



HIGHLIGHTS

205

Refugees, asylum-seekers and other persons of concern in Trinidad and Tobago from 19 different countries

80

Vulnerable households receive monthly food assistance

98

Individuals (38 families) received financial assistance to cover accommodation costs

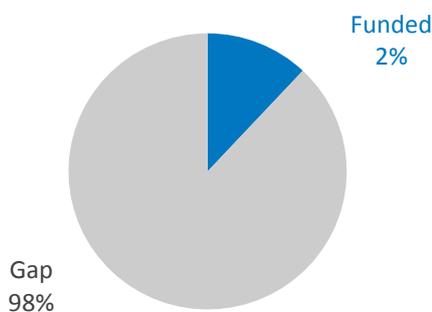
Funding Regional Office Washington

- UNHCR's Regional Office in Washington operationally and financially oversees UNHCR's operations in the Caribbean Region including The Bahamas, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago.

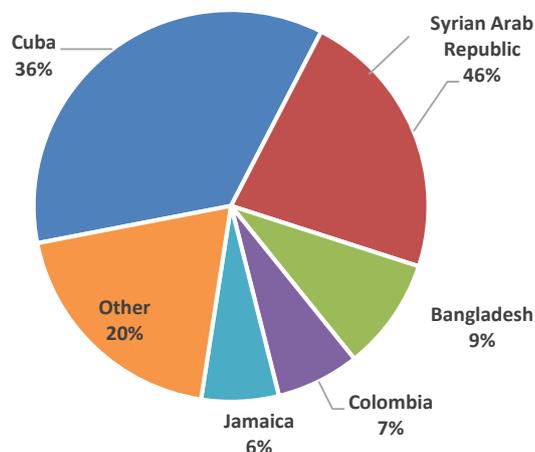
Context information

- Trinidad and Tobago is one of the largest refugee-receiving countries in the Caribbean. In response to the growing number of asylum-seekers, the Government adopted a Refugee Policy in 2014 and UNHCR established an office in January 2016.
- UNHCR focuses on activities related to refugee status determination, capacity-building and advocacy. Protection complements activities in the areas of education, health, shelter, food security and durable solutions.

USD 17.1 million requested



Countries of origin



UNHCR Presence

Staff:

1 international staff

Offices:

1 office located in Port of Spain



Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Printing date: 10 Jun 2016

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR had been working with the local non-governmental organization Living Water Community (LWC) since 1989. In the past 25 years, LWC has been identifying persons of concern and referring them to UNHCR. Living Water Community also provides psychosocial support to asylum-seekers and refugees and facilitates the registration of asylum-seekers with UNHCR.
- UNHCR also works closely with the Immigration Division of the Ministry of National Security, UN agencies and other civil society organizations.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

While the Refugee Policy adopted in 2014 envisions the Government providing recognized refugees with a permit of stay, work authorization and access to public assistance, there are currently no avenues for refugees to legally integrate in the country. In the absence of refugee legislation, UNHCR conducts the following activities related to refugee protection:

- Performs refugee status determination under its Mandate
- Provides ongoing technical support and capacity building to the Government
- Participates in public awareness events

Education

Education is free in primary and secondary schools. However, certain barriers exist for many refugee children, including the lack of training in English language skills, lack of assurances that refugee children will have their diplomas issued or recognized, and lack of space in schools. UNHCR key activities on education include:

- Facilitate the enrollment of refugee and asylum-seeker children in schools through the LWC.
- Cooperate with the LWC and the Ministry of Education to develop a protocol for UNHCR's persons of concern, which would ensure that their children have access to education and that registration requirements, including immunization cards, identification documents and previous school records do not constitute barriers.

Health

- Ensure, through the LWC, that refugees are able to access services at public health facilities and through a network of private doctors who provide pro bono services to refugees. This year, six families received either one-time financial assistance for medical costs or regular support for chronic conditions.

Shelter and Food Security

- Through the LWC, UNHCR assisted 98 individuals with financial assistance to cover accommodation costs. Additionally, each month an average of 80 families receive food items through LWC's Food Bank, which UNHCR partially funds. Food items frequently include, milk, beans, rice, flour, sugar and coffee. Families are selected to receive this assistance based on particular vulnerabilities. In addition, this year eight families participated in a monthly cash-for-work program.

Durable Solutions

- It is exceedingly difficult for refugees to obtain work permits and exercise the right to work as recommended in the Refugee Policy. Due to difficulties in accessing livelihood opportunities, UNHCR, through the LWC, supports vulnerable persons of concern with financial assistance programmes. In the absence of legislation that would allow for local integration, UNHCR submits the majority of refugees recognized under Mandate for resettlement. In the first half of 2016, 26 refugees were resettled.

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