





TRINIDAD & TOBAGO RMRP

© UNHCR/Carla Bridglal

2024



-  POPULATION PROJECTION
-  PEOPLE IN NEED (PIN)
-  PIN PERCENTAGE
-  PEOPLE TARGETED

VENEZUELAN IN-DESTINATION

38.9K

33.5 K

86%

15.6 K

AFFECTED HOST COMMUNITY

5.8K

5.0 K

86%

937



TOTAL REQUIREMENTS
\$23.59 M



RMRP PARTNERS
17

Refugees and migrants from Venezuela continue to enter Trinidad and Tobago by both sea and air. However, visa requirements for Venezuelans limit their ability to enter the country in a regular manner and gain regular status, making it difficult for them to integrate. Consequently, many resort to risky irregular routes, leading to increased dangers such as human trafficking, smuggling, exploitation, abuse, detention by the authorities and even shipwrecks and death at sea. By the end of 2024, approximately 39,000 Venezuelans are expected to be in Trinidad and Tobago. Ongoing challenges with access to regular status and the absence of legal frameworks that offer protection mechanisms such as asylum and humanitarian visas for Venezuelans are expected to persist in 2024. Concerns remain regarding issues such as detention, deportation, and the risk of refoulement.

Limited pathways for obtaining regular status or to seek asylum exist, particularly for individuals who were not registered during the 2019 Migrant Registration Framework (MRF), a government initiative that granted work permit exemptions to registered Venezuelans in an irregular situation. Consequently, those in an irregular situation face integration and self-reliance challenges, including restricted livelihood opportunities, and often struggle to meet fundamental needs such as food and shelter. Other integration challenges include limited access to documentation, language barriers, and lack of recognition for Venezuelans' professional credentials.

In July 2023, a High Court judge ruled that despite Trinidad and

Tobago acceding to the 1951 Refugee Convention in 2000, the convention does not apply to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago as there has been no domestic incorporation. The decision is currently under appeal at the High Court of Appeal. The Judge emphasized the need for Trinidad and Tobago to either enforce existing humanitarian policies or immediately formulate a new humanitarian policy in line with Convention obligations and enact the requisite legislation. UN experts pointed out that non-refoulement is also a principle of customary international law and noted the risks of deportation for those seeking international protection. Despite appeals, detentions, deportations and refoulement of Venezuelans, including registered asylum-seekers and refugees, occurred in 2023 and will likely continue in the absence of legislative change.

Separately, in July 2023, during an R4V Humanitarian Breakfast event, the Government announced that Trinidad and Tobago would allow registered Venezuelan children to enroll in primary schools starting from September 2023. This was later approved by cabinet for Venezuelan children whose parents registered through the MRF. However, as of early 2024, children are still awaiting approvals to begin classes and administrative barriers, including prerequisites such as student permits and proficiency in English persist, preventing thousands of refugee and migrant children in Trinidad and Tobago from attending national schools.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES

In 2024, R4V partners propose response activities targeting key needs:

- Prioritize protection of/safeguarding refugees and migrants, particularly vulnerable groups such as children, GBV survivors, and individuals with disabilities. Ensure access to specialized services, collaborate with governments to establish pathways to regular status, enhance asylum systems, offer legal aid, and provide training on protection issues like combating trafficking.
- Support primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare for refugees and migrants through advocacy, capacity building, and multilingual communication. Strengthen case management, medication access, and prioritize treatment for chronic illnesses, pediatrics, and sexual/reproductive health. Enhance mental health and psychosocial support, especially for vulnerable groups.
- Promote socio-economic integration through economic empowerment and community inclusion for Venezuelans by recognizing educational and professional credentials, addressing xenophobia, and facilitating access to work permits, employment, and language training. Also provide vocational and entrepreneurship training to enhance livelihood opportunities and self-reliance for refugees, migrants, and host communities.
- Collaborate with governments to improve refugee and migrant children's access to public education, including those unregistered after the 2019 MRF, and offer alternative options for those without access.
- Address food insecurity through short-term emergency aid (food, rental support, hygiene items) and long-term interventions via cash, vouchers, and in-kind assistance, considering surging food prices and limited livelihood opportunities.

NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS AND FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY ORGANIZATION TYPE

2024

	Total	International NGOs	National NGOs / CSOs ⁱ	Others ⁱⁱ	UN Agencies
Financial requirements	\$23.59 M	1.7%	3.9%	8.3%	86.1%
Organizations	17	2	6	1	8

ⁱ Civil Society Organizations.

ⁱⁱ Others include the Red Cross Movement, academia and faith based organizations. The list of organizations only includes appealing organizations under the RMRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RMRP activities.

POPULATION IN NEED AND TARGET, FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS AND NUMBER OF PARTNERS BY SECTOR

Sector	People in Need (PiN)	PiN percentage*	People targeted		Financial requirements (USD)	Partners
Education	8.0 K	18%	5.4 K	33.4%	2.55 M	5
Food Security	26.9 K	60.0%	5.0 K	9.3%	2.00 M	6
Health	35.0 K	79.0%	3.3 K	4.7%	210.0 K	3
Humanitarian Transportation	18.4 K	41.0%	0.5 K	1.4%	100.0 K	1
Integration	32.3 K	72.0%	3.1 K	4.8%	3.48 M	8
Nutrition	6.1 K	14.0%	0.7 K	5.8%	69.5 K	1
Protection**	38.5 K	86.0%	12.6 K	16.4%	6.70 M	3
Child Protection	10.2 K	23.0%	5.23 K	25.7%	1.15 M	2
Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	14.8 K	33.0%	3.2 K	10.9%	748.0 K	5
Human Trafficking & Smuggling	6.7 K	15.0%	0.3 K	2.3%	743.0 K	3
Shelter	14.1 K	32.0%	0.2 K	0.8%	771.0 K	2
WASH	3.9 K	9.0%	-	0%	-	0
Multipurpose Cash Assistance	38.5K	86%	2.8 K	-	2.81 M	3
Common Services***	-	-	-	-	2.26 M	6

* The PiN calculations for some sectors (namely, Nutrition, Education and all Protection sub-sectors) are based on specific age and gender groups, at times resulting in a lower PiN percentage, considering the total population group.

** This includes Support Spaces.

*** This includes AAP-CwC, Communication, Coordination, Information Management, PSEA, and Reporting.