UNHCR Biometric registration in Oranjestad, Aruba

Registration Snapshot

January – November 2024

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 refoulement, arbitrary arrest, and detention, 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.

7,890

Forcibly displaced and stateless people from **5,575 households** were registered in all countries under MCO Panama during 2024.

MAIN FIGURES – PEOPLE REGISTERED

50% Male

50% Female

5,895 Adults, **3%** over 60 years

1,989 Children, **34%** under five years

5,741 People biometrically registered through BIMS**

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

79% Asylum seekers, **2%** refugees, **17%** other people UNHCR protects

PROTECTION RESPONSE THROUGH PRIMES

3,955 Specific protection needs identified, related to

- **Legal and physical protection: 1,907**
- **Child protection: 800**
- **Serious medical conditions: 480**
- **Gender-based violence: 250**
- **Women at risk: 196**
- **Single parents: 153**
- **Unaccompanied/separated children: 83**
- **Disabilities: 73**

1064 Counselling sessions provided

2,806 Assistances delivered for basic needs, livelihoods, documentation, inter alia

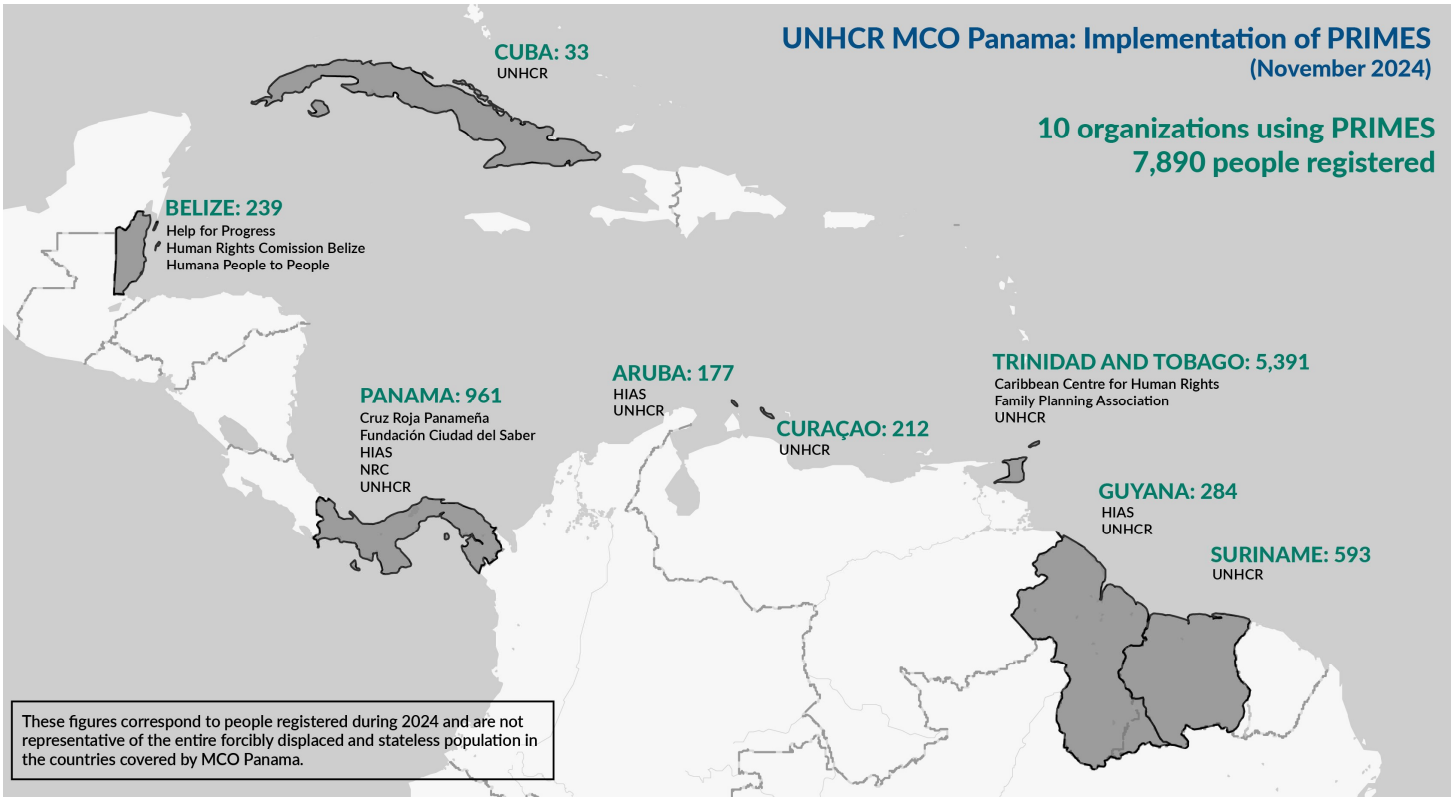
8,604 UNHCR Documents*** issued in Cuba, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago

235 Asylum seekers helped to get permanent residency under Belize Amnesty

219 Refugee Status Determination cases finalized (369 individuals)

494 Cases interviewed for resettlement (1169 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



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.