

# Trinidad and Tobago

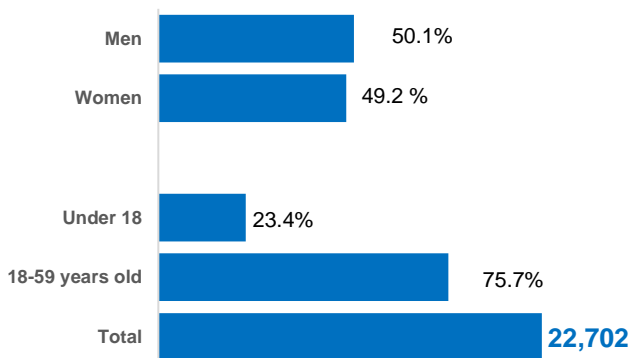
May - June 2022

More than **22,700** refugees and **asylum-seekers** are registered with UNHCR, most of whom are of an **employable age**.

People registered with UNHCR come from **37 different countries**, **87 per cent** are **Venezuelan** and **6 per cent Cuban**.

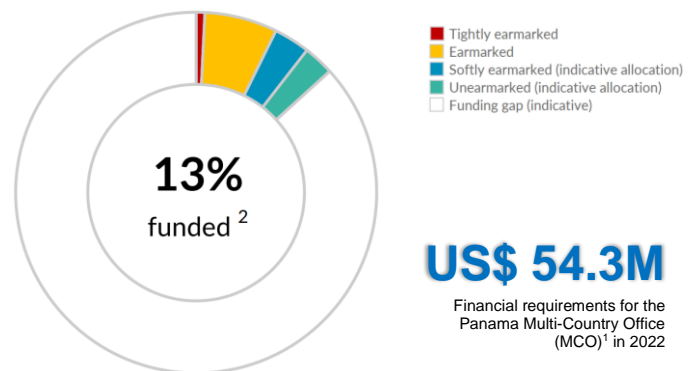
UNHCR continues to enhance access to medical services including for sexual and reproductive health. **More than 1,000 refugees and asylum-seekers** received over **3,400 medical services** on 2022 thus far.

## Population of concern\*



\* Data as of 30 June 2022.

## STATE OF PLAY: FUNDING RECEIVED VS. FUNDING NEEDS (AS OF 5 JULY 2022)



<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> The percentage funded includes indicative allocations of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

## CONTEXT

In Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), cases of COVID-19 declined during this period. The government revised **entry requirements** and launched a **paediatric vaccinations program**, inclusive for refugees and migrants.

A government-commissioned **report** documented inadequacies in state care for children, **including migrants**, and established a Task Force to implement recommendations appealing for the urgent re-organization of the childcare system and the need for inter-agency collaboration.

Individuals continue to approach UNHCR and partners, seeking access to asylum and to humanitarian assistance. Food prices continue to rise in T&T, further restricting refugees and migrants to meet their basic needs.

UNHCR works with the government and other agencies to provide needed protection services, support, and assistance, to refugees and migrants in T&T.

## Highlights

On World Refugee Day (WRD) 2022, UNHCR embarked on a media campaign, underscoring the theme: **"Everyone has a right to seek safety"**. The campaign was largely covered by the media. Media also covered **The Challengers** – a Volleyball team, supported by UNHCR that includes refugee, migrant and host community players.



UNHCR and partner La Casita's celebrated WRD in Arima with sport and cultural events such as musical performances by refugees and local music groups, as well as the sale of traditional food made by refugees and migrants. Local community organizations distributed clothing and food while UNHCR distributed over 100 core relief items, including blankets and mosquito nets.

## 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 partner **Living Water Community (LWC)** provided emergency food assistance to **168 vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees** using **QR code vouchers**, redeemable at participating supermarkets nationwide. Significant increases in food prices left refugees and asylum-seekers, who were already vulnerable to food insecurity, at heightened risk. For 2022 thus far, **492 individuals received** food assistance.



**Cash-based Interventions** | In May and June 2022, **48 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 emergency situations facing risks to their health and physical integrity. For 2022 thus far, **140 individuals** have received multipurpose cash assistance.



**Health** | UNHCR provides medical assistance to vulnerable groups through **Family Planning Association (FPATT)**. During May and June, FPATT provided **1,101 sexual and reproductive health services** for **299 refugees and asylum-seekers**, and for 2022 thus far, **1,019 refugees and asylum-seekers** accessed **3,415 medical assistance services**.



**Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS)** | UNHCR delivered mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) through partner **Rape Crisis Society (RCS)**, providing **86 remote counselling sessions** to help refugees and asylum-seekers cope with forced displacement, particularly those who have experienced severe trauma as a result of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), human trafficking, intimate partner violence, exploitation and discrimination. In June, RCS completed its *Outreach Facilitator Training Workshop* training **16 bilingual individuals** to conduct sessions in communities on GBV. For 2022 thus far, **99 refugees and asylum seekers** received MHPSS support.



**Advocacy and Public Information** | With the support of the **European Union**, UNHCR produced and disseminated stories highlighting inclusion and integration as part of the **'Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity'** project currently being implemented in Chaguanas. UNHCR continues to advocate with high-level and operational government partners, meeting with the Police Commissioner during this period.



**Documentation and RSD Procedure** | UNHCR provided first-time access to documentation to **788 asylum-seekers** (**675 UNHCR certificates**, and **113 UNHCR identification cards**). In addition, **47 asylum-seekers** completed their refugee status determination (RSD) interviews, and **30 refugees were resettled** to a third country through UNHCR resettlement programme.



**Capacity Building** | UNHCR delivered three workshops on international refugee protection, UNHCR's mandate and activities for **152 participants** from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and sponsored a **course** on International Refugee Law for national security officials.

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

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