

Trinidad and Tobago

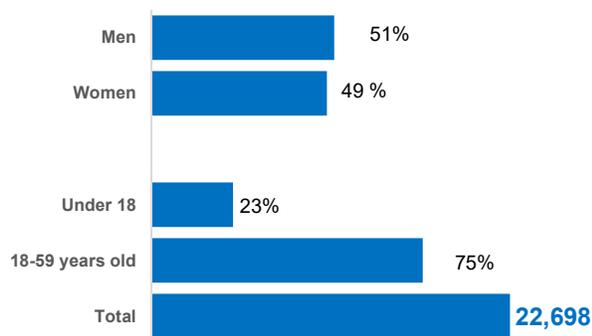
September - October 2022

Nearly **22,700 refugees and asylum-seekers** are currently registered with UNHCR, most of whom are of **employable age**.

People registered with UNHCR come from **37 different countries**. **86 per cent** of them are **Venezuelan** and **six per cent Cuban**.

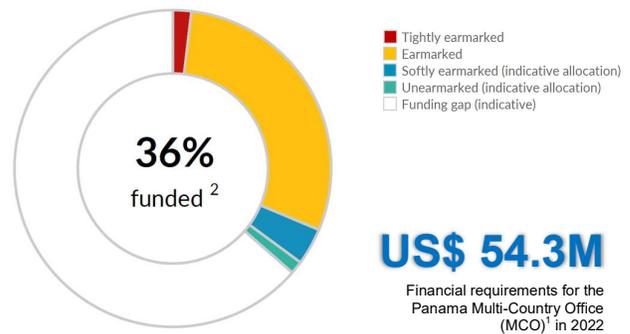
UNHCR continues to facilitate access to medical services including for sexual and reproductive health. More than **800 refugees and asylum-seekers** received over **5,200 medical services** in 2022 thus far.

People UNHCR protects



* Data as of 31 October 2022.

STATE OF PLAY: FUNDING RECEIVED VS. FUNDING NEEDS (AS OF 25 OCTOBER 2022)



¹ The financial requirements for the Panama MCO include requirements for the Coronavirus Emergency and the Venezuela Situation. **Trinidad and Tobago** is part of the **Panama Multi-Country Office** since 2021 along with Panama, Belize, Nicaragua, Cuba and the Southern Caribbean.

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

CONTEXT

In September, the Government presented the **National Budget for 2022/2023**. Highlights include increases in the fuel price, e-money policy reform, and computerization of the Defence Force data collection, including upgrading the Fingerprint Identification System for the Immigration Division, which is intended to help authorities manage and monitor irregular entries.

UNHCR and partners continue to receive requests for humanitarian assistance and legal support for asylum procedures. In October, UNHCR introduced the **Results Monitoring Survey**, a tool aiming to assess living conditions of refugees and migrants more effectively, with an initial target of **1,500 people**.

Highlights

In September, UNHCR liaised with IOM and the UN Resident Coordinator (RCO) to host the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Amazing Race, to raise awareness of SDG16, as well as the positive contributions of refugees and



In October, UNHCR also liaised with UN Women and the UN RCO to unveil a mural celebrating the 60th anniversary of the country's independence and 60 years' membership to the UN.

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, development actors, and UN Agencies, UNHCR undertakes protection and solutions activities, including:

 **Food Assistance** | UNHCR with **Living Water Community (LWC)** provided emergency food assistance to **618 vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees** using **QR code vouchers**, redeemable at participating supermarkets nationwide. Significant increases in food prices left refugees and asylum-seekers already vulnerable to food insecurity at heightened risk. In 2022 thus far, **948 individuals** received food assistance.

 **Cash-based Interventions** | In September and October 2022, **71 individuals with limited or no ability to achieve self-reliance and facing multiple protection risks** received support with multipurpose cash assistance. Protection risks included people with critical or chronic illnesses, survivors of gender-based violence, people facing eviction or homelessness, people with a severe mental or physical disability, and others in emergencies facing serious risks to their health and physical integrity. For 2022 thus far **231 individuals** have received multipurpose cash assistance.

 **Education** | UNHCR, in partnership with UNICEF and LWC, is supporting the education of primary-school and secondary-school-aged children via Equal Place Program. As of September 2022, 2,005 children were enrolled in primary education and 453 children were enrolled in secondary. UNHCR additionally provided **92 tablets** to facilitate connectivity these students in 2022 so far.

 **Health** | UNHCR provides medical assistance to vulnerable groups through **Family Planning Association (FPATT)**. FPATT provided **959 sexual and reproductive health services for 122 refugees and asylum-seekers**, and thus far, 848 refugees and asylum-seekers accessed **5,277 medical assistance services**.

 **Mental Health and Psychosocial Services** | UNHCR delivered mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services through the **Rape Crisis Society (RCS)**, providing **53 counselling sessions** to help refugees and asylum-seekers cope, particularly those who have experienced severe trauma as a result of gender-based violence (GBV), human trafficking, exploitation, and discrimination.

 **Advocacy and Public Information** | In September, UNHCR's film *The Challengers* was screened at the inaugural Caribbean International Film Festival in Birmingham UK, production that showcased stories of inclusion and integration.

 **Documentation and RSD Procedure** | UNHCR provided first-time access to documentation to **926 asylum-seekers** (376 UNHCR certificates and 550 UNHCR identification cards). In addition, **24 asylum-seekers** completed their **refugee status determination (RSD) interviews**, and **26 refugees were resettled to a third country** through UNHCR's resettlement programme.

 **Capacity Building** | UNHCR delivered four workshops on international refugee protection and UNHCR's mandate for **133 participants** from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. UNHCR conducted together with IOM, UNFPA, LWC and UNICEF a workshop for **41 officers** of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, on the identification of protection needs and psychological first aid. UNHCR supported two participants, **from the Hugh Wooding Law School and Living Water Community**, to attend the sixth Online Course on International Refugee Law, hosted by the San Remo, Institute.

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Canada, the European Union, France, Guyana, 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: Australia | Austria | Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom. Private donors in Australia | Canada | Germany | Italy | Japan | the Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | and the United States.

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Trinidad and Tobago: Operational Presence

