for Human Rights (CCHR), the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT), La Casita Hispanic Cultural Centre and UNICEF.



Protection | UNHCR and the CCHR provided legal assistance to 233 asylum-seekers and refugees on international protection and access to rights. From this group, 161 were new beneficiaries.



Registration | UNHCR registered 1,481 people and identified 158 refugees and asylum-seekers who met the criteria to be referred for resettlement. The Agency carried out a two-day mission in Tobago and registered 105 individuals, creating opportunities for their access to social protection.



Coordination with Authorities | UNHCR trained 92 Government officials, including Police and Immigration officials, on international protection and UNHCR's mandate. The sessions are part of an ongoing coordinated effort with authorities to provide regular sensitization on refugee protection.



Interagency | UNHCR conducted the R4V Joint Needs Assessments (JNA) Data Validation Workshop. The results of 404 telephone surveys will be used to prepare the 2024 Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis and the 2025-2026 Refugee and Migrant Response Plan.



Education | UNHCR distributed education kits to 17 refugee children and 7 local students in Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative supports the first group of refugee and asylum-seeking children joining the national schools. They received books, bags, shoes, and essential tools for the September 2024 term.



UNHCR PARTICIPATES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S PRIDE FAIR AND PARADE

In July, UNHCR set up a booth in Port Spain to support the Pride Fair and Parade. The Agency provided information on international protection and raised awareness to hundreds of people about the challenges refugees and asylum-seekers face in integrating. Additionally, UNHCR expressed solidarity with LGBTIQ+ refugees worldwide in their journey to find safety.

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

For more information:

In Trinidad and Tobago | Kalifa Clyne, Communications Associate, clyne@unhcr.org

In MCO Panama | Margarida Loureiro, Deputy Representative, loureirm@unhcr.org

In MCO Panama | Benedetta Pignatti, External Relations Officer, pignattb@unhcr.org

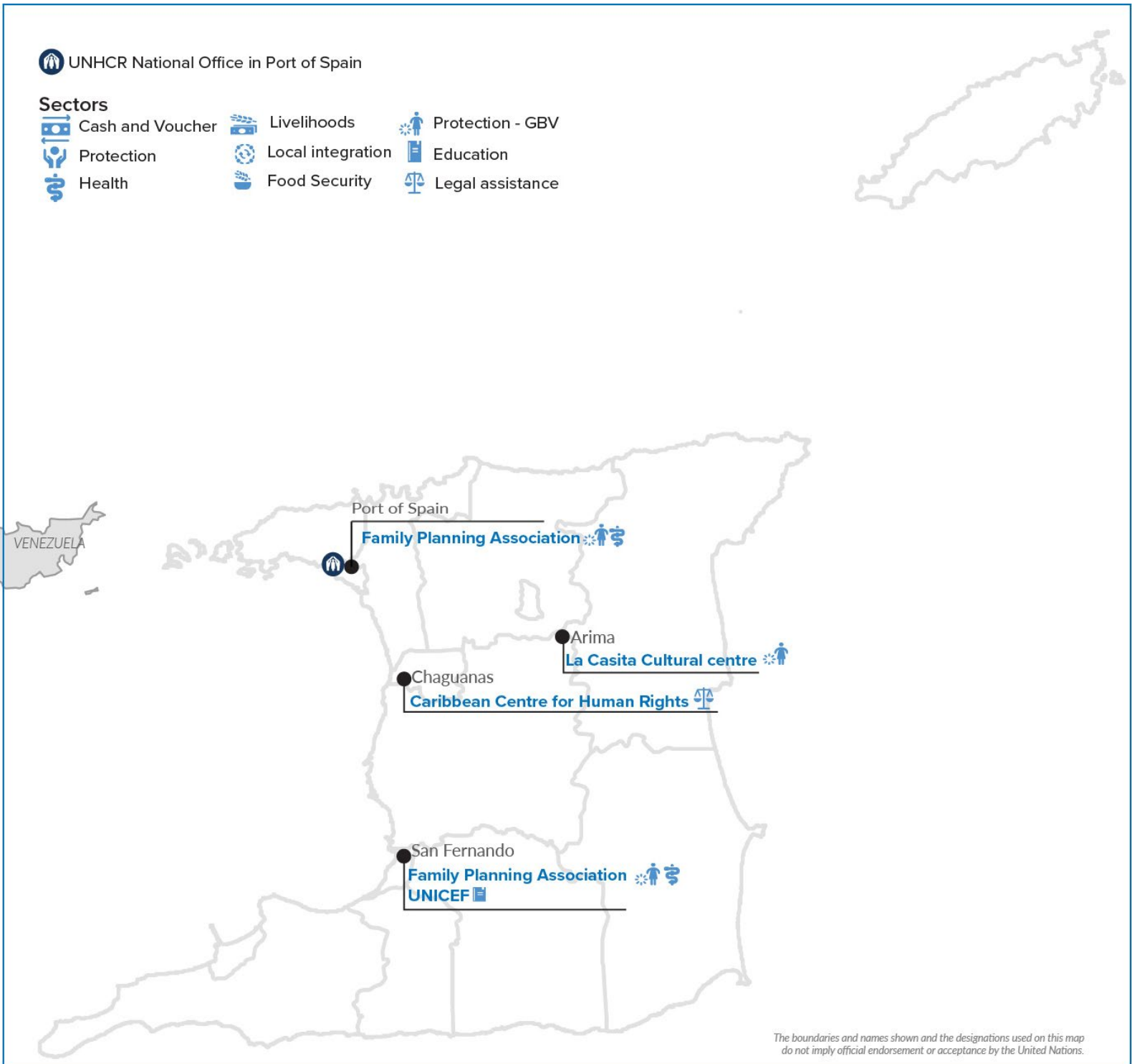
Links: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

UNHCR's presence in Trinidad and Tobago

 UNHCR National Office in Port of Spain

Sectors

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
|  Cash and Voucher |  Livelihoods |  Protection - GBV |
|  Protection |  Local integration |  Education |
|  Health |  Food Security |  Legal assistance |



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.