

Trinidad & Tobago

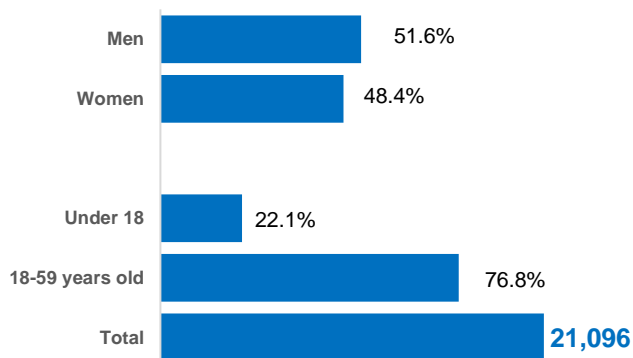
August 2021

Over **21,000** refugees and asylum-seekers are currently registered with UNHCR, the vast majority of whom are of an employable age.

In Trinidad and Tobago UNHCR's registered people of concern are from 40 different countries. **86%** are Venezuelan and **7%** Cuban.

Capacity building for law enforcement and judicial officers in international refugee protection continues with over **100** local professionals receiving comprehensive training in August.

Population of concern*



* Figures are as at August 31 2021. Registration at UNHCR premises had been temporarily suspended from 13 March to 26 May 2020, due to COVID 19. 3,402 individual records were inactivated in April 2020 due to registration documentation being expired for more than six months. A further 1,534 individual records were inactivated in December 2020.

CONTEXT

A State of Emergency remained in effect for Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) in August and was extended through November 2021. However, as national COVID-19 vaccination drives were expanded to include children, inclusive of refugees and migrants, some restrictions on movement were relaxed.

Reports of attempts at irregular entry into the country by sea continued, with boats being intercepted and detained prior to arriving at shore.

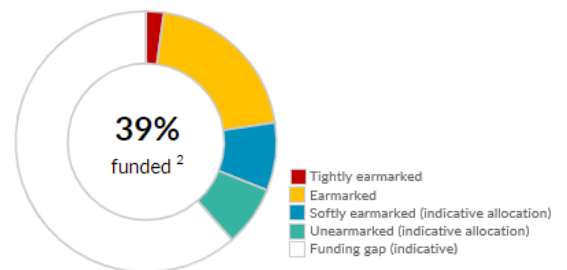
Persons continued to approach UNHCR and partners in August to seek asylum and assistance. Queries relating to food assistance and cash based interventions remained the most prominent received via UNHCR hotlines (34%), in addition to issues relating to registration and documentation (32%).

UNHCR continues to work with the government to provide needed assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers, in coordination with other agencies working to support forcibly displaced persons in T&T.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST 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, Nicaragua, Suriname and Panama

² The percentage funded (43%) and total funding amount (\$20,866,958) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$27,811,559 representing 57% of the financial requirements..

UNHCR SUPPORTS VACCINATION DRIVES



UNHCR supported vaccination drives hosted by partner Living Water Community, assisting refugees and migrants to receive their COVID-19 vaccines. Volunteers, including translators in multiple languages, were on hand each day to ensure a seamless process, with over 1,600 refugees and migrants receiving shots during the first two-day drive.

UNHCR SUPPORTS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

UNHCR delivered 19 uniforms to the Challengers Volleyball Club – a multi-national team of locals, refugees and migrants competing in T&T. In support of this successful demonstration of peaceful co-existence between refugees, migrants and their host community, UNHCR T&T has been a sponsor for the Club since 2019.



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:



Emergency food assistance

Through partner [Living Water Community](#) (LWC), UNHCR provided emergency food assistance to **1,215** of the most vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees in August, via [QR code vouchers](#) that are redeemable at participating supermarkets nationwide. For 2021 thus far, **7,101 individuals** have received this emergency support.



Cash-based interventions (CBI)

In August, **20 individuals** facing protection risks with very limited or no ability to achieve self-reliance, were assisted with multipurpose cash grants, bringing the total number of persons to **139 people benefitting from this assistance** through 2021. Of the applications received in August, 71% of applicants were unemployed, 57% were unable to pay rent and 43% were either evicted or facing substantial risk of eviction. 43% of applicants were also living with chronic/critical illnesses.



Access to medical services

Medical assistance continues to be delivered through partner [Family Planning Association](#) (FPATT) via telehealth and at clinic locations. In August, FPATT conducted **158 consultations** on sexual and reproductive health and **15 pediatric consultations**, with 60% of beneficiaries receiving health services from FPATT for the first time. Thus far in 2021, FPATT has facilitated **65 pediatric consultations** and **1,245 consultations** on sexual and reproductive health for refugees and asylum-seekers.



Mental health and psychosocial services

Psychosocial support was provided through partner [Rape Crisis Society](#) (RCS), who facilitated **75 counselling sessions** for 54 refugees and asylum seekers in August. RCS has delivered **518 counselling sessions** for vulnerable displaced persons in 2021.



Access to education and training opportunities

Over 1,400 students have been enrolled to access remote education via [Equal Place \(EP\)](#), **943** of whom consistently accessed these services in August. **Fourteen (14)** EP students were among over 100 students worldwide to graduate from the DAWERE programme after successfully completing all coursework and assessments. The graduating students will receive a US-based high-school diploma to certify completion of secondary studies.



Capacity development and training

UNHCR in coordination with the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago facilitated a training on international refugee protection for members of the judiciary. **47** magistrates, judges and judicial research counsels attended. UNHCR also conducted its monthly training for law enforcement officials on international protection, with **63** local and **seven** regional law enforcement officers attending in August.

Thanks to donors: The UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, the European Union, and the UN Programme On HIV/AIDS as well as to the following donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Denmark | Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Holy See | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | Turkey | United Kingdom | United States of America | Uruguay | Private donors, including Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, and Sweden

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