UNHCR's partner registration in Belmopan, Belize

Registration Snapshot

January 2025

Registration - recording, verifying, and updating biographical, biometric, and socioeconomic data - is the first step to protecting forcibly displaced and stateless persons. It allows for the **identification of specific needs, the provision of targeted assistance, and the attainment of durable solutions.** Registration protects against arbitrary arrest, detention, and refoulement, helps keep families together, and facilitates reunification.

The Population Registration and Identity Management Ecosystem (**PRIMES**) is a set of interoperable tools developed by UNHCR to enhance registration, case management, and identity management for the persons we protect.

536

Forcibly displaced and stateless people from **396 households** were registered in all countries under MCO Panama in January 2025

MAIN FIGURES – PEOPLE REGISTERED

52% Male

48% Female

403 Adults, **1%** over 60 years

133 Children, **38%** under five years

426 People biometrically registered through BIMS**

21 Nationalities registered, mainly Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia, Jamaica

86% Asylum seekers, **0.4%** refugees, **13%** other people UNHCR protects

PROTECTION RESPONSE THROUGH PRIMES

255 Specific protection needs identified, related to

- **Legal and physical protection: 128**
- **Child protection: 56**
- **Serious medical conditions: 33**
- **Gender-based violence: 12**
- **Unaccompanied/separated children: 8**
- **Women at risk: 7**
- **Single parents: 5**
- **Disabilities: 4**

102 Counselling sessions provided

105 Assistance delivered, mainly for basic needs, transport and documentation

727 UNHCR Documents*** issued in Cuba, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago

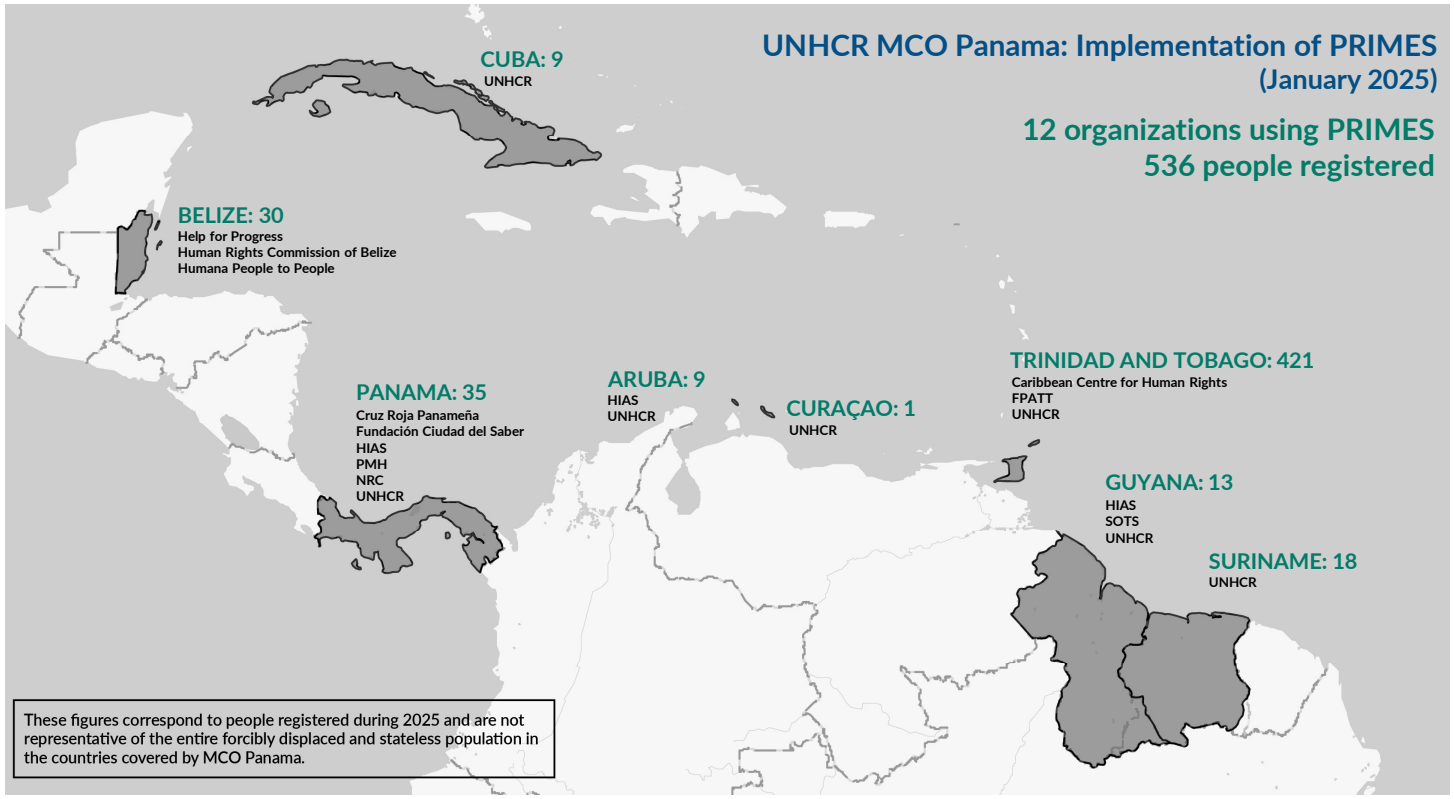
12 Asylum seekers helped to get permanent residency under Belize Amnesty

10 Refugee Status Determination cases finalized (23 individuals)

27 Cases interviewed for resettlement (42 individuals)

*These figures are not representative of the entire forcibly displaced and stateless population in the countries covered by MCO Panama. ** Biometric Identity Management System: biometric registration includes fingerprint and iris scans and a facial photograph.
*** UNHCR Documents are Certificates or Cards attesting to an individual's recognition as a Mandate Refugee or as an Asylum Seeker to certify that they are persons protected by UNHCR

UNHCR MCO PANAMA | **Creation date:** 11 February 2025 | **Sources:** UNHCR monitoring data | **Feedback**: panpaim@unhcr.org



STRATEGIC REGISTRATION GOALS

- ✓ **Ensure high-standard registration** at the internal level for efficient case management, mandate RSD (Cuba, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago) and RST (Aruba, Curaçao, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago).
- ✓ **Enhance partners' capacity** and integrity in case management procedures and data protection.
- ✓ **Support governments** to build or strengthen digitalized registration, case management and identity management systems to ensure fair and efficient national asylum procedures.

How does PRIMES enhance registration, case management, and identity management for forcibly displaced and stateless persons?

- ✓ **Data Integrity and Accuracy**.
- ✓ **Security and Privacy** through encryption and access controls, preventing fraud and corruption.
- ✓ **Collaboration** between partners, facilitating joint efforts, avoiding duplication, and reducing revictimization.
- ✓ **Digital identity for persons we protect**, enabling their socio-economic inclusion within host communities.
- ✓ **Field-proofing**, though tools working in online, offline, and GSM* environments.
- ✓ **Scalability**, enabling seamless expansion to support potential large-scale and emergency displacements.

The boundaries, names, and designations shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
*GSM: Global System for Mobile Communications, the most widely used cellular-wireless telecommunications standard.