

# Trinidad & Tobago

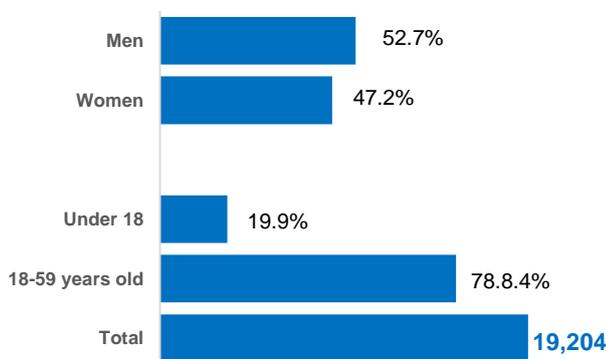
January 2021

Around **19,200** 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. **85.9%** of UNHCR's persons of concern are Venezuelan.

Applications for cash assistance highlight risks faced by refugees and asylum-seekers. **60%** of applicants were at risk of homelessness due to inability to pay rent.

## 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

Detentions of undocumented non-nationals continue to be reported in Trinidad and Tobago during January 2021, with the majority being Venezuelans who were apprehended during **police patrols**. Legal cases on the detention of asylum-seekers are ongoing, with a report on an **appeal** by the state on a court decision to release a group of Venezuelan women and children from custody. Other court decisions **halting** deportations, and allowing an asylum-seeker to **challenge** a deportation order were also noted.

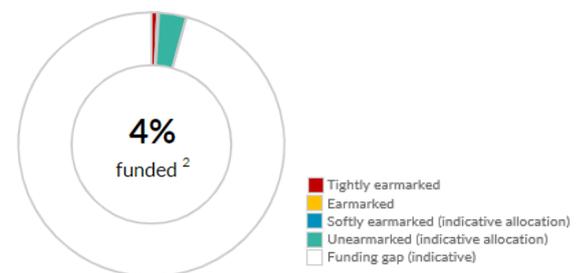
Authorities **announced** that a new migration policy is being drafted. In addition, Venezuelans registered by the government in the June 2019 exercise would soon be required to re-register to extend their stay permit. Yet no new applicants will be allowed to participate.

UNHCR continued to work with government and other agencies to provide much-needed assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in the country. Field missions, community engagement and capacity building activities, as well as humanitarian and integration support are set to continue in 2021. The Trinidad and Tobago Operation became part of Multi-Country Office - Panama from 1 January 2021.

## FUNDING (AS OF 2 FEBRUARY 2021)

**US\$ 48.7 M**

requested for Panama Multi-Country Office



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 (4%) and total funding amount (\$2,198,732) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$46,479,785 representing 95% of the financial requirements.



## UNHCR CONTINUES COORDINATION UNDER RESPONSE FOR VENEZUELAN (R4V) PLATFORM IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

UNHCR along with seven other agencies will coordinate in 2021 the implementation of activities that respond to the Venezuelan refugee and migration situation in Trinidad and Tobago. Working as part of the **Caribbean Sub-region**, these organizations will bring together various governmental, non-governmental, international and civil society organisations to address the humanitarian, protection and socioeconomic integration needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, as part of the **2021 Plan**.

Across the five countries of the Caribbean sub-region, over 28,000 persons were **beneficiaries** of humanitarian assistance and response activities coordinated by the platform in various sectors in 2020, with over 10,000 of these being in Trinidad and Tobago. Estimates are that 24,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants were present in the country at the end of 2020, increasing to approximately 30,000 by December 2021.

## 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 January 2021, UNHCR continued to provide unconditional multipurpose cash grants to the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers with specific needs or who are in an emergency situations. These include people with serious risks to their health and physical integrity, or in circumstances that seriously threaten their families and which require an immediate intervention. Multi-purpose cash grants were approved for **14 individuals** facing protection risks and with very limited or no ability to achieve self-reliance.

Applications for cash assistance continued to demonstrate the heightened risks faced by refugees and asylum-seekers. 60% of cash applicants were living with chronic illnesses while another 60% stated that they were unable to pay rent and at risk of homelessness.

#### Access to medical services

Health services continued to be delivered through a combination of telehealth and static clinic modalities. UNHCR implementing partner **Family Planning Association (FPATT)** conducted **89 consultations** on sexual and reproductive health for refugees and asylum-seekers during January, in addition to **three pediatric care consultations**. Consultations are facilitated by bilingual staff and offered in a private and confidential atmosphere.

#### Mental health and psychosocial services

Psychosocial support was provided for refugees and asylum-seekers, with partner **Rape Crisis Society** facilitating **16 counselling sessions**, including for eight survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV).

#### Access to education and training opportunities

In January, refugees and asylum seekers were able to access remote education services through **Equal Place**, with a total of **1,080 students** accessing lessons.

#### Registration and verification

UNHCR's field visits, aimed at providing registration services to persons living in remote areas of Trinidad and Tobago, continued in January with missions to San Fernando, Couva and Penal. Overall, **248 persons** whose documentation had expired were verified in person and provided with new UNHCR identification, and an additional eight persons with specific needs were registered by UNHCR.

**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: Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | Private donors Australia | Private donors Germany | Private donors Italy | Private donors Japan | Private donors Republic of Korea | Private donors Japan | Private donors Spain | Private donors United Kingdom | Private donors USA

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