UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Registration Snapshot

January - April 2025

Registration - recording, verifying, and updating biographical, biometric, and socioeconomic data - is the first step to protecting forcibly displaced and stateless persons. It allows for the **identification of specific needs, the provision of targeted assistance, and the attainment of durable solutions.** Registration protects against arbitrary arrest, detention, and refoulement, helps keep families together and facilitates reunification.

The Population Registration and Identity Management Ecosystem (**PRIMES**) is a set of interoperable tools developed by UNHCR to enhance registration, case management, and identity management for the persons we protect.
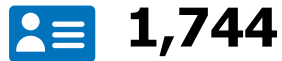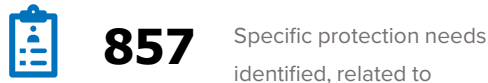

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UNHCR's registration in Havana, Cuba

1,744

Forcibly displaced and stateless people from **773 households** were registered in all countries under MCO Panama in 2025

MAIN FIGURES – PEOPLE REGISTERED

50% Male **50%** Female

1,297 Adults, **2%** over 60 years

414 Children, **34%** under five years

1,269 People biometrically registered through BIMS**

30 Nationalities registered, mainly Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia, Jamaica

79% Asylum seekers, **0.6%** refugees, **15%** other people UNHCR protects

PROTECTION RESPONSE THROUGH PRIMES

857 Specific protection needs identified, related to

- Legal and physical protection: 456
- Child protection: 139
- Serious medical conditions: 135
- Violence against women and girls: 36
- Single parents: 29
- Women at risk: 25
- Disabilities: 19
- Unaccompanied/separated children: 15
- Older person at risk: 3

399 Counselling sessions provided
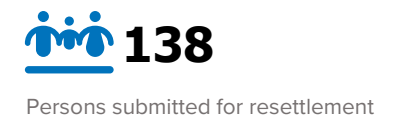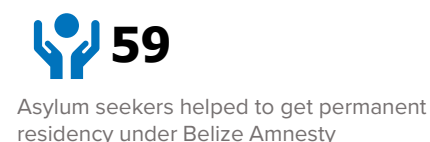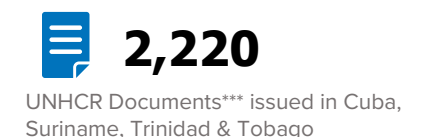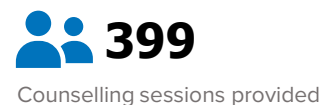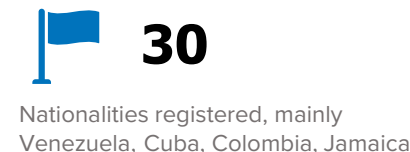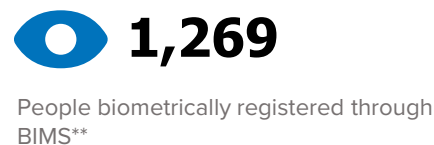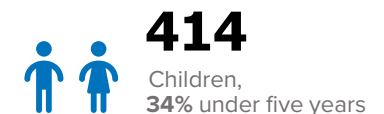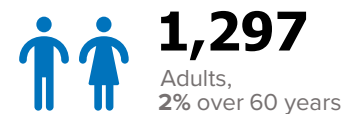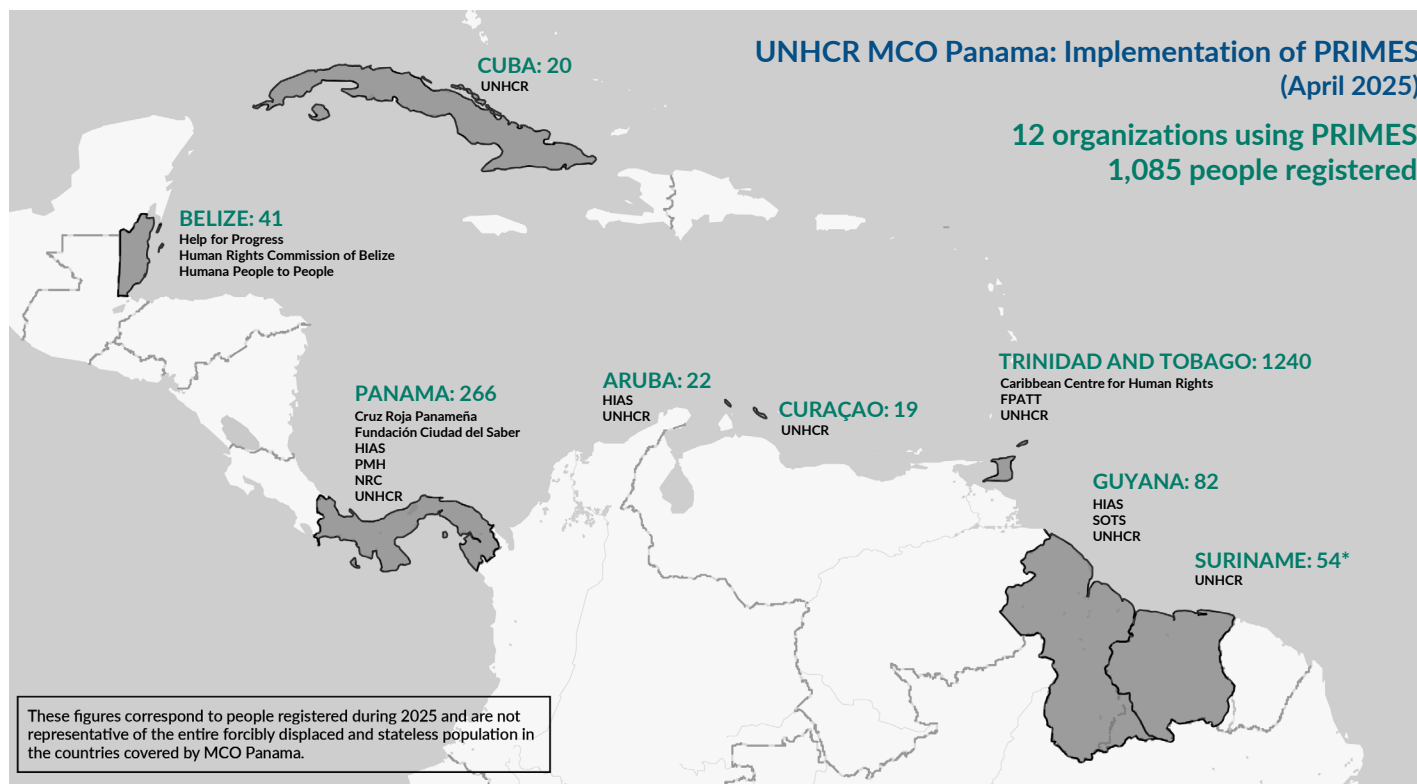
810 Assistance delivered, mainly for basic needs, transport and documentation

2,220 UNHCR Documents*** issued in Cuba, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago

59 Asylum seekers helped to get permanent residency under Belize Amnesty

80 Persons with finalized Refugee Status Determination cases[1]

138 Persons submitted for resettlement

*These figures are not representative of the entire forcibly displaced and stateless population in the countries covered by MCO Panama.   ** Biometric Identity Management System: biometric registration includes fingerprint and iris scans and a facial photograph.
*** UNHCR Documents are Certificates or Cards attesting to an individual's recognition as a Mandate Refugee or as an Asylum Seeker to certify that they are persons protected by UNHCR. 1. Number of persons who received substantive RSD decisions during the period.

UNHCR MCO Panama: Implementation of PRIMES (April 2025)

**12 organizations using PRIMES
1,085 people registered**

CUBA: 20
UNHCR

BELIZE: 41
Help for Progress
Human Rights Commission of Belize
Humana People to People

PANAMA: 266
Cruz Roja Panameña
Fundación Ciudad del Saber
HIAS
PMH
NRC
UNHCR

ARUBA: 22
HIAS
UNHCR

CURAÇAO: 19
UNHCR

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: 1240
Caribbean Centre for Human Rights
FPATT
UNHCR

GUYANA: 82
HIAS
SOTS
UNHCR

SURINAME: 54*
UNHCR

These figures correspond to people registered during 2025 and are not representative of the entire forcibly displaced and stateless population in the countries covered by MCO Panama.

STRATEGIC REGISTRATION GOALS

✓ **Ensure high-standard registration** at the internal level for efficient case management, mandate RSD (Cuba, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago) and RST (Aruba, Curaçao, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago).

✓ **Enhance partners' capacity** and integrity in case management procedures and data protection.

✓ **Support governments** to build or strengthen digitalized registration, case management and identity management systems to ensure fair and efficient national asylum procedures.

How does PRIMES enhance registration, case management, and identity management for forcibly displaced and stateless persons?

✓ **Data Integrity and Accuracy**.
✓ **Security and Privacy** through encryption and access controls, preventing fraud and corruption.
✓ **Collaboration** between partners, facilitating joint efforts, avoiding duplication, and reducing revictimization.
✓ **Digital identity for persons we protect**, enabling their socio-economic inclusion within host communities.
✓ **Field-proofing**, though tools working in online, offline, and GSM** environments.
✓ **Scalability**, enabling seamless expansion to support potential large-scale and emergency displacements.

*The data for Suriname is updated as of the end of March 2025. **GSM: Global System for Mobile Communications, the most widely used cellular-wireless telecommunications standard.