

Trinidad & Tobago

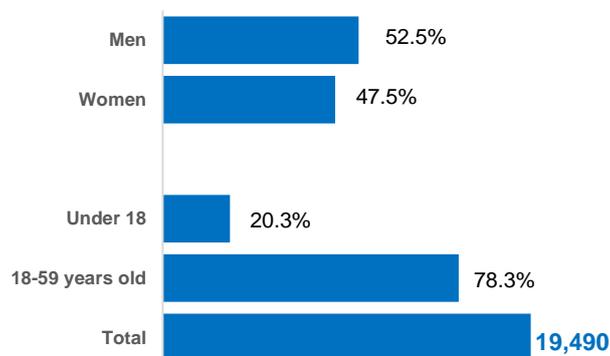
February 2021

Around **19,490** refugees and asylum-seekers currently registered with UNHCR, the vast majority of whom are in a productive age.

Trinidad and Tobago continues to receive an outflow of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. **86%** of UNHCR's persons of concern are Venezuelan.

157 health consultations were delivered in February. Over **170** persons living in remote areas were also reached with documentation services via field missions.

Population of concern*



* Figures are as at January 31st 2020. Registration at UNCHR premises had been temporarily suspended from March 13 to May 26 due to COVID 19. 3,402 individual records were inactivated in April due to registration documentation being expired for more than six months. A further 1,534 individual records were inactivated in December 2020.

CONTEXT

Legal judgements on detention and deportation cases continued in February, with high court judges ordering the release of asylum-seekers in **three separate cases** and preventing deportation in an additional **case**. Detentions of undocumented non-nationals **continued**, with at least one instance of interception at sea **reported**. Persons held at the Immigration Detention Centre **continue to complain** about conditions at the facility.

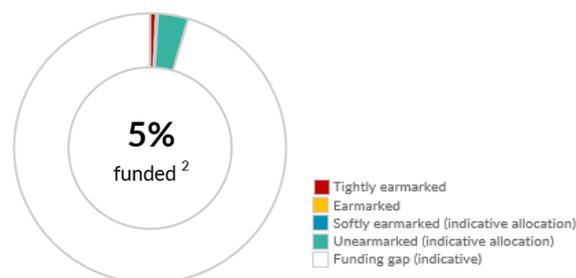
Trinidad and Tobago authorities **announced** the launch of a process for persons who participated in the June 2019 government registration exercise, requiring them to update their details in order to be granted six-month extensions on their stay permits. Additionally, authorities **indicated** their intention to include non-nationals in COVID-19 vaccination exercises, including all Venezuelans who need it.

UNHCR continued to work with government and other agencies to provide needed assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in T&T. Field missions, capacity building and further community engagements were conducted with the aim of expanding humanitarian support for refugees and asylum-seekers.

FUNDING (AS OF 2 MARCH 2021)

US\$ 48.7 M

requested for Panama Multi-Country Office¹



¹ The financial requirements for Panama MCO include requirements for the operation's regular programme, Coronavirus Emergency, North of Central America Situation and the Venezuela Situation. Trinidad and Tobago is part of the Panama Multi-Country Office along with Aruba, Belize, Cuba, Curaçao, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama

² The percentage funded (5%) and total funding amount (\$2,434,061) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$ 46,244,456 representing 95% of the financial requirements.



UNHCR DELIVERS PPE TO PARTNERS

UNHCR Trinidad and Tobago **delivered** personal protective equipment to NGO partners including the Living Water Community, Family Planning Association, Rape Crisis Society, Archdiocesan Ministry of Migrants and Refugees, La

Casita Hispanic Cultural Centre and Helping Hearts. In total, 1,490 gowns, 1700 disposable masks and 1000 surgical masks were distributed to support their response amid the ongoing COVID pandemic.

UNHCR HOSTS VIRTUAL MISSION

UNHCR hosted a virtual mission for the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) on February 26 and March 1. ECHO representatives were able to briefly witness UNHCR's registration and verification mission in Icacos – a very remote community in southwest Trinidad where 91 persons benefited from documentation services.

Presentations on the operational context and UNHCR interventions, as well as discussion sessions with refugees and asylum-seekers were also facilitated.



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, faith-based organizations, development actors and UN Agencies, UNHCR undertakes protection and solutions activities, including:



Cash-based interventions (CBI)

In February 2021, UNHCR approved the continuation of longer-term assistance for households whose cases were reassessed via home visits, in light of the specific needs of the individual cases. Multi-purpose cash grants were approved for **20 individuals** facing protection risks and with very limited or no ability to achieve self-reliance. 44% of these beneficiaries were living with chronic/critical illnesses while 33% were persons with severe physical and/or mental disabilities. One was an unaccompanied child. For 2021 thus far, **34 individuals** were assisted with multipurpose cash grants.



Access to medical services

Health services continued to be delivered through a combination of telehealth and static clinic modalities. Through a hotline dedicated to refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR partner **Family Planning Association (FPATT)** works to prioritize medical emergencies for in-person consultations. In February, FPATT conducted **157 consultations** on sexual and reproductive health for refugees and asylum-seekers, in addition to **three pediatric care consultations**. A clinic coordinator works with FPATT's medical team to ensure that clients receive needed healthcare while adhering to COVID-19 protocols.



Mental health and psychosocial services

Psychosocial support was provided for refugees and asylum-seekers, with partner **Rape Crisis Society** facilitating **35 counselling sessions**, including for 13 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.



Access to education and training opportunities

In February, around 1,080 refugees and asylum seekers were able to access remote education services through **Equal Place**. In addition, six training sessions were held for 40 teachers of local schools jointly run by the Catholic Education Board of Management and the Ministry of Education. 148 primary school-aged Venezuelan children await their formal permission from Ministry of National Security to integrate in the formal system. The Presbyterian Primary Schools Board of Education joined the Education Working Group in February, indicating their willingness to identify potential spaces for non-nationals within the 72 schools under their remit.



Registration and verification

UNHCR's field mission exercises, aimed at providing registration services to persons living in remote areas of Trinidad and Tobago, continued in February with missions to Princes Town and Icacos. Overall, **172 persons** whose documentation had expired were verified in person and provided with new UNHCR identification, and an additional seven persons with specific needs received UNHCR registration.

Thanks to donors in 2021: The UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the United States of America and the European Union, as well as to the following donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Algeria | Armenia | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | United Kingdom | Private donors

For more information:

In Trinidad and Tobago, **Shemuel London**, Senior Reporting Assistant, london@unhcr.org

In MCO Panama, **Diana Diaz Rodriguez**, Communications Officer, diazdi@unhcr.org

Find more information about UNHCR [here](#) and click [here](#) for more on the work of the UNHCR T&T Operation.