

Trinidad & Tobago

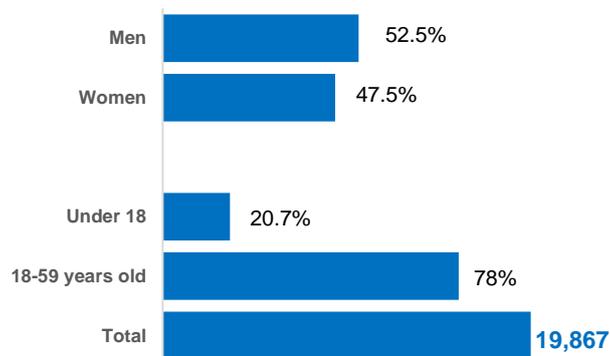
March 2021

Around **19,800** refugees and asylum-seekers are currently registered with UNHCR, the vast majority of whom are of productive age.

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

Over **490** persons were reached with documentation services in March via field verification missions conducted across Trinidad and Tobago, including at remote locations.

Population of concern*



* Figures are as at March 31 2021. 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

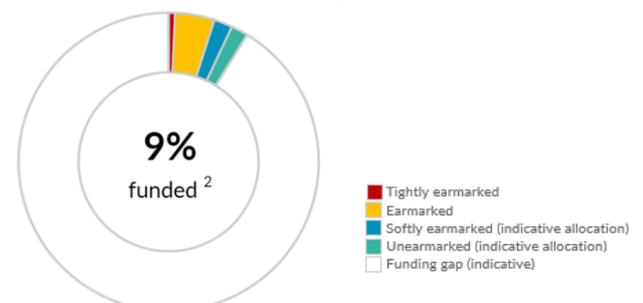
In March, Venezuelans who were registered in the June 2019 government exercise, were invited to participate in a re-registration exercise, requiring them to update their details to be granted six-month extensions on their stay permits. The Ministry of National Security reported that as of 29 March, approximately 13,800 Venezuelans from the eligible 16,523 participated in the exercise, which ran from 8 March to 26 March, and was extended until 9 April. Refugees and asylum-seekers from other nationalities and Venezuelans arriving in Trinidad and Tobago after June 2019, remain undocumented and at risk of detention and deportation.

UNHCR continued to work with government and other agencies to provide needed assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in Trinidad and Tobago. 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 6 APRIL 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 (9%) and total funding amount (\$4,258,506) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$44,420,011 representing 91% of the financial requirements.

UNHCR LAUNCHES CARIBBEAN FACEBOOK PAGE

UNHCR has launched an official Facebook page for the Caribbean subregion. The page aims to assist UNHCR in engaging audiences of concern to raise awareness and reduce xenophobia across the subregion. On average, over half of the social media users in the Caribbean countries use Facebook as their main platform, nearly doubling– or on occasions tripling – the use of other platforms such as Pinterest and Instagram.

This dedicated page @UNHCRCaribbean, will allow UNHCR to disseminate information, stories and news in the different relevant languages, including English, Dutch, Creole, Spanish and others, that speak directly to Caribbean audiences. It also allows our persons of concern to obtain key information that is relevant to their countries.

The page shares stories, news and other content from UNHCR operations in Guyana, Aruba, Curaçao, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sint Maarten, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Turks and Caicos.

**Welcome. Bon Bini.
Bienvenue. Welkom.
Bienvenidos.**

to our FACEBOOK PAGE.
Follow us for regular updates.



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 March 2021, multi-purpose cash grants were approved for **33 individuals** facing protection risks and with very limited or no ability to achieve self-reliance. Referrals for CBI continued to reflect the heightened vulnerabilities faced by refugees and asylum-seekers. 69% of beneficiaries were unemployed while 46% were unable to pay rent. 38% were either evicted or facing a substantial risk of eviction and 31% were unable to meet their basic needs.



Access to medical services

Health services continued to be delivered through a combination of telehealth and static clinic modalities. In March, through partner [Family Planning Association \(FPATT\)](#), UNHCR facilitated **188 consultations** on sexual and reproductive health for refugees and asylum-seekers, 87 of whom were visiting FPATT for the first time. In addition, **12 pediatric care consultations** were conducted for refugee and asylum-seeker children. Information continues to be provided through the [bilingual hotline](#) and WhatsApp group.



Mental health and psychosocial services

Psychosocial support was provided for refugees and asylum-seekers. Through partner [Rape Crisis Society](#), UNHCR facilitated **48 counselling sessions**, including for 17 survivors of sexual assault, kidnapping, human trafficking (labour/sex), intimate partner violence, and discrimination (xenophobia/ LGBTQ+).



Access to education and training opportunities

In March, a total of **1,050** refugees and asylum seekers were able to access remote education services through [Equal Place](#). Education for the Warao communities at Icacos and San Rafael remain significant areas of focus for further development, while the Education Working Group (EWG) continues to pursue the integration of students into local school systems. The EWG is currently preparing a position paper addressing Equity and Inclusivity in the national system in the post-COVID19 context.



Registration and verification

UNHCR's field verification missions continue across Trinidad and Tobago, including to remote areas, to renew expired UNHCR documentation for refugees and asylum-seekers. In March, these missions were conducted in Siparia, Sangre Grande, Penal and Scarborough, Tobago. In total, **491 individuals** were verified in March.

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

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