

Trinidad & Tobago

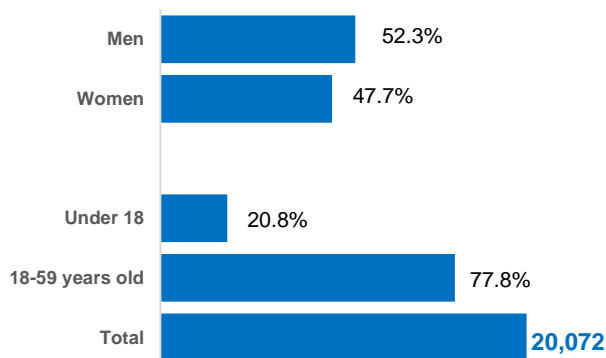
April 2021

Over **20,000** refugees and asylum-seekers are currently registered with UNHCR, the vast majority of whom are in a productive age.

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

759 refugees and asylum-seekers were assisted with emergency food assistance, as food insecurity among the population increased during this month.

Population of concern*



* Figures are as at April 30 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

Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) experienced a significant COVID-19 spike in April, recording over 1600 new cases. Authorities responded by re-introducing restrictions aimed at curbing COVID-19 spread, including complete closure of non-essential business sectors and restrictions on public gatherings. Authorities **urged** the public against resorting to xenophobia, after it was **disclosed** that a Venezuelan national was the first recorded case of a Brazilian COVID-19 variant.

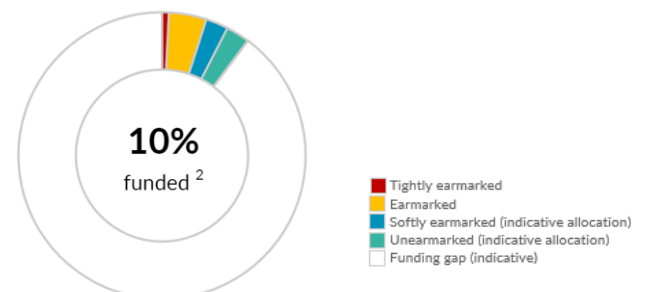
At least eight persons were **confirmed** dead after a boat capsized en route to T&T. UNHCR and IOM issued a **joint statement** to underscore the need for safe pathways to the Caribbean, as conditions inside Venezuela continue to prompt people to flee. On the other hand, returns to Venezuela took place, with **178 people returning on 2 April**, in coordination with Venezuelan authorities.

UNHCR continued to work with the government and in coordination with other agencies to provide needed assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in T&T.

FUNDING (AS OF 4 MAY 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 and Panama

² The percentage funded (10%) and total funding amount (\$4,960,388) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$43,718,129 representing 90% of the financial requirements.



UNHCR PARTICIPATES IN COMMUNITY FAIR

UNHCR Trinidad and Tobago **participated** in a micro community fair on 12 April in the rural town of Icacos. Over 200 persons including 120 refugees and asylum-seekers were invited to learn more about services available to them via UNHCR and several other

agencies and local NGOs. UNHCR conducted spot registrations and also renewed UNHCR documentation for persons in need. Interviews were also conducted to learn more about the issues faced by refugees and asylum-seekers in the community.

UNHCR DONATES PPE TO PARTNERS

UNHCR donated 200 masks to partner La Casita, to help keep volunteers safe as they continue their outreach missions in East Trinidad. Thus far in 2021, UNHCR has assisted local NGO partners in Trinidad and Tobago with over **4,300** personal protective equipment (PPE) items, to ensure safe continuity of assistance services for refugees and asylum-seekers amid the pandemic.



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:



Access to medical services

Health services continued to be delivered through a combination of telehealth and static clinic modalities. Through a hotline dedicated to refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR partner **Family Planning Association (FPATT)** works to prioritize medical emergencies for in-person consultations. In April, FPATT conducted **169 consultations** on sexual and reproductive health for refugees and asylum-seekers, including for 61 individuals who were accessing these services for the first time. In addition, **11 pediatric care consultations** were provided for refugee and asylum-seeker children, between the ages of one and 15 years old.



Emergency food assistance

Through implementing partner **Living Water Community (LWC)**, UNHCR provided **759 individuals** with emergency food assistance in April, via **QR code vouchers** that are redeemable at participating supermarkets in communities nationwide. Due to restrictions imposed in an attempt to curb the rising number of COVID-19 cases, and ensuing loss of jobs among the population, requests for food assistance have more than doubled.



Access to education and training opportunities

In April, around 1,050 refugees and asylum-seekers were able to access remote education services through **Equal Place**. Feedback is being gathered from youth who left the programme to assess their current living conditions and access to work opportunities, which will inform the design of further support mechanisms.



Mental health and psychosocial services

Psychosocial support was provided for refugees and asylum-seekers, with partner **Rape Crisis Society** facilitating **86 counselling sessions**. 26 of these sessions were delivered to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, including sessions for four victims of human trafficking.



Registration and verification

UNHCR continues to provide access to registration services amid the pandemic, using remote modalities to ensure compliance with COVID-19 guidelines. In April, UNHCR registered **178 persons**, with a further **764 persons** being pre-registered via partner Living Water Community. UNHCR also conducted field missions in April, renewing expired documentation for **78 refugees and asylum-seekers** in Rio Claro and Icaos.



Strengthening community-based protection mechanisms

UNHCR recruited and conducted a series of trainings for a new cohort of **18 Community Outreach Members (COMs)**. The COMs are members of the refugee and asylum-seeker population from diverse backgrounds and locations across T&T, who support UNHCR with community-based protection and case management activities, as well as communication with the refugee community. Further trainings will be delivered to this group throughout 2021 as part of a continuous learning model.

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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