

Trinidad & Tobago

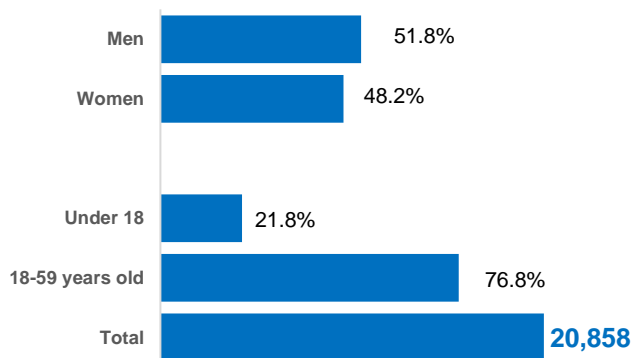
July 2021

Over **20,800** 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 population of concern originate from 40 different countries. **86%** are Venezuelan and **7%** Cuban.

Over **1,500** health consultations were facilitated by UNHCR via partners in 2021 thus far, including for sexual and reproductive health, pediatric care and psychosocial support.

Population of concern*



* Figures are as at July 31 2021. Registration at UNCHR 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 July. Restrictions on movement were relaxed with resumed operations in key economic sectors and a restricted reopening of borders. National mass COVID-19 vaccination was also rolled out, inclusive of refugees and migrants.

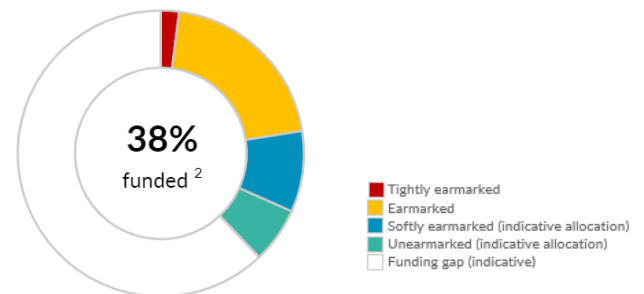
Persons approaching UNHCR and partners in July seeking asylum or assistance, continued to present acute vulnerabilities, including persons with serious medical conditions and survivors of gender-based violence. Requests for food and cash-based assistance continued to comprise a significant number of the queries made via UNHCR hotlines.

UNHCR continues to work with the government to provide needed assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in T&T. Coordination with other agencies working to support forcibly displaced persons continues to be enhanced, with the launch of joint planning exercises for 2022.

FUNDING (AS OF 27 JULY 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 (38%) and total funding amount (\$18,469,804) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$30,208,713 representing 62% of the financial requirements.

UNHCR SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



As part of the drive to improve self-reliance among forcibly displaced persons in T&T and access to livelihood opportunities, UNHCR plans to support NGOs that include refugees and asylum-seekers in sustainable agriculture projects.

UNHCR staff visited a site in Sangre Grande, Trinidad in July where one such project – a community garden and farm – will be established by the La Casita Hispanic Cultural Centre. Plans are also being made to provide tools, low-cost equipment and materials to other NGOs engaging displaced persons in sustainable agriculture activities, including livestock and organic cocoa farming.

These initiatives are in support of the T&T Government's thrust to boost local food production.

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 **958** of the most vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees in July, via [QR code vouchers](#) that are redeemable at participating supermarkets nationwide. For 2021 thus far, **5,886 individuals** have received this emergency support.



Cash-based interventions (CBI)

In July, **15 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 **119 people benefitting from this assistance** thus far for 2021. Of the applications received in July, 100% were unemployed, unable to meet their basic needs and facing a substantial risk of eviction.



Access to medical services

Medical assistance continues to be delivered through partner [Family Planning Association](#) (FPATT) via telehealth and at clinic locations. In July, FPATT conducted **166 consultations** on sexual and reproductive health and **nine pediatric consultations**. Thus far in 2021, FPATT has facilitated **50 pediatric consultations** and **1,087 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 **86 counselling sessions** for 60 refugees and asylum seekers in July. Compounded by the uncertainty of the pandemic, forcibly displaced persons in T&T continue to battle with experiences of gender-based violence, xenophobia, fear about personal safety, mental health conditions, including PTSD, depression and anxiety. RCS has delivered **443 counselling sessions** for vulnerable displaced persons thus far in 2021.



Access to education and training opportunities

Over 1,400 students have been enrolled to access remote education via [Equal Place](#), **943 students** of whom consistently accessed these services in July. Financial and connectivity challenges, continue to impede some students' ability to effectively engage with studies. Psychosocial support continues to be a priority for both staff and students of the programme.



Capacity development and training

UNHCR continued to build the capacity of the 2021 Community Outreach Members cohort with a workshop on gender-based violence (GBV), covering the legal framework around GBV issues in T&T and ways to safely identify and support survivors. UNHCR also facilitated an interactive workshop on refugees and international protection for 43 local youth, as part of a leadership development program.

Thanks to donors in 2021: The UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: the United States of America, the European Union, the United Kingdom, France and UNAIDS, 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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