

Trinidad and Tobago

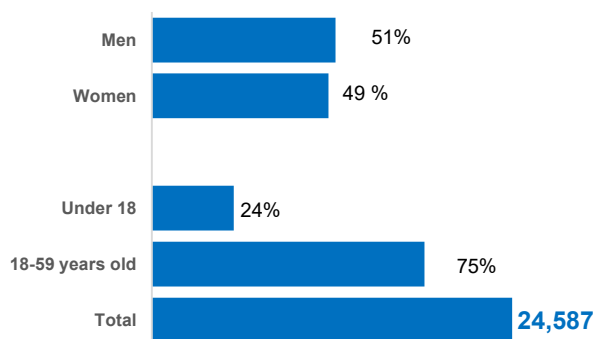
November - December 2022

Nearly **24,600 refugees and asylum seekers** are registered with UNHCR, the majority of whom are of working age.

People registered with UNHCR come from **38 different countries**, **86 per cent** are **Venezuelan** and **six per cent Cuban**.

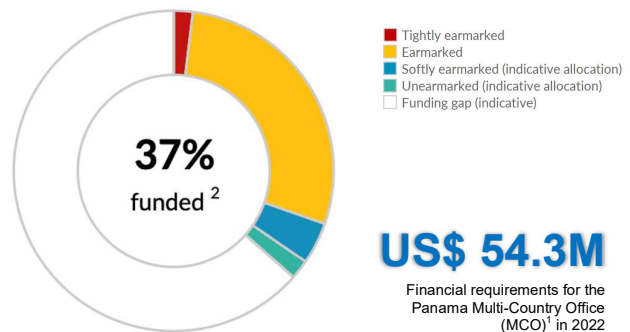
UNHCR continues to provide access to medical and sexual and reproductive health services. More than **900 refugees and asylum seekers** received over **6,500 medical services** in 2022.

People UNHCR protects*



* Data as of 31 October 2022.

STATE OF PLAY: FUNDING RECEIVED VS. FUNDING NEEDS (AS OF 29 DECEMBER 2022)



¹ The financial requirements for the Panama MCO include requirements for the Coronavirus Emergency and the Venezuela Situation. **Trinidad and Tobago** is part of the **Panama Multi-Country Office** since 2021 along with Panama, Belize, Nicaragua, Cuba and the Southern Caribbean.

² The percentage funded includes indicative allocations of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

CONTEXT

In Trinidad and Tobago, crime remains a concern, with **over 600 murders registered** in 2022. Year-on-year statistics from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) suggest an overall increase in other crimes. UNHCR continues to fund translation services for the TTPS App to allow the people the Agency protects to report crimes in any language.

UNHCR received reports from refugees and asylum seekers concerned about their legal status in the country, as their **Registration Framework cards (MRF) expired**. The Minister of National Security recently approved 9,000 renewals. Some 4,700 are still pending.

UNHCR and partners continue to receive requests for humanitarian assistance and legal support for asylum procedures. **In December, UNHCR processed 1,410 requests for asylum.**

UNHCR continues its work with the Government and other agencies to provide needed support, assistance, and protection to forcibly displaced people in Trinidad and Tobago.

Highlights



*In November, UNHCR promoted and encouraged discussions on forced displacement during the screenings of **The Challengers** at the Courage Film Festival in Berlin and at UNHCR HQ in Geneva.*

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, development actors, and UN Agencies, UNHCR undertakes protection and solutions activities, including:



Food Assistance | UNHCR with [Living Water Community \(LWC\)](#) provided emergency food assistance to [550 vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees](#) using [QR code vouchers](#), redeemable at affiliated supermarkets nationwide. Significant increases in food prices worsened the situation of refugees and asylum seekers who were already at high risk of food insecurity. In 2022, [2,151 individuals](#) received food assistance.



Cash-based Interventions | UNHCR provided multi-purpose cash assistance to [26 individuals with limited or no ability to achieve self-reliance and facing multiple protection risks](#). People at risk included chronically or critically ill, survivors of gender-based violence, people facing eviction or homelessness, and people with severe mental or physical disabilities. In 2022, [257 individuals](#) have received multi-purpose cash assistance.



Education | In partnership with UNICEF and LWC, UNHCR supported the education of primary-school and secondary-school children through the [Equal Place Program](#). As of December 2022, [1,175 children](#) were enrolled in primary education and [237 children](#) were enrolled in secondary.



Health | UNHCR through [Family Planning Association \(FPATT\)](#) provided [1,312 sexual and reproductive health services](#) for [127 refugees and asylum seekers](#). Some 1000 refugees and asylum seekers accessed [6,589 medical assistance services](#) in 2022.



Mental Health and Psychosocial Services | UNHCR delivered mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services through the [Rape Crisis Society \(RCS\)](#), providing [82 counselling sessions](#) to help refugees and asylum seekers, particularly those who have experienced severe trauma as a result of gender-based violence (GBV), human trafficking, exploitation, and discrimination. In 2022, [195 refugees and asylum seekers](#) received MHPSS.



Advocacy and Public Information | UNHCR's film *The Challengers* – funded by the EU-funded Inclusive Cities/Communities of Solidarity (ICCS) project – was screened at the Courage Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, and at UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.



Documentation and RSD Procedure | UNHCR provided first-time access to documentation to [1,937 asylum seekers](#) (238 UNHCR certificates and 1,832 UNHCR identification cards). During the months of November and December, [375 protection screenings](#) were conducted. In addition, [45 asylum seekers](#) completed their [refugee status determination \(RSD\)](#) interviews, and [22 refugees were resettled to a third country through UNHCR's resettlement programme](#).



Capacity Building | UNHCR conducted training on International Protection for [63 officials of the TTPS](#) and other regional officers, including members of the Suriname Coast Guard. UNHCR participated in a workshop for [46 attorneys](#), law students, and NGO representatives, facilitated by LWC at the Hugh Wooding Law School, one of three [law schools](#) empowered by the Commonwealth Caribbean's Council of Legal Education to award [Legal Education Certificates](#).

UNHCR Panama MCO wishes to convey a special thank you to its donors: Canada, the European Union, France, Guyana, the United States of America, and the UN Programme on HIV/AIDS. We also thank the fundamental support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds: Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | the United Kingdom. Private donors in Australia | Canada | Germany | Italy | Japan | the Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | and the United States

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UNHCR presence in Trinidad and Tobago

