



EUROPEAN UNION



**INCLUSIVE
CITIES**
COMMUNITIES OF SOLIDARITY

HUMAN MOBILITY PROFILE

Chaguanas, Trinidad and Tobago



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



IOM
UN MIGRATION



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

ACRONYMS

BMIS	Border Management Information System
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARILED	Caribbean Local Economic Development Programme
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease SARS-CoV-2
CPI	City Prosperity Index
CSO	Civil Society Organisation(s)
DV-IPV	Domestic Violence – Intimate Partner Violence
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
Dr.	Doctor (abbreviation)
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
GORTT	Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
ICCS	Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IMC	Inter-Ministerial Committee
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation

KPI	Key Performance Indicators
MGI	Migration Governance Indicators
MIDAS	Migration Information and Data Analysis System
MRF	Migrant Registration Framework
NALIS	National Library and Information System Authority
NDS	National Development Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation(s)
NIS	National Insurance System
NLMP	National Labour Migration Policy
NPF	National Performance Framework
NPPA	National Physical Planning Authority
NSDS	National Spatial Development Strategy
NUA	New Urban Agenda
PAYE	Pay As You Earn Tax
PTSC	Public Transport Service Corporation
PM	Prime Minister
PMT	Protection Monitoring Tool
PNM	People's National Movement
POC	Persons of Concern
R&M	Refugees & Migrants
R4V	The Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing State

SDP	Spatial Development Plans
SOP	Standard Operationalised Procedures
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SWMCOL	Solid Waste Management Company Limited
TTO	Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
UNC	United National Congress
UN-Habitat	The United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VR&M	Venezuelan refugees and migrants
WFP	World Food Programme

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1. PRESENTATION

Official sources¹ from the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants (R4V) indicate that around 6 million Venezuelans left their country due to the current human rights, political, and economic crisis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; of which at least 4.6 million migrated to other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (R4V Platform, 2021). Since March 2020, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the human mobility situation has become even more difficult as Latin American and Caribbean governments adopted measures to address and contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, both migratory trends and the conditions of refugees and migrants (R&M) within the receiving countries have drastically changed, generating pressure mainly on economic growth dynamics and national social policies. Likewise, economic and social dynamics have affected the Venezuelan population’s ability to access adequate employment, causing thousands of Venezuelans to live through local precarity.

In this context, and as a response to the current migratory crisis, the “Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity” (ICCS) project was born, aiming to contribute to reducing the vulnerabilities of potential residents from the Venezuelan R&M community and seeking to help increase the resilience of host communities in the cities where the project is being implemented. To achieve these objectives in a coherent and all-rounded approach, the project is being implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat), with the support of the European Union (EU). Together, these four agencies selected the following cities – Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic); Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, and Cucuta - Villa del Rosario (Colombia); Quito and Manta (Ecuador); Lima (Peru), Panama City (Panama) and Chaguanas (Trinidad and Tobago) – principally because of their high concentration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. As such, the ICCS could focus on the clear need to improve the economic and social inclusion of R&M populations in vulnerable conditions, as well as that of host communities, with particular emphasis on specific groups including women at risk, children at risk, elderly, and people with disabilities.

This present document puts forward the Human Mobility Profile for Chaguanas, which identifies the spatial, socioeconomic, cultural, and governance conditions of the city to outline Chaguanas’ capacities and challenges for R&M inclusion. Its main objective is to provide trustworthy and useful information to local and national governments for decision-making processes, to design adaptive actions and develop recommendations to foster the integration between R&M with host communities. This comprehensive approach becomes critical for drafting public policies, especially those related to the provision and bolstering of support services for people in human mobility conditions and their host communities. Here, the need for integration into the social and economic structure becomes relevant when using human strengths and diversity as territorial assets and is especially relevant in a context in which a comprehensive development of cities is crucial for integration, while complying with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Likewise, such information is essential to ensure that all members of society benefit from the advantages that mixed migratory flows bring, regardless of nationality. For this to happen, there is a need to go past the humanitarian-only dimension, traditionally related to informality and conditions of employment, to include analysis on the dynamics of cities as host environments, underscored by an analysis of migratory dynamics from a multidimensional perspective. It is also important to analyse

¹Available at www.r4v.info/en.

the extent to which receiving cities have guaranteed access to public services, as well as the degree and effect of social and territorial segregation present in cities. These probes imply undertaking quantitative and qualitative data assessments from refugees and migrants but also from host communities, to determine their demands and challenges for integration for its materialization in an equitable and sustainable urban development.

To date, various studies on human mobility dynamics, including those developed within the framework of the Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V), tend to focus on the profiles of refugees and migrants and their needs for humanitarian assistance. However, the experience gained from the implementation of the "Migration from City to City in the Mediterranean"² demonstrated a need to analyse beyond the traditional humanitarian paradigm, as its focus was around the strengthening of governance for the integration of migrants in European cities and those of the southern Mediterranean region. Other studies, such as those carried out by UN-Habitat³, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)⁴, the World Bank⁵, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)⁶, indicate that the majority of R&M are located in informal communities or in deteriorated neighbourhoods in large cities, living in conditions of poverty and marginality with host populations.

Moreover, these studies tend to be static images of migratory processes that, in reality, are constantly changing. This detail makes it difficult to design

actions to promote the integration of refugees, migrants, and host communities through the effective use of available resources. The present document is intended to be a dynamic mechanism to provide evidence on the favourable impacts of human mobility flows, as well as their contributions to city development from a thematic perspective. The document also attempts to use the information about the city's integration conditions, collected during the project implementation, to transform it into dynamic tools such as the Urban Monitoring Viewer⁷ and an Urban Inclusion Marker⁸, available for consultation on the ICCS project website⁹.

During the implementation of the project, specifically during Chaguana's profiling phase, the proposed methodology started with the review of bibliographic sources, data collection and analysis, consisting of three methodological approaches and instruments based on the mandate of the three different UN agencies involved, as shown below:

- a) **UNHCR** supplied information from the UNHCR ProGres database as well as R4V participatory assessments. These aim to collect data that allow for an adequate and timely understanding of the protection situation of people affected by forced displacement, including demographic data, socio-economic profiles, and perception of host communities regarding access to rights, among others;
- b) **IOM** applied the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) methodology has also been applied, systematically capturing, processing and disseminating information, leading to a better understanding

² Project is executed by a consortium led by the International Center for the Development of Migration Policies (ICMPD) in association with the States Network of Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), UN-HABITAT and UNHCR in the cities of Amman, Beirut, Lisbon, Lyon, Madrid, Tangier, Turin, Tunisia and Vienna in a first phase and, Grenoble, Dortmund, Naples, Irbid, Casablanca, Oujda, Rabat, Ramallah, Seville, Sfax and Susa in a second phase.

³ For example, the works: "Inclusion of migrants in cities. Innovative urban policies and practices", in association with UNESCO (2012); "Migration and refugees in urban areas. HABITAT III Topics" (2015); "State of the cities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Towards a new urban transition", (2012).

⁴ For example, the works: Regional, local and individual dimensions of Venezuelan migration: the case of the border with Roraima - Brazil - (July 2020); Social protection and migration (August 2018); Panorama of International Migration in South America (May 2018); Social Panorama of Latin America (November 2019).

⁵ For example, the works "Migration Venezuela and Peru: An opportunity for all" (November 2019); "Beyond the borders: The Venezuelan exodus" (April 2019); "Migration from Venezuela to Colombia: impacts and response strategy in the short and medium term" (November 2018); Challenges and opportunities of Venezuelan migration in Ecuador (July 2020).

⁶ For example: Migration in the Andean region: Impact of the crisis and expectations in the medium term (June 2020); Perceptions of Venezuelan migration: causes, Spain as a destination, expectations of return (July 2020).

⁷ It is a georeferencing instrument for spatial and socioeconomic indicators of the city that makes strategic information visible for the formulation of policies / plans / programs / projects and seeks to be a tool that promotes transparency in public management, accountability and citizen participation. Available for consultation at: <https://en.ciudadesincluyentes.org/>

⁸ It is a tool that makes it possible to make visible the integration potential that the territories present in relation to the distribution and location of the conditions of prosperity encompassed in five key areas: 1) affordable, quality housing with services, 2) employment and economic opportunities, 3) health and well-being, 4) access to education, culture and diversity, and 5) access to public spaces, safety and recreation. Available for consultation at: <https://en.ciudadesincluyentes.org/>

⁹ Available from <https://ciudadesincluyentes.org/>; <https://en.ciudadesincluyentes.org/>



of the movements and needs of displaced populations.

c) **UN-Habitat** undertook an analysis of territorial dynamics which it developed, underscored by the Access to the Right to the City conceptual framework. This is in accordance with the mandate of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the principles of the SDG, in particular, SDG 11. Through this conceptual framework, a methodological adaptation of the City Prosperity Index (CPI) was developed to render visible the extent to which spatial, social, economic and governance conditions of territorial prosperity affect inclusion and integration of groups in vulnerable conditions (especially refugees and migrants coming from Venezuela) through the physical environment.

While the COVID-19 pandemic presented many challenges in the conduct of this exercise, the Human Mobility Profile maintained its objective to contribute complementary analysis to local and national governments, to social organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, and other actors in the public and private sectors, by providing quality information on mixed migratory flows, and profiling host communities. This report develops factual arguments so that the aforementioned actors have reliable tools undertake actions related to public policies design, budget allocation, cooperation targets, transparency, and accountability. Likewise, reliable and useful information is provided to analyse the degree of inclusion / exclusion of refugees, migrants,

with host communities. The information also identifies barriers preventing society from fulfilling their rights regarding adequate housing and living conditions; access to health, social protection, educational and cultural services; and employment and livelihood opportunities.

With this in mind, ICCS presents its Human Mobility Profile for Chaguanas. This document aims to analyse the Chaguanas Borough inclusion and solidarity profile through examining the multiple dynamics that govern its existence in the host community. As such, the first section of this document describes the Trinidad and Tobago national context from a social, economic, institutional, legal, and cultural standpoint and related to the integration of R&M. The second section presents the Borough of Chaguanas' profile, resulting from an analysis of its social and economic factors, and related to the institutional availability of services that may foster integration. The situation of refugees and migrants in the city is equally presented in this section. The third section applies the Access to the Right to the City paradigm to the Borough's context, presenting areas where access to rights are apparent and lacking, while placing special emphasis on the gaps and opportunities for refugee and migrant communities. Finally, recommendations and conclusions regarding the opportunities and challenges identified in (i) inclusive governance, (ii) diversity and social, economic, and cultural equity, and (iii) fair distribution of resources are proffered to further foster in Chaguanas inclusive cities and communities of solidarity.

2. NATIONAL CONTEXT AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

Presenting the Trinidad and Tobago national context in the analysis of human mobility in the Chaguanas Borough brings elements and basic socio-economic patterns of the country in the face of migratory dynamics to the forefront, and points out the most relevant institutional, programmatic, social, economic, and cultural instruments the country possesses to assist and promote integration of refugees and migrants in urban contexts. This chapter uses this presentation as a foundation for its city-level human mobility analysis, which is further complemented with a socioeconomic profile of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Trinidad and Tobago.

Although the majority of asylum-seekers and refugees in Trinidad and Tobago are Venezuelan nationals, it must be noted that there are individuals from 37 different nationalities recorded in the UNHCR database. Cubans represent the second most populous nationality, and citizens from Jamaica, Syria, Bangladesh, China and Nigeria are notable among asylum-seeker and refugee populations in Trinidad and Tobago.

2.1 Trinidad and Tobago (TTO) in context

Trinidad and Tobago has two main islands, Tobago and Trinidad, with smaller island formations. It is located at the southernmost point of the Caribbean archipelago and on the northern side of the South American continent. It is also geographically located northwest of Guyana's frontier and along Venezuela's Western coast. Part of a chain of Caribbean islands along with Barbados, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago is considered one of the wealthiest according to ECLAC (2006). The country's total area is around 5,131 km², of which Trinidad constitutes 93%, and Tobago, the remaining 7%. A total of 32 km separate both islands. Jointly, Trinidad and Tobago has a population of 1,328,019, based on the latest National Census available conducted in 2011, (Central Statistics Office, 2011, p. 2) denoting an increase of 4.9% from 2000.

Figure 1. Trinidad & Tobago geographical location



Source: (Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, 2013)

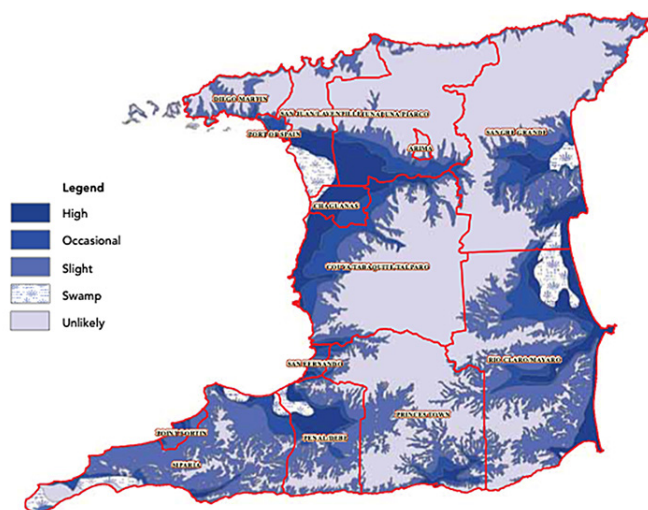
With regards to topographic conditions, Trinidad has 3 mountain ranges: the first and biggest range is located at the northern side of the island and goes from east to west, followed in size by the southern mountains where the topography is mostly characterized by low hills; and lastly, in the centre of the island the third and smallest mountain range can be found. Contrastingly, Tobago has volcanic mountain topography, which runs parallel to the coastline and occupies two-thirds of its total area. (The Ministry of the Environment, 2001).

According to The World Bank (2021), Caribbean countries are extremely vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. While it is not as exposed to tropical storms and hurricanes as other Caribbean countries, Trinidad and Tobago nevertheless experiences frequent flooding. Likewise, other factors which contribute to its vulnerability include:

- a) a large proportion of the population’s socio-economic activities and national infrastructure is situated along the coastal zone, creating urban centres;
- b) high population density with an average of 273 persons/km²;
- c) water supply is vulnerable to the impacts of sea-level rises; and finally,
- d) having a limited physical size restricts the ability to effectively implement adaptation solutions to reduce the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise

Despite the aforementioned, flooding remains the natural hazard of major concern to the population in the country, partially due to poor watershed management practices and disposal habits and water pollution, particularly in urban areas. “The pollutants affect both inland freshwater and coastal water resources, including the beaches and shores” (The Ministry of the Environment, 2001) in addition to the country’s economic activities, bad practices in land use, as well as population growth, fostering environmental degradation of watersheds, water resources, and coastal areas (ibid).

Figure 2. Flood risk in Trinidad & Tobago



Source: (Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, 2013)

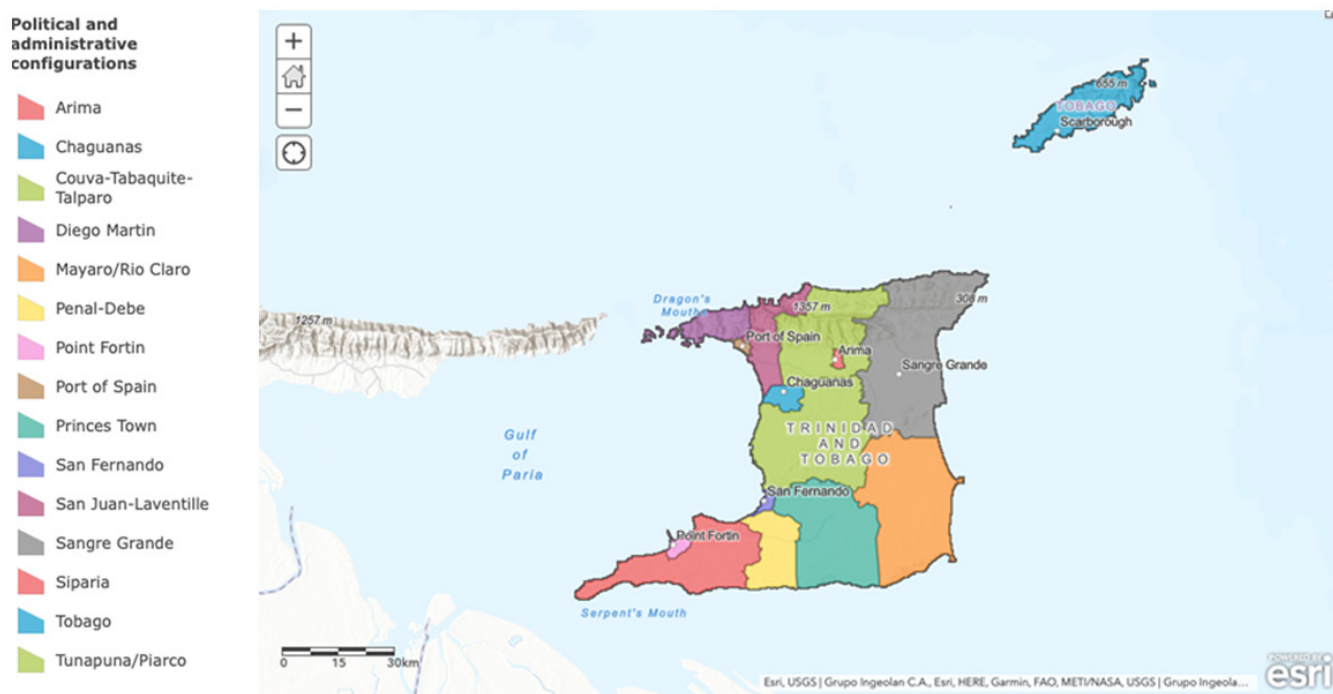
Politically and governance-wise, Trinidad and Tobago follows the Westminster model of government and upholds the traditions of a unitary parliamentary democracy inherited from its British colonial past. As it is a Republic, Trinidad and Tobago’s electoral college selects its President who serves as Head of State and is, de jure, the head of the executive branch. The country’s executive branch is led de facto by the Prime Minister who is commissioned with the government’s direction. The legislative branch is composed of a bicameral Parliament: The House of Representative and the Senate. The former is constituted of 41 members who are elected every 5 years; and the latter with 31 representatives appointed by the President after consultation with the government and the opposition benches to ensure representativeness in decision making. Finally, the country has a judicial branch composed of an independent court system. (GORTT, 2021)

Trinidad and Tobago is a unitary Republic with two levels of government (national and local). While the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago provides the national governing framework, the Municipal Corporations Act (1991), is the principal legislation governing local government. The Municipal Corporations Act divides the country into 14 Regional Corporations classified hierarchically into 2 City corporations: Port of Spain and San Fernando; followed by 3 Borough Corporations: Arima, Port Fortin, and Chaguanas; and finally in 9 Regional Corporations: Diego Martin, San Juan-Laventille, Tunapuna/Piarco, Sangre Grande, Mayaro/Rio Claro, Princes Town, Couva-Tabaquite--Talparo, Penal-Debe, and Siparia. Tobago has no Regional Corporations, and it is controlled by the Tobago House of Assembly, whilst the 14 divisions of Trinidad, are controlled by its local Councils. (Ministry of Legal Affairs, 1990).

2.2 Social and economic context in Trinidad and Tobago

Compared to the rest of the Caribbean islands, Trinidad and Tobago’s economic profile has been characterized by its stability and growth. According to World Bank Data, in 2015, the country has one of the highest Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in Latin America and the Caribbean (US\$17,640) (The World Bank, 2021), placing the country into the high-income group, although historically it has

Figure 3. Political and administrative configuration of Trinidad and Tobago



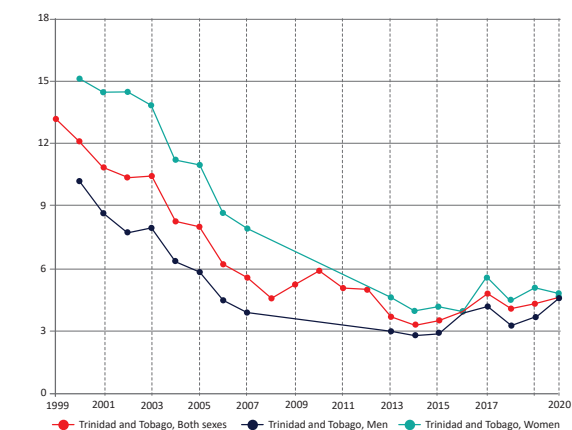
Source: (ESRI Maps)

been described as a middle-income country. Yet, in addition to emigration, the country faces key social and economic challenges, such as security issues and implications from its economic dependency on hydrocarbons (particularly oil and gas exports). The latter contributes more than 50% of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and makes Trinidad and Tobago vulnerable to global price fluctuations. According to the country's Vulnerability Assessment developed by the European Union, (2019, pág. 207) Trinidad and Tobago has limited natural resources due to its size, and the need for a transition towards a more sustainable economy becomes crucial (European Union, 2019).

Well in line with this scenario, this single-sourced economy has generated environmental and social negative impacts. On the one hand, hydrocarbon-related infrastructure is located along the coastline where higher disaster risks concentrate, further increasing its vulnerability and dependency. Additionally, the country has not yet exploited its capability around goods production, partially because its fertile agricultural land is being used for urban purposes, whilst occupying conservation areas for agricultural

activities. On the other hand, oil and gas production only contribute to 3% of the total country's employment (Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, 2016), but its social impacts can be put into perspective as it factors in more than 50% of the country's GDP, whereas the service sector contributes to 40% of the GDP (including tourism and shipping) and accounts for 60% of the working-age population.

Figure 4. Unemployment rate by sex in Trinidad and Tobago



Source: CEPALSTAT - ECLAC - UNITED NATIONS

Source: (ECLAC, 2021)

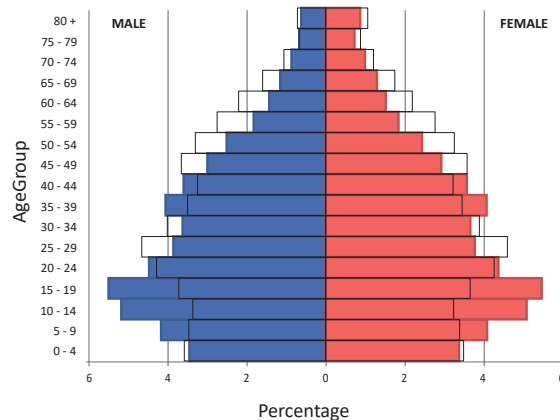
Furthermore, according to the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (2020), around 4.7% of the population was unemployed during the first quarter of 2020, and according to the United Nations statistics (2021), 49.8% of women and 69.6% of men were active in the labour market. ECLAC statistics reflect that unemployment in the country has significantly reduced during the last 20 years, especially regarding unemployment rates between women and men, which decreased to 0.2% from 5%.

Available data regarding socioeconomic conditions in the country is sourced from the last national census, which was conducted in 2011. Approximately 14.7% of Trinidadians were classified as living under poverty conditions, although it showed a decrease of 5% from the previous 3 years. The highest concentration of poor people was located in Sangre Grande (39.1%), Princes Town (30%), and Siparia (27,7%) (Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, 2013). Interestingly, while Arima’s and Chaguanas’ population density has increased considerably, their poverty rates tended to decrease thereby indicating some prosperity concentration in these two areas and mainly on the eastern and western corridors of the island.

Moreover, according to the Human Capital Index (HCI) 2020, in the period 2010 to 2020, Trinidad and Tobago increased its value from 0.55 to 0.60, a value that indicates that a child born in the country will be 60% as productive as an adult and could access to education and health. The value is higher than the average of Latin American countries but lower than the average of high-income countries. Contrastingly, with regards to youth that neither work nor study, 2013 data indicate that 52% of young people were not in education, employment, or training, a value higher than the average in the region as well as in high-income countries. (World Bank, 2020)

Despite its population increase to 1,328,019 citizens noted in the 2011 National Census, Trinidad and Tobago’s overall growth rate has been declining for the last 40 years. Between 2000 and 2011, both male and female population trends indicated that society has increasingly aged as age ranges between 5-15 shrunk whilst working age ranges increased, with the average standing at 32 years old. Consequently, the age dependency ratio declined, as the

Figure 5. Population composition in Trinidad and Tobago by sex and age 2000/2011



Source: (Central Statistics Office, 2011)

working-age segment of the population had fewer dependents. Almost no changes were apparent in the gender balance, being roughly 50/50 (Central Statistics Office, 2011). Close to a half of the population never married, and the fertility rate was estimated to be 2.5 live-born children per woman.

Additional statistics show that:

- The working-age population classified as persons between 15-64 years increased from 67.6% in 2000 to 70.4% in 2011;
- The average household size ranged between 2.9 and 3.5. As expected, urban areas tend to concentrate smaller household sizes, especially single-male ones (65%), in opposition to rural areas. Single-person households represent 19% of the total households (Central Statistics Office, 2011);
- East Indians and Africans were the two largest ethnic groups in Trinidad and Tobago. East Indians accounted for 35.4% of the total population while Africans accounted for 34.2%. In the 2000 census, the respective percentages were 40% and 37.5%. The difference between the groups narrowed from 2.5% in 2000 to 1.2% in 2011. The next largest group was described as ‘Mixed’ representing 22.8% of the population;
- From the total population, 30% completed only primary school education, whilst 43.5% have attained secondary and post-secondary/technical

education, with 6.2% attaining tertiary non-university level education and 8.4% tertiary university-level education.

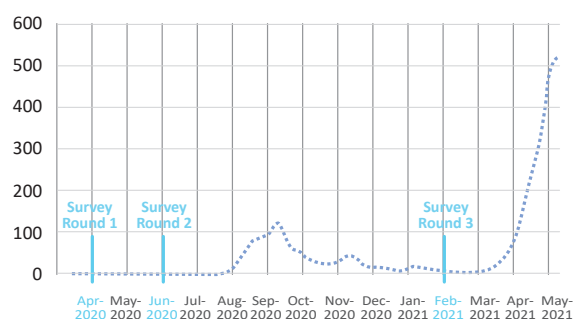
When observing the territorial distribution of the population, the east side of Trinidad holds the highest concentration of the population because of the abundance of undeveloped land in the Sangre Grande, Rio Claro-Mayaro, and Princess Town Borough Corporations. However, the four cities/borough corporations with higher density in the island are Port of Spain and Arima with 3,090 and 2,801 people per square meter (pqm) respectively, followed by the City of San Fernando (2,801 people pqm) and the Borough Corporation of Chaguanas (1,416 people pqm). Additionally, changing population density patterns within these cities/borough corporations were observed when compared with the 2000 census. Not only did Port of Spain experience a considerable 25% decrease in its total population over 10 years, but also San Fernando, the second largest city of the country, saw a decrease as well. It is estimated that those core urban areas lost around 23,000 people, who are posited to have migrated internally within Trinidad to more rural areas. Hence, the island passed from 30.5% of people living in urban regions in 2000 to 27% by 2011 (Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, 2013).

On the contrary, Arima's density increased by 4% while Chaguanas showed a remarkable 20% increase in population (Central Statistics Office, 2011). According to the UN Global Compact Cities Programme, this notable reduction of density in the two main cities of the country is explained by urban sprawl and uncontained ribbon development along the main roads, as the population growth is predominantly in the North-South and East-West corridor (National Spatial Development Strategy Reports, 2013). Couva-Tabaquite-Talparo was also the main receptor of internal migrants, estimating that central Trinidad, which includes Chaguanas as well, gained around 49,450 people. According to the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, these two Borough Corporations have accounted for two-thirds of the total increase in Trinidad's population between 2000 and 2011 (2013). This trend marked an important milestone as housing programs, for instance, were mainly allocated in those "core" urban areas.

2.3 COVID-19 MAIN IMPACTS

Trinidad and Tobago has been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to ECLAC (2020). On the 22nd of March, the country introduced its first border closure to reduce the risk of contagion whilst enforcing a lockdown during which schools and non-essential businesses were closed. As a result, these measures required strong support from the Trinidad and Tobago government to lessen social impacts, which included soft interest loans, wage subsidies, cash transfers, and grants.

Figure 6. New Covid cases in Trinidad and Tobago, average 14-day notification rate per 100000 population



Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, 2021

Source: (CARICOM, 2021)

Total revenue in the country fell by 23% of the GDP, related to the energy revenue loss in 2020, as well as to the drop of oil prices and the restriction to tourism and services sector during the same period (which, before the pandemic, accounted 60% of national employment). Unemployment was perceived to increase especially in sectors such as tourism, manufacturing, entertainment and construction, informal sectors related to tourism and services, among others. In other sectors, salaries were being cut (ECLAC, 2020). According to the World Bank, at 2021, the total unemployment rate is 4.8%, due in part to the impact of COVID-19. (World Bank, 2022)

The crisis especially impacted the most vulnerable groups, including Venezuelan refugees and migrants. According to the Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey, by June 2021, 50% of overall respondents and 80% of those from the lowest income groups had been affected by job losses and income reductions (CARICOM, 2021) and its subsequent study shows that the overall respondent population experienced an increase by 5



percentage points (CARICOM, CDEMA, FAO, WFP, 2022). According to IOM, the COVID-19 pandemic spurred huge job losses amongst the Venezuelan refugees and migrant population, which substantially heightened their vulnerability to evictions and homelessness. Within this population, the most pressing issue was the worsened quality of food (31%) as half of R&M experienced reduced food consumption (CARICOM, 2021), followed by homeless situations and risk of eviction, discrimination, and unemployment, all as a consequence of COVID-19. According to the DTM 2020, 68% of unemployed R&M respondents reported to have lost their jobs in Trinidad and Tobago due to the pandemic. Also, negative impacts were more commonly associated with Spanish-speaking people, potentially asylum seekers from Venezuela (CARICOM, 2021). Nonetheless, an encouraging development sanctioned by the Trinidad and Tobago government is access to legal job options for registered migrants, conducted prior to the pandemic, as it could assist with improved access to priority needs.

A year since its first confirmed COVID case, Trinidad and Tobago experienced a significant COVID-19 spike with over 1600 new cases by April 2021 (UNHCR, 2021). Again, restrictions were introduced to contain the second wave of the COVID pandemic, including border closures for nationals and non-nationals and closure of most businesses. Most public institutions' offices were closed for the period of lockdown but have since reopened under strict COVID guidelines. Educational facilities were functioning on an amended operating model, which is based on a blend of online and in-person (for Forms 4 to 6) classes. This factor has had also an impact on employment for R&M as during the post-migration period, as some students discontinued their educational pursuits to be absorbed into the labour market as employees (IOM, 2020).

The country's border re-opened in July 2021, with access is only available for fully vaccinated people. From June 1, 2022, unvaccinated nationals and non-nationals were allowed to enter Trinidad and Tobago, but had to provide either a negative PCR or antigen test done 48 hours prior to entry. In the absence of a test, the individual had to go into State supervised quarantine, at their cost, until they could provide a negative PCR or antigen test to the Health

authorities as a condition for their release. These regulations were further relaxed on July 1st, 2022, when the Ministry of Health no longer required PCR or antigen tests for entry into the country (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2022)

2.4 Patterns of mixed migratory flows from the Venezuelan community

Trinidad and Tobago has a long-standing history of migration. In addition to nationals of other countries immigrating to the twin islands, Trinidadians and Tobagonians emigrate to countries such as the United States of America (US), Canada and the United Kingdom (UK).

Since the early 18th century, the country has been subject to different waves of international immigration. Firstly, colonisation, initiated by Spain (1768) followed by a strong French influence and finally by Britain (1787) strongly defined Trinidad migration dynamics. Tobago changed hands many times between the Spanish, British, French, Dutch and Courlander colonisation of the island. The two islands eventually became a unified British colony in 1889. During this period, colonial powers decimated the native population and enslaved an important number of African persons who were forced to relocate to the colony. Other labourers arrived later from Portugal, the United States, and West India, underscored by Spain's drive to populate the country, while offering land title deeds to specific demographic portions of the population already in the colony to encourage their long-stay. Additionally, it was Britain's initiative that significantly motivated mostly Indian indentured labourers to settle in Trinidad and Tobago. As a result, the National Census in 2011 shows that 77% of the population in Trinidad and Tobago identified as African & East Indian descendants (Central Statistics Office, 2011, p. 15).

By the 20th century, Trinidad and Tobago declared its independence as a sovereign nation (1962) and became a Republic in 1976, adopting a Republican Constitution. The country's industrialization process was marked by success in cocoa production and the increase in oil and gas exportation which also developed a wealthier Trinidadian and Tobagonian population. It is important to note that because of

the colonial history between these two nations, Trinidad and Tobago’s population was considered British subjects and had access to British citizenship before it became an independent nation, giving rise to a reverse migratory flow into the UK.

More recent migratory patterns show that by 2005, one-third of all Caribbean migrants settled in Trini-

dad and Tobago, according to the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean (UN.ECLAC. Statistics Division, 2006). This phenomenon was associated with its economic stability, as Trinidad and Tobago, along with Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Saint Kitts, and Nevis, is considered a high-income country in comparison with the rest of the Caribbean-

Figure 7. Estimation of the Venezuelan population in Latin America & the Caribbean



Source: (R4V Platform, 2021)

an countries (IOM, 2017). According to the National Census, by 2011, the foreign-born population represented 3.7% of the population of which immigrants from the Caribbean countries constituted 55.6% (Central Statistics Office, 2011).

However, since 2015, an unprecedented phenomenon in the region indicated that at least 6 million Venezuelans have left their country, of which around 82% migrated into Latin America and the Caribbean, and around 223,000 R&M migrated specifically into the Caribbean (R4V, 2021). Trinidad and Tobago was seen as a natural destination for some, due to 11 km distance from Venezuela. It is believed that Trinidad and Tobago’s economic stability might have served as a pull factor for the Venezuelan population to migrate there.

In response to the high influx of Venezuelan R&M to Trinidad and Tobago, the National Government took action, undertaking an official registration exercise for the Venezuelan-only population by mid-2019, during which a total number of 16,523 adults and 2,481 children were registered and authorized to work for a six-month period, with the possibility of extension until December 2020 (R4V, 2020). In parallel to the June 2019 registration process, the national government instituted visa requirements for any Venezuelan nationals entering or transiting within Trinidad and Tobago (The Office of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, 2019).

A re-registration process was conducted between March and April of 2021 (from the registered population of 2019). This second re-registration round resulted in a preliminary count of 13,800 Venezuelans re-registered, although this number excluded the last registration dates. No further information has been released since the preliminary count. This enabled the registered Venezuelan population to work for one additional year (but re-assessed every 6 months) and benefit as well from free emergency and primary medical services at public health institutions. On February 9, 2022, the Minister of National Security signed Legal Notice no 53, extending the validity of registration cards of the 13,500 Venezuelans who renewed their registration in March 2021. This Legal Notice expires December 31, 2022.

However, the re-registration process was only open for those previously registered in 2019. This leaves R&M arriving between 2019 -2022 in a state of vulnerability and irregularity, and furthermore, subject to detention and deportation. All other Venezuelans and asylum-seekers of other nationalities remain without legal status. Compounding this is the current practice of Venezuelan irregular entry into Trinidad and Tobago, risking their lives and exposing themselves to significant health, safety and protection risks, including human trafficking, exploitation, and abuse (R4V Platform, 2021).

The R4V Trinidad and Tobago platforms estimates that there are about 28,500 Venezuelans currently in the country. As of June 2022, in the absence of a national asylum framework in Trinidad and Tobago, UNHCR has registered 22,705 asylum seekers and refugees of 37 different nationalities in Trinidad and Tobago. This includes 19,682 Venezuelan asylum seekers and refugees.

Figure 8. Venezuelans Registered with UNHCR in the Chaguanas Borough



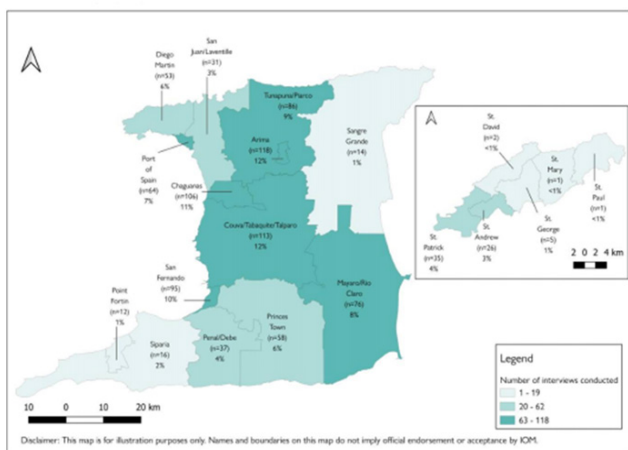
Source: UNHCR Trinidad and Tobago

Despite border closures throughout the region during 2020 and 2021, Venezuelan migration into the Caribbean has continued. It is estimated that by the end of 2022, 223,000 R&M from Venezuela will have been established in the five countries of the sub-region of the Caribbean. Among those, estimates indicate that 204,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants and 30,700 people from host communities will need assistance. (R4V, 2021)

a. Profile and situation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Trinidad and Tobago

IOM conducted the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in 2019 to understand the socioeconomic conditions of the refugee and migrant population in Trinidad and Tobago by undertaking key interviews with 2,166 refugees and 950 migrants respectively during 2019 and 2020. IOM determined R&M sex, age, education level, the amount of time they had been in Trinidad and Tobago, their work status, among other indicators.

Figure 9. Number of IOM surveys conducted in Trinidad and Tobago



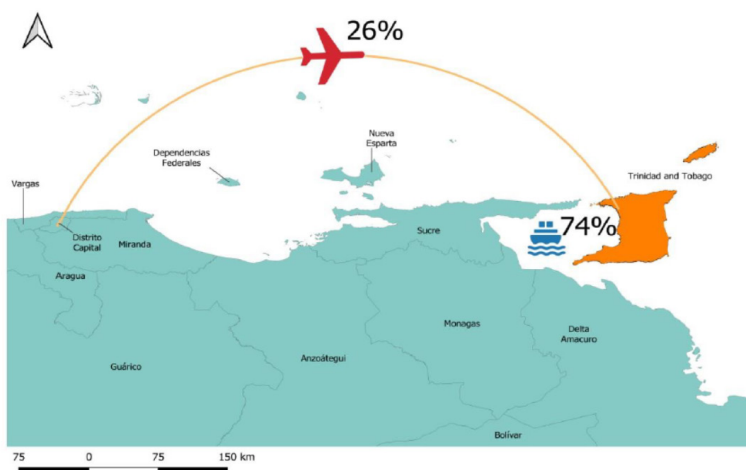
Source: (IOM, 2020)

i. Characteristics of the displacement

Approximately, 80% of the DTM 2020 respondents were reportedly registered during the GORTT exercise in June 2019 and they hold either a Minister’s Permit or a work permit. The remaining 20% did not have regular migration status when interviewed. Finally, 89% of these individuals were either asylum seekers or refugees recognised by UNHCR. (IOM, 2019) (IOM, 2020). According to UNHCR’s ProGres¹⁰ database, of the 21,577 persons registered as of 31 December 2021, 5,943 individuals or 28% of those registered with UNHCR are also registered with GORTT.

Although in the past most of the migration routes were taken by plane, in 2020, 74% of Venezuelan refugees and migrants arrived by boat from Delta Amacuro according to the DTM, incurring between 100 to 499 US Dollars in expenses for their trip, while 26% arrived by plane. This is due to the introduction of restrictions implemented by the GORTT as 42% of the refugees and migrants interviewed in 2020 entered through unofficial entry points.

Figure 10. Human mobility routes used by DTM 2020 Venezuelan respondents



Source: (IOM, 2020)

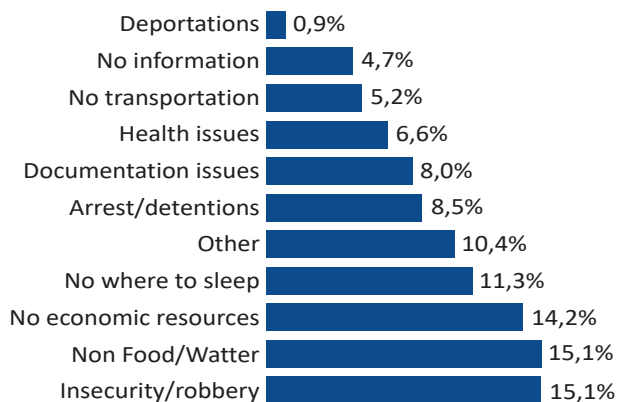
¹⁰ The proGres tool is an UNHCR methodology that provides a common source of information about individuals that is used by different work units to facilitate protection of persons of concern to the organization. ProGres is the main repository in UNHCR for storing individuals’ data.

Regarding R&M origin, the majority of respondents were born in the eastern states of Venezuela and the highest number of interviewees reported that they were born in Delta Amacuro, a factor that explains why this port is mostly used to travel to Trinidad and Tobago.

Furthermore, concerning the length of stay in Trinidad and Tobago, 88% of the persons interviewed were present in the country for more than twelve months, but from the total number, most (79%) were uncertain of their intended period of stay and only 16% expressed their intention to stay for more than 12 months. However, 48% of R&M claim to not intend to return to Venezuela, whilst the remaining percentage said they were interested in going back but undecided on when.

In addition, more than two-thirds of the respondents began their journey either in 2018 or 2019, underscoring the recent nature of their movement. 89% of the persons did not report any difficulties during the trip but the 11% who did encounter challenges most frequently cited insecurity and robbery, lack of food, water, and economic resources and not having a place to sleep as difficulties.

Figure 11. Reported difficulties during the trip



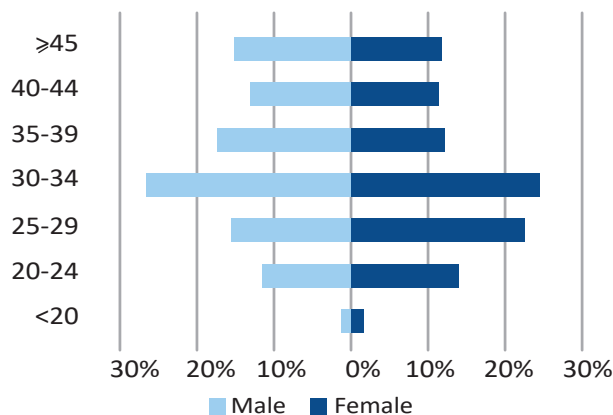
Source: (IOM, 2020)

ii. ii. Refugees' and migrants' demographic profile

The 2020 DTM results indicated that 59% of the respondents were female and 41% were male, similar to 2019's results during which 58% were male and 42% females. Also, differences in the respondent's age were identified, as the 30-34 age group had the highest number of respondents, followed by the 25-

29 age group, whilst during 2019 ages between 25-29 and the 20-24 age group were the more common ones.

Figure 12. Distribution by sex and age



Source: (IOM, 2020)

Additionally, according to the DTM, in both years, most people were single (49%), followed by married or union free couples (46%) and divorced and widowed (4% and 1% respectively). Also, 52% reported to have dependents in both countries (Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela), 31% reported to only have dependents in Venezuela, and the remaining 10% reported to only have dependents in Trinidad and Tobago. It became apparent that from 2019 and 2020, family reunification processes have happened for R&M that had dependents in Venezuela only. Accordingly, 44% of Venezuelan nationals did not travel alone and 83% travelled with their families. However, 74% of the respondents still send economic resources to Venezuela.

As of June 2022, the active registered population in ProGres was 22,705 persons; of which 19,682 are Venezuelans. Their legal statuses are: 3,519 asylum-seekers and 621 others of concern. Of them, 11,521 (50.74%) are male and 11,184 (49.26%) are female. There are 5,320 (23.43%) children (under 18) registered with UNHCR. The present caseload of asylum-seekers and refugees is comprised of individuals from 37 countries of origin.

iii. Education

The right to education remains elusive to Venezuelan children in Trinidad and Tobago. Renewal of the Government registration excluded the possibility of registering children who were not part of the initial

process. Following this 2021 renewal exercise, there emerged a situation that exacerbated the vulnerability experienced by over 2,000 children who are without a pathway to regularization of their status and access to education.

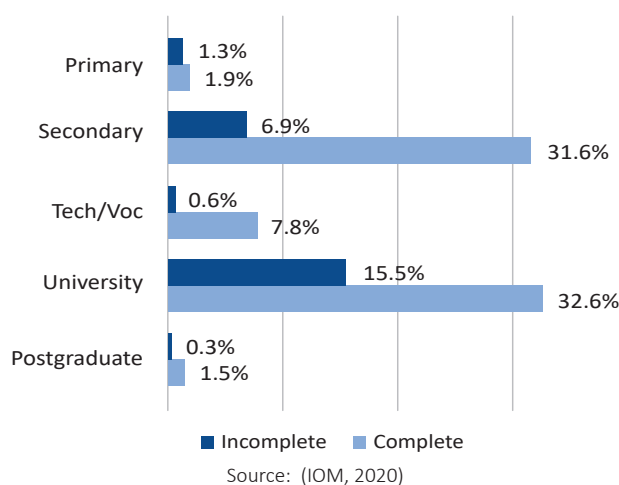
Refugees and asylum-seekers do not have access to public schools in Trinidad and Tobago, even for those that are registered with the government. In 2019, Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley indicated that denominational board-run schools in TT which have the capacity could make spaces available for non-nationals (Fraser, 2019). However, later on, humanitarian agencies were informed that the needed study permits will not be provided.

Venezuelan refugee and migrant children continue to face legal, administrative and financial barriers that hinder their access to education, learning opportunities and skills development. Language competency is a cornerstone to their educational inclusion. For adolescents, skills development is a necessary pathway in their education, particularly as the pandemic has forced some adolescents to work and contribute to the family income.

In 2022, more than 1,744 refugees and asylum seekers access distance education services through Equal Place – a temporary intervention launched in collaboration with UNICEF and local NGOs. Efforts continue to source assistance for students who have limited or no internet access at home. The R4V platform estimates the total population in need of education to be 6,140 by end of 2022. This means that over 4000 refugee and migrant students will remain without access to education in T&T. In relation to education of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, 33% of the DTM respondents in 2020 had completed university education, indicating a 16% increase from the 2019 findings. The 40-44 age group had the highest percentage of university graduates and about 32% of the interviewees had completed secondary level education. However, according to the official figures from GORTT, 73% of the registrants had only secondary education and most of them did not complete this level.

Concerning children’s access to education, the data showed that 59% of the children living with the respondents did not have access to education in Trin-

Figure 13. Education level

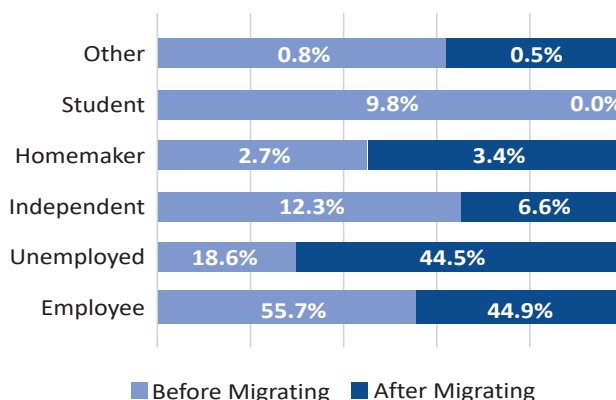


idad and Tobago and over half of the interviewees identified lack of documents and costs as the main reasons for this inaccessibility. Also, there were four cases where ‘working’ was indicated as the reason for no access to education and one case of ‘early marriage/ pregnancy’.

iv. Employment and livelihoods

Migratory movements can sometimes account for migrants’ work status. More specifically, in the post-migration period there was an evident surge in unemployment amongst the interviewees, coupled with a moderate decrease in employment. This finding varied from the DTM 2019 data, which reported a slight rise in employment after migration. Additionally, in the post migration period, all students discontinued their educational pursuits and some of them were absorbed into the labour market as

Figure 14. Work status by migration

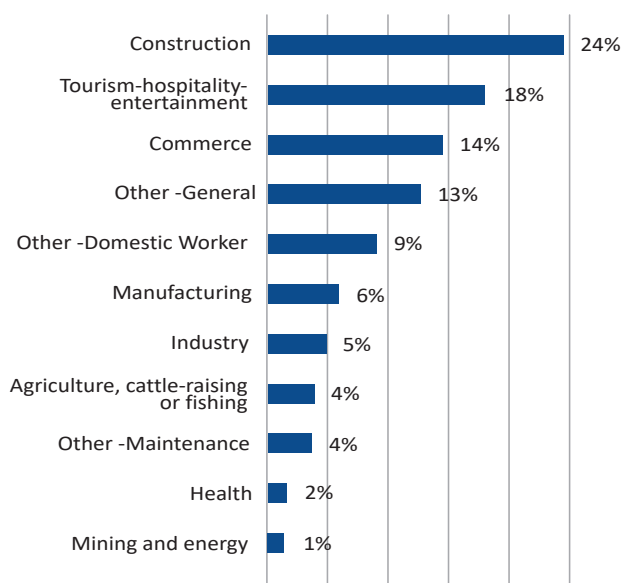




employees, while a little over half were recorded as unemployed.

Distinctly, 24% of R&M work in the construction sector, followed by tourism and entertainment sector (18%); coincidentally two of the sectors most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. By contrast, in 2020, only 1% of Venezuelan refugees and migrants worked in mining and energy, which counts as the most representative economic activity in the country. However, this is not related to their status of R&M, as it accounts for employing 3% of Trinidad and Tobago nationals' in the sector.

Figure 15. Venezuelan refugees and migrants working sectors



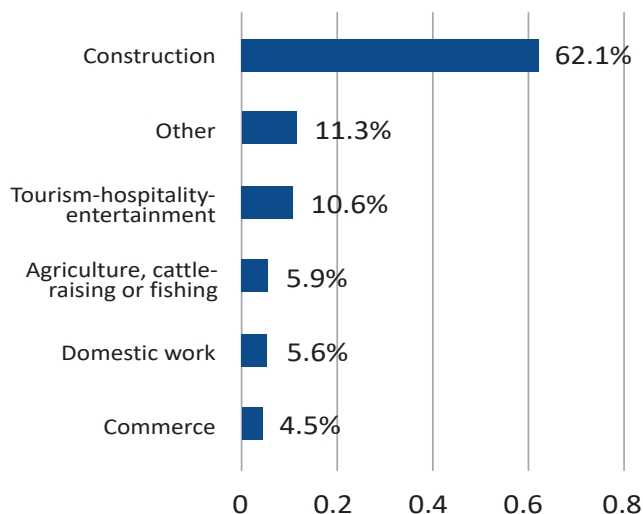
Source: (IOM, 2020)

The DTM in 2020 also showed that 46% of the employed interviewees worked in the informal sector, which was a 14% reduction from the 2019 DTM. This decline may have been impacted by the Government's registration exercise that enabled legitimate Venezuelan migrant employment options. Moreover, it was discovered that approximately 93% of the persons working in the informal sector, and 65% of the persons working in the formal sector had not signed a contract and/or had no proof of payment for their services.

Likewise, an assessment of salaries, either rated hourly or monthly, indicated that 36% of the respondents working in the formal sector and 54%

of the respondents working in the informal sector were underpaid, as they allegedly received less than Trinidad and Tobago's minimum wages. In addition, it was discovered that 47% of the respondents were aware of someone in their migrant community who worked without receiving the agreed upon payment and approximately 62% of these incidents were reportedly in the construction sector.

Figure 16. Reported underpaid work for Venezuelan refugees and migrants

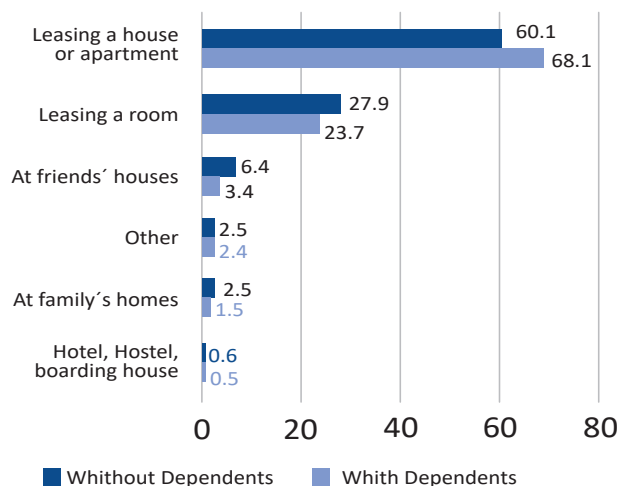


Source: (IOM, 2020)

v. Housing and shelter

As for their living conditions, the DTM indicated that 68% of the persons, with dependents in Trinidad and Tobago were renting houses or apartments, whilst

Figure 17. Access to dwelling b interviewed Venezuelan refugees and migrants



Source: (IOM, 2020)

24% were renting single rooms. Similar trends were identified for those without dependents.

Regarding security of tenure of dwelling, some key informants stressed that the COVID-19 pandemic spurred huge job losses amongst the migrant population, which substantially heightened their vulnerability to evictions and homelessness.

vi. Health

The Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Health's policy for treating non-nationals with respect to the provision of Public Health Care Services (June 2019) recommended Emergency Medical Services, primary healthcare, and public health services to non-nationals. Refugees and migrants in Trinidad and Tobago were assured by the Ministry of Health that they would receive testing and treatment for COVID-19 as well as COVID-19 vaccines, regardless of their status in the country and partners are working to support the government's vaccination campaign.

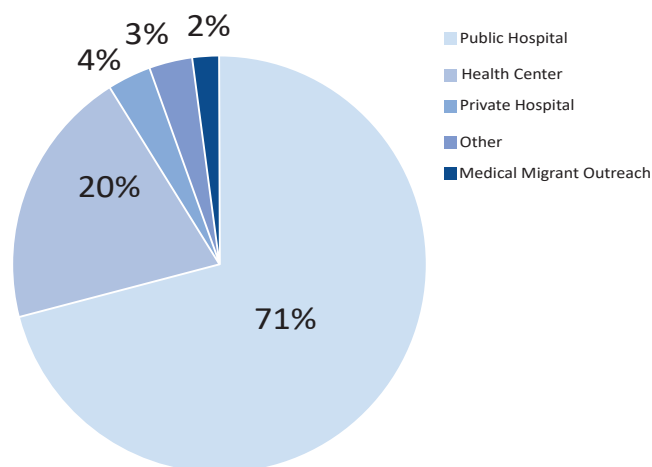
Important gaps persist with access to secondary and tertiary health care, particularly regarding sexual and reproductive health and mental health and psychosocial support. Challenges to access health care include language barriers, lack of knowledge of the services available and where, and the lack of refugee and migrant documentation.

The 2020 DTM demonstrated that some health services were not available as 20% of the interviewees indicated that when they needed them, they had no access. Of the persons who had access to health services, 71% reported that the public hospital was their primary option, followed by the health centre, and private hospitals.

In addition, 27% of interviewed R&M did not know where to obtain information related to health services and 39% indicated to have received information from relatives or friends. Furthermore, only 17% indicated to have chronic medical conditions whilst 20% indicated not to have any current need of health services. 84% of the respondents did not have access to reproductive and sexual health services and 25% of the pregnant mothers did not have access to prenatal services. Lastly, in relation to their needs, Venezuelan R&M prioritized income genera-

tion/employment as their first priority followed by and medical assistance, and food needs.

Figure 18. Access to health by interviewed Venezuelan refugees and Migrants



Source: (IOM, 2020)

vii. Protection and needs

Regarding protection, according to the 2020 DTM, close to 25% of the respondents witnessed physical and sexual violence during their time in Trinidad and Tobago. Correspondingly, the top three options for respondents they knew to seek assistance, were the police, legal support, and a medical clinic respectively in situations of violence against females. However, 28% of the respondents did not know where to seek assistance.

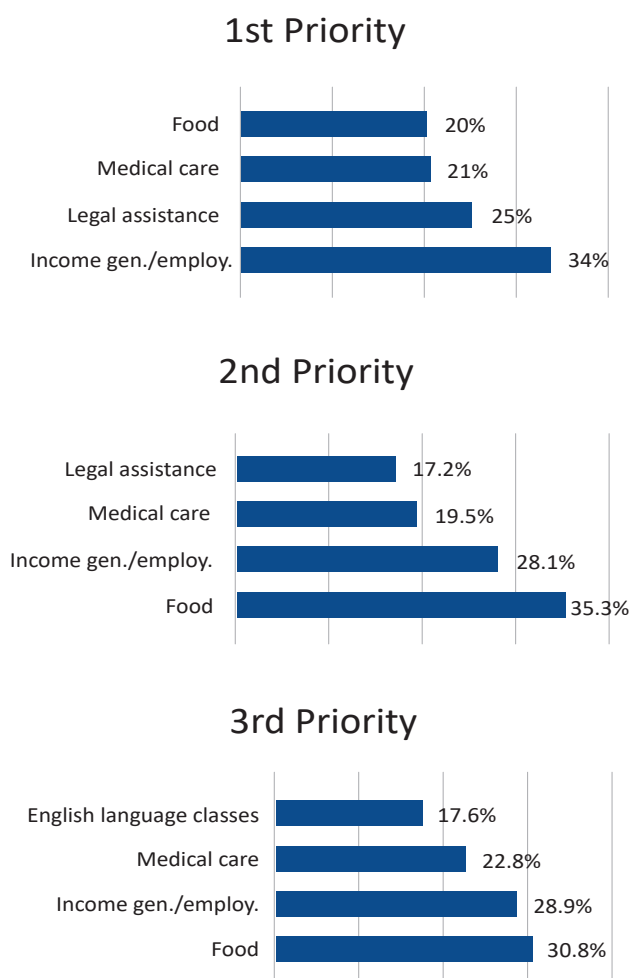
In the same way, refugee and migrant children, in particular adolescent girls, are at risk of GBV, sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), trafficking and separation from their families; and have limited access to culturally sensitive psychosocial support (PSS) and essential services. As child protection systems remain overburdened and language barriers persist, there is a need to strengthen national and community-based child protection mechanisms to identify, refer, respond to, and monitor the protection needs of refugee and migrant children.

A few cases of child detention and instances of children involved in work that jeopardized their health and safety were specified. It must be mentioned however, that there is neither a policy nor provisions for the detention of children by the authorities

in Trinidad and Tobago. Nonetheless, some stakeholders referred to extenuating conditions whereby the court may place children under the custody of a specific authority. Finally, the data also determined that 12% of the respondents had heard of both physical and sexual violence against children, within their migrant community, a condition related with the reports of 39% of interviewees that resided with children, who reported strong changes in the child’s/children’s mood since their departure from Venezuela, with detachment from family and friends being the most cited change.

On the other hand, regarding R&M needs, income generation/employment was the first priority need, followed by legal assistance, and medical care. The data also showed that food needs topped the second and third priorities.

Figure 19. Main needs of Venezuelan R&M



Source: (IOM, 2020)

2.5 Institutional framework and national policies for the reception and integration of refugee and migrant communities

As the southern-most island in the Caribbean region, Trinidad and Tobago has traditionally been identified as a destination and transit country for both intra- and extra-regional migratory flows. Within recent times, with the increased levels of global migration, changes in migratory patterns have been noted, ranging from originating countries, travel routes and categories of migrants. These observances have been reflected in the Government of Trinidad and Tobago’s (GORTT) migration response to review existing legislative frameworks to best suit the evolving context of human mobility and development, while providing necessary considerations for the various categories of migrants. Thus, the GORTT has recognized the following international human rights and human mobility frameworks:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, December 10, 1948
- 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Refugee Convention), November 10, 2000
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), December 05, 1991
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, December 05, 1991
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1978
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, November 06, 2007
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, November 06, 2007
- Forced Labour Convention, 1963

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1973
- International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, 1978 (A)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2015

The Immigration Division, under the Ministry of National Security and governed by the Immigration Act of Trinidad and Tobago (1969), is the principal entity with responsibility for the control of persons entering and leaving Trinidad and Tobago and the issuance of travel documents both locally and at Trinidad and Tobago Missions overseas. Though the migration portfolio rests within the remit of the Ministry of National Security, due to the cross-cutting nature of migration and human development, the Ministry of National Security establishes inter-ministerial committees and working groups, where necessary, to address legislative reviews and policy (re) formation. More specifically, the Ministries of the Attorney General, Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Labour, Social Development and Family Services, Health, Education, and Planning and Development, play significant roles in addressing the issue.

In appreciation for the Sustainable Development Goals and the Vision 2030 (Minister of Planning and Development, 2030), the GORTT acknowledges the positive contribution of migrants towards inclusive growth and sustainable development and the need for the protection and inclusion of migrants into society. The GORTT has developed and is in the process of developing policies to treat with issues regarding population, labour migration and refugees and asylum seekers, including:

- a. A draft labour migration policy is aimed at ensuring that migration to Trinidad and Tobago appropriately fill the gaps in the domestic labour force and meet the demands of the labour market. An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) for the development of the National Labour Migration Policy (NLMP) for Trinidad and Tobago was established in July 2018. To this end, with technical support from the IOM, a draft situational analysis and first draft of the policy was prepared respectively in May and August 2019.
- b. A draft population policy factors in migration as an essential part of a country's demographics and development. This has been in existence since the early 1990's.
- c. Cabinet by *Minute No. 1608 of June 05, 2014*, granted approval for the adoption of a *National Policy to Address Refugees and Asylum Matters in Trinidad and Tobago*. This policy established a framework within which to address the growing number of persons seeking asylum in the twin island state. Efforts have been underway by the Ministry of National Security and the Office of the Attorney General in respect of drafting legislation in line with the said policy.
- d. In addition, according to the Immigration Act Chapter 18:01, in section 10, the Minister with responsibility for Immigration may issue a Minister's Permit to anyone he sees fit either to enter Trinidad and Tobago or being therein to remain for a period of time as specified in the Permit. The Minister can impose such terms and conditions on the holders of such a permit as he thinks fit, and can at any time, in writing, extend, vary, or cancel a permit.

With particular regard to refugees, in 2014 the GORTT created a draft entitled "A Phased Approach towards the Establishment of a National Policy to Address Refugee and Asylum Matters in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago." This policy covered a multitude of rights for refugees including the right to education, work authorization, identity papers, non-refoulement and family reunification. The provisions of the policy however were never implemented. In 2017 Interim Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Protection of Asylum-Seekers and Refugees in Trinidad and Tobago were agreed upon with the Immigration Division and the Ministry of National Security, UNHCR and UNHCR's implementing partner, Living Water Community, however, at this time, the SOPs are no longer being used and are in the process of being revised as indicated by the Immigration Division. The Immigration Division also has a manual which provides guidelines on how to treat with persons wishing to seek asylum in Volume I, however this is not codified in law and it is unclear whether the guidelines are followed Trinidad and Tobago has no laws for asylum-seekers and refugees

and many processes are done on an ad hoc basis. Nevertheless, there are government agencies that do provide services to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants free of charge.

With respect to the employment of Venezuelan migrants, the Migrant Registration Framework (MRF) of Venezuelan migrants was held from May 31 to June 14, 2019. This process employed IOM’s Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) - Foreigner Registration Module, a user-friendly and customizable Border Management Information System (BMIS), with the capability to collect, store, and analyse migrant information in real time and across an entire border network. This system enables the GORTT to more effectively monitor arrivals and departures and provides the government with the statistical basis needed for migration policy-related planning.

Receipt of registration cards entitled holders to work in Trinidad and Tobago for a one-year period (assessed every six months). Migrant employees were expected to be paid in accordance with the minimum wage and were subjected to PAYE but exempt from NIS payments. Nevertheless, regarding the access to the financial system, the banks and financial institutions were reducing requirements to open accounts, such as relaxation of “proof of address” and ID requirements that would have benefitted refugees and migrants. Migrants, regardless of regulatory status, also have access to the Ministry of Labour’s services for free advice on employee related issues, they also benefit from local labour laws such as minimum wage.

Moreover, regarding instruments for decision making, IOM’s DTM appears to be the only instrument for monitoring human mobility in Trinidad and Tobago. Through the 2020 DTM, IOM’s Port of Spain office interviewed 2,166 Venezuelan migrants, reporting to national and local governments with information on the locations, evolving needs, and vulnerabilities of migrant populations in Trinidad and Tobago.

2.6 Institutional framework and National urban policies for social cohesion

a. SDG and 2030 Agenda in Trinidad and Tobago

At the national scale, Vision 2030 is Trinidad and Tobago’s comprehensive national development framework through which SDGs are integrated within the Government’s priorities and actions. In the country’s 2020 voluntary report, the GOTT revealed important improvements in the healthcare system, as well as within its educational infrastructure and capacity. In relation to gender aspects, the country is currently implementing a National Policy on Gender and Development for the reduction of gender gaps and equality in access to rights. Moreover, law enforcements were also put in place related to sexual harassment whilst a Gender-Based Violence Unit was created in the country’s police service, among other achievements (Voluntary National Review, 2020). Further challenges such as emissions reduction, economic stability and working conditions were exposed. Data collection was also considered to be crucial as gaps in the national statistical system reduced the country’s capacity and adaptation of a system for monitoring and reporting on SDG indicators. (United Nations, 2020)

b. National planning framework

The Ministry of Planning and Development is the GORTT’s agency that guarantees national policy and planning delivery for the country’s social and economic development, as well as for physical planning. As such, it was responsible for delivering the National Development Strategy (NDS), Vision 2030, as well as the National Spatial Development Strategy (NSDS). Both policies are reviewed down below.

The National Policy framework for Trinidad and Tobago’s development in the long term is contained in the NDS Vision 2030. It was developed by the Ministry of Planning and Development in 2016 and intended to be the country’s road map for the subsequent 3 terms of government for economic growth and sustainable development. The NDS also incorporated the SDG and defined priorities such as crime prevention, exports increase, alternative energy sources, and green-house emissions reduction, among others to be solved and achieved

from a social and economic perspective (Minister of Planning and Development, 2030). Each Ministry also produces its department development plans by integrating the general vision provided by the National Performance Framework (NPF) 2017–2020 outlined the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure the achievement of the Vision 2030 goals as set out in the NDS (Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, 2017).

In this context, 5 thematic areas were identified and prioritized for Vision 2030 to materialize:

1. **Putting People First:** It is the core of the NDS, as it works based on the need of providing all citizens with equal opportunities and access to social services, empowering people to become creative and productive citizens. The NPF associates the provision of public housing, unemployment and poverty rates, social protection services directed especially to the most vulnerable, health and recreational facilities, education access, and quality as its main indicators, among others;

2. **Delivering Good Governance and Service Excellence:** This thematic area advocated for strong public institutions, citizens who respect authority and the rule of law, confidence in democratic institutions, and the growth of businesses;

3. **Improving Productivity through Quality Infrastructure and Transportation:** Building a first-class

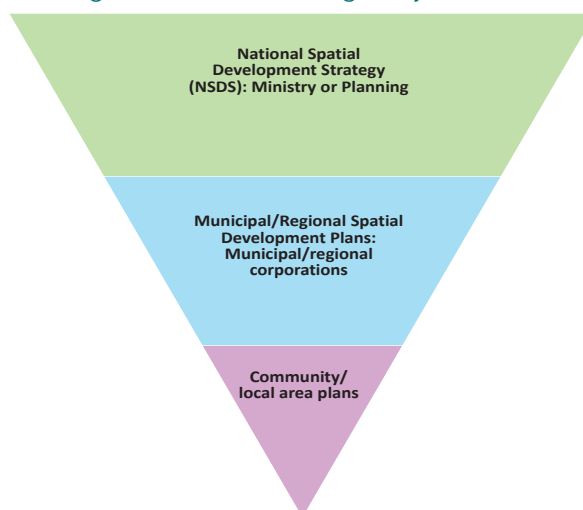
air, sea, and land transport system through efficient and resilient infrastructure;

4. **Building Globally Competitive Businesses:** 3 main assumptions are made to achieve the 4th thematic area. Firstly, citizens require the right skills and capabilities to perform higher-value jobs; secondly, the country needs to attract the right investors and entrepreneurs; and lastly, businesses need to be creative enough to seize on new opportunities;

5. **Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development:** Important acknowledgment of the fact that the economy has relied on oil and gas production at a high environmental cost. Therefore, Vision 2030 aims to improve waste management; engage in sustainable land use planning; reduce pollution, protect biodiversity by also conserving marine and freshwater resources; build resilience to climate change, and become energy smart, encouraging eco-tourism; and promoting greener industries and green cities.

Meanwhile, regarding the NSDS, in 2018, the Planning and Facilitation of Development Act reformed the town and country planning laws of Trinidad and Tobago to install a system for the preparation and approval of national and sub-national development plans and a system of planning and development approvals. It created the National Physical Planning

Figure 20. Urban Planning Policy Framework



Source: The Planning and Facilitation of Development Act, 2018.



Authority (NPPA) under the direction of the Ministry of Planning and Development, commissioned with the preparation of the NSDS which is the first policy framework for regional and local planning since 1984.

The NSDS determines Trinidad and Tobago’s spatial planning principles, policies, and guidance. It also coordinates the different government levels, considering the GORTT’s social, economic, regional, environmental, cultural, and other development policies. Municipal Corporations are guided to adopt the NSFS during the preparation of their regional or local/municipal plans in cities, regional, and borough corporations called “Spatial Development Plans (SDPs)”. At the national level, there are no guidelines to include a differentiated approach to promote the inclusion of refugees and migrants.

objectives. Those policies were designed to be applied in the SDPs by municipal corporations as they are planning authorities at the local level. As such, they are also expected to deliver spatial master plans, planning briefs, and other documents intended to provide supplementary guidance.

Thus, it could be concluded that Trinidad and Tobago National Government provides the local governments and territorial planning entities with guidelines and instruments to formulate plans and policies that promote sustainable development and social inclusion, especially focus on the mitigation of existing social gaps by the provision of services and infrastructures, as well as the strength of the economic sector while protecting the natural environment and making efforts to diversify the energy matrix at the national level.

Generally speaking, the NSDS identified 13 objectives as well as 24 different policies to achieve such

Figure 21. NDS Policy’s objectives



Source: National Spatial Development Strategy

3. THE CITY AS A HOST COMMUNITY FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

While the previous chapter provided the national territorial and socio-economic background, this chapter focuses on the territorial, governance and socio-economic dimensions of the city. This examination allows for the identification of the city's potential to promote the integration of refugee and migrant communities of Venezuelan origin, as well as to determine the opportunities this community presents for the city in terms of economic and social development. To support the undertaking of such an analysis, UNHCR (proGres database), IOM (Displacement Tracking Matrix) and UN-Habitat (examining the prosperity and inclusion of the city using the Right to City paradigm) methodologies were implemented to create a profile for the Chaguanas Borough.

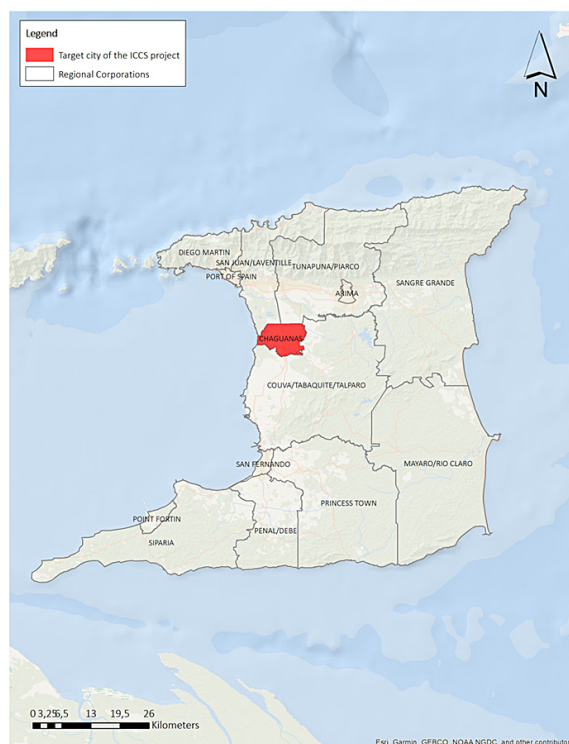
3.1 Context of the City

The Chaguanas Borough Corporation is one of the three existing boroughs in Trinidad and Tobago and the largest at the national level. It is located on the western coast of Trinidad, approximately 18 km south of Port of Spain.

With a geographical area of approximately 59 km², Chaguanas has an estimated population of 85,516 persons with a median age of 32.4 years and education levels of secondary and higher education for 62.9%. It is divided into 16 communities and is the municipality with the fastest growing population in Trinidad and Tobago as, in contrast to the national growth rate of 0.2%, Chaguanas has a growth rate of 2%. Finally, regarding ethnic composition, the two biggest ethnic groups in the Borough are persons of East Indian descent (53.5%), persons of African descent (25.3%), mixed between the two groups (7%), and other ethnic groups altogether (14.2%). (Caribbean Local Economic Development Programme, 2015).

With its authority vested by the Municipal Corporations Act (1991), the Chaguanas Borough Corporation, like its other municipal counterparts, has very

Figure 22. Chaguanas location in Trinidad and Tobago



Source: <https://data.humdata.org/>

limited autonomy and strictly defined competencies. This is due to the nature of the national legal framework that enshrines authority to the municipal offices, with a framework that dates to the 1950s. Further fundamental changes regarding local government's scope of action have not been made. Thus, parallel to the other 14 regional corporations in Trinidad and Tobago, Chaguanas does not have an independent revenue base and depends entirely on the central government for allocations from the national budget. (Caribbean Local Economic Development Programme, 2015). However, the local government has the authority to collect dues and charges for the rental of market stalls and abattoirs as well as through the issuance of food badges and vending licenses. However, the GORTT has embarked on legislative reform to expand local government's autonomy, responsibility and authority, with the Miscellaneous Provisions (Local Government Reform) Bill 2020 assented to on July 1st 2022.

Nevertheless, the Chaguanas Borough Corporation’s duties are mostly administrative and include responsibilities related to public health, waste management, property development, municipal security, maintenance of public spaces including parks, playgrounds, squares, and stages, maintenance of public markets, provision and maintenance of public cemeteries and burial grounds, disaster preparedness and management, maintenance of secondary roads and signage, and maintenance of water fronts. Thus, during the 2011-2013 period an estimated between TT\$13 million and TT\$20 million were expended in projects related with drainage and irrigation, development of recreational facilities, construction of markets, construction of local roads and bridges, disaster preparedness, definition of a spatial development plan, and actions to promote tourism. (Caribbean Local Economic Development Programme, 2015).

The Chaguanas Borough Corporation has local governance authority over eight electoral districts: Charlieville, Cunupia, Edinburgh/Longdenville South, Enterprise North/Esmeralda, Enterprise South/Longdenville North, Felicity/Endeavour, Montrose and Monroe Road/Caroni Savannah; which cover the communities of: Enterprise, Monroe Settlement,

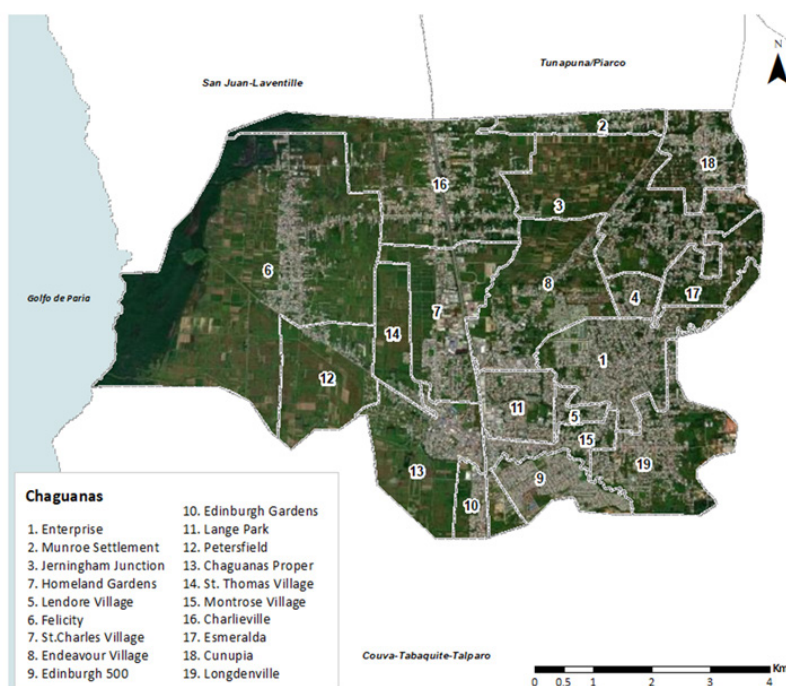
Jerningham Junction, Homeland Gardens, Lendore Village, Felicity, St. Charles Village, Endeavour Village, Edinburgh 500, Edinburgh Gardens, Lange Park, Petersville, Chaguanas Proper, St. Thomas Village, Montrose Village, Charlieville, Esmeralda, Cunupia and Longdenville. Each of the eight electoral districts elects a Municipal Councillor which, along with appointed Aldermen, compose the governance structure of the Borough Corporation. Local Government Councillors’ functions are related to the maintenance of all public sector buildings within their Municipality, as well as landscaping and beautification of their communities, among others. (Local Government Bill, 2009). Furthermore, the Borough Corporation has to report to the line ministry responsible for local government – the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government.

With regard to policy development, local governments follow the policy line as set out by the central government.

3.2 Environment, Planning and Urban Management

Through a territorial analysis of the Borough, this section looks at the spatial conditions that facilitate

Figure 23. Communities found in the Chaguanas Borough



Source: <https://data.humdata.org/>

Figure 24. Conceptual relation between a prosperous and an inclusive city



Source: UN-Habitat

the integration and inclusion of the Chaguana's inhabitants. At the city-level, this would be measured through the degree to which its inhabitants are involved in the co-creation and the improvement of their environment, as well as the enjoyment of its advantages.

On the flipside, the urban space must facilitate the creation of, and universal access to, opportunities so that all its inhabitants could take advantage of the municipality's territorial assets and strengthen them as common goods. In this vein, inhabitants would have access to opportunities such as education, decent livelihoods and health services. This access would be underscored by effective inclusive governance and an urban structure which allows for equitable distribution of resources over a highly diverse social and cultural environment. These factors would serve as the main catalyst for innovation and prosperity, understanding that resources would include adequate housing, basic services, transportation, public space, culture, and recreation. In other words, an inclusive city¹¹ offers a solid foundation for all its inhabitants, without discrimination, to enjoy its prosperity and contribute to its development.

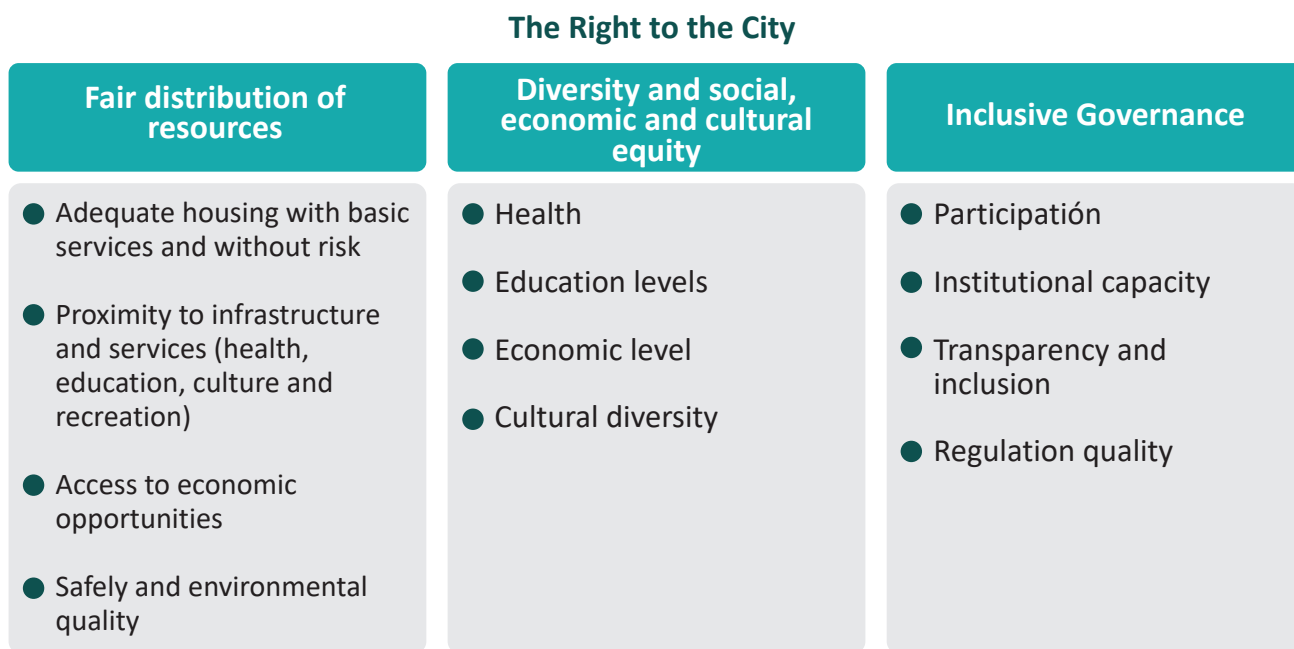
Thus, in order to address cities' capacities and challenges for integration and benefitting from human mobility dynamics, it is necessary to examine their application of access to the Right to the City concept and their construction of prosperity for all its inhabitants.

The NUA defines this concept as the "equality in the use and enjoyment of cities, seeking to promote inclusion and ensure that all inhabitants, both present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, can create just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable human settlements and live in them, to promote prosperity and quality of life for all" (United Nations, 2020). With this understanding, this study considered the concept of access to the right to the city as crucial to the analysis of human mobility and inclusivity in the city.

In the proposed methodology, three pillars are recognised as structuring dimensions defining an inclusive city and are preconditions for prosperity: i) fair distribution of resources; ii) socioeconomic and cultural diversity and equity; and iii) inclusive governance. Based on this, and cohering with the

¹¹ See Figure 24

Figure 25. Methodological structure of territorial reading



Source: UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat adopted Prosperity of Cities measurement (Urban Prosperity Index or CPI), a territorial reading at the urban scale is developed. This territorial reading highlights the values of inclusion and urban prosperity as well as its spatial distribution. This lends to evaluating the socioeconomic and spatial integration potential of its entire population, including vulnerable groups, refugee, migrant and host communities, and to be able to guide decision-making in the territory.

However, it is crucial to highlight that the measurement of the CPI was restricted due to the lack of territorial demographic and socioeconomic data, as well as data regarding spatial conditions for the Chaguanas Borough. Thus, the following analysis

uses the available information about the Borough together with information from existing planning instruments to present the most accurate possible picture of Chaguanas' territorial dynamics.

Finally, it is necessary to consider that access to integration is different for refugee and migrant Venezuelan communities than for host communities. Therefore, in addition to the already identified territorial gaps in access to integration, refugee and migrant communities of Venezuelan origin are subject to additional administrative and legal dynamics, perceptions, and frameworks of interpretation (possible expressions of xenophobia and preconceptions of host communities) as barriers to access to the enjoyment of territorial prosperity.

Table 1. Differentials in access to rights in refugee and migrant communities according to the three categories: i) Condition due to Legal Status, ii) Condition of discriminatory perception, iii) Condition of territorial deficit.

Access to right	Access differentials due to:		
	Administrative and legal conditions	Perceptions and interpretation frameworks	Territorial conditions
Access to health services	<p>✓</p> <p>Access to health services is impacted by the legal status of the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population.</p> <p>In addition, the lack of legal status impacts access to adequate employment and socioeconomic status, which indirectly conditions access to health services.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Access impacted by possible expressions of xenophobia: refusal to provide service based on nationality</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Location of Venezuelan households outside urban centers where services are concentrated and located in precarious neighborhoods with low environmental quality that impacts health.</p>
Access to education	<p>⊖</p> <p>Access to educational opportunities impacted by the legal status of the Venezuelan refugee and immigrant population</p> <p>In addition, the system's low capacity (number of places) to receive students.</p>	<p>⊖</p> <p>Lack of information on mechanisms for access to public education by refugee and migrant communities and possible expressions of xenophobia.</p>	<p>⊖</p> <p>The location of Venezuelan national households in subnormal settlements impacts their accessibility capacity to the system.</p>
Economic Opportunities	<p>✓</p> <p>Access to adequate employment is impacted by the legal status of Venezuelan refugees and migrants</p> <p>Difficulties in the recognition of academic, technical, or professional training.</p>	<p>⊖</p> <p>Access impacted by possible expressions of xenophobia and legal status</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>The location of Venezuelan households in peripheral areas limits their access to economic agglomerations.</p>
Housing and basic services	<p>✓</p> <p>Access to formal tenure is impacted by the legal status of the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Access impacted by possible expressions of xenophobia</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Localization of Venezuelan households in slum dwellings</p>
Security and protection	<p>✓</p> <p>Access impacted by legal status of Venezuelan refugee and migrant population and the lack of incidence of xenophobia prevention campaigns</p>	<p>⊖</p> <p>Access is impacted by possible expressions of xenophobia and legal status</p>	<p>⊖</p>
Public space	<p>⊖</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Access is impacted by possible expressions of xenophobia.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Location of Venezuelan households in precarious settlements</p>

a. Pillar of Fair distribution of resources

An inclusive city with adequate quality of life is a city whose tangible and intangible assets (services, infrastructure, and equipment, etc) as well as its public goods are equitably distributed and easily accessible

and enjoyed by all. Likewise, a fair distribution of resources and opportunities also means efficient, high quality, urban environments that facilitate each's contribution to the city's prosperity, without

Figure 26. Fair distribution of resources pillar



Source: Own elaboration, UN-Habitat Andean Countries Hub

its environmental or natural risk conditions placing its inhabitants in a condition of vulnerability.

Under this framework, analysing the Chaguanas Borough under the pillar of fair distribution of resources presents a territorial snapshot of its communities. It pays close attention to adequate housing and habitat conditions, examining the Borough's concentrations and deficit areas throughout the citizen territory, including social support facilities and infrastructure and environmental conditions for an adequate standard of living. Access to adequate housing, urban mobility, access to telecommunications, access to public spaces and green areas, access to health and education facilities, solid waste management, and air quality are among the conditions observed. In Chaguanas' case, the available information allows the development of an analysis regarding access to housing, basic services, proximity to education and health facilities, and urban form.

i. Access to adequate housing at the north of Chaguanas Borough Corporation

Universal access to adequate housing is a fundamental right and a basic condition in an inclusive city. Housing is the main means by which people access other fundamental rights, such as health, food security, drinking water, education, free expression, privacy, work, and access to property. In this sense, access to housing can be understood as the starting point to guarantee the fair distribution of resources in the territory.

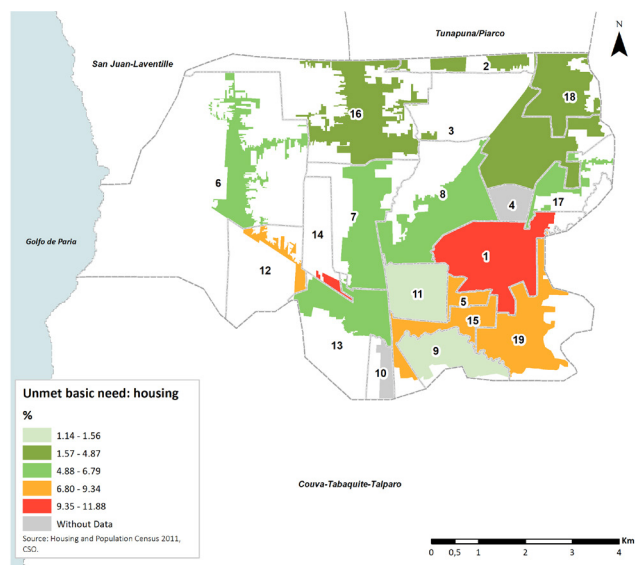
Chaguanas' land use and occupation present two urban typologies. On the one hand, at the south

of the city, along the Uriah Butler Highway and at the intersection of this corridor with the Chaguanas Main Road and Southern Main Road, a low density but consolidated urban form emerges. This area is formed by the communities of Chaguanas Proper, Lange Park, Edinburgh Gardens, Enterprise, Lendore Village, Montrose Village, and St. Charles Village, with predominant residential use but with corridors of concentrated economic and institutional activities as well as commerce and services.

On the other hand, in the north, east, south, and west peripheries, a less consolidated and disperse urban form is found, with predominantly residential use and many plots pending consolidation. These are territories that expand through roads into the rural areas with low-density housing and are composed of the Felicity, Charlieville, Munroe Settlement, Cunupia, Jerningham Junction, Petersfield communities among others.

This latter territorial model corresponds to a medium-sized city expanding to rural areas without the consolidation of the territory, conditions that put pressure over territorial systems and infrastructures such as basic services, public transport, and social support services. Furthermore, this urban growth is predominantly residential at the peripheries, thus, creating dependence on privately-owned carsto access employment opportunities and services. In the same way, the Chaguanas Regional Corporation Local Area Economic Profile (CARILED) describes the Borough as a settlement with a rural character that has gradually increased housing projects and developed urban centers. Nevertheless, both rural communities and suburban communities are present in

Figure 27. Unmet basic needs for Housing



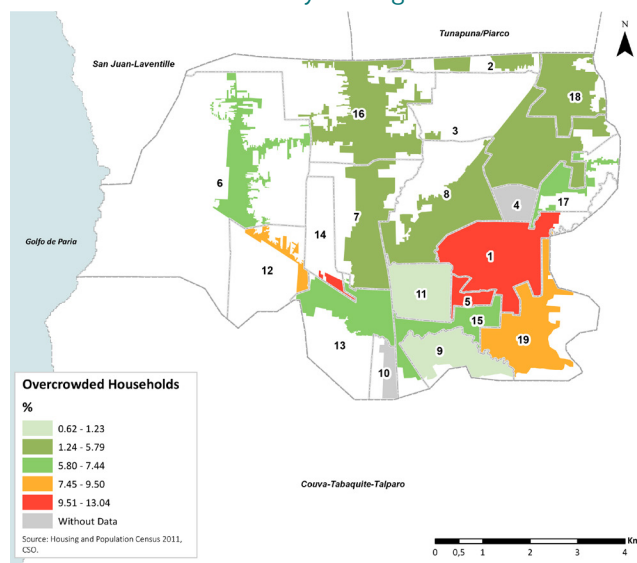
Source: Own elaboration with information of the National Census, 2011.

this second model, and is surrounded by extensive agricultural lands.

Furthermore, the 2011 National Census data regarding the unmet basic need for housing points out that the communities with low housing quality are located in the southeast of the city, specifically in the communities of Enterprise, Lendore Village, Montrose Village, and Longdenville. It could be hypothesized that the concentration of vulnerable and less advantaged groups in these communities are found in areas where there is a lack of access to adequate housing, while more prosperous economic groups are concentrated in the urban centre, the north and west peripheries.

Moreover, regarding habitat conditions in dwellings, a similar pattern is repeated where households with conditions of overcrowding¹² are concentrated in southeast of the urban centrality in communities such as Enterprise, Lendore Village, Montrose Village, and Longdenville. The low access to adequate housing conditions in these communities could also reflect an affordability issue for more vulnerable communities and a general lack of affordable and adequate housing options in the municipal territory.

Figure 28. Overcrowding household conditions per community in Chaguanas



Source: Own elaboration with information of the National Census, 2011.

In terms of housing, at a national policy level, the Vision 2030 – National Development Strategy 2016-2030 (Republic of Trinidad and Tobago) takes into consideration rural-urban migration processes in the territory and points out that one of the main current challenges is the provision of affordable and greener housing in urban areas. As such, it proposes a strategic infrastructure investment that involves the private sector to promote this transformation, targeting middle and low-income groups. This strategy considers Chaguanas as a growing area that will be a target of housing solutions.

At a more local level, one of the main land use issues in the Chaguanas Borough area is the amplified new housing concentration rates on previously earmarked agricultural lands, according to the Local Economic profile of Chaguanas (Caribbean Local Economic Development Programme, 2015). Furthermore, this settlement development is outpacing planned urban development and, as a result, several areas of the city are growing without territorial planning, implying deficient housing conditions for most vulnerable communities in the territory. They are therefore left without the means to cover their own needs, especially regarding basic services and infrastructure.

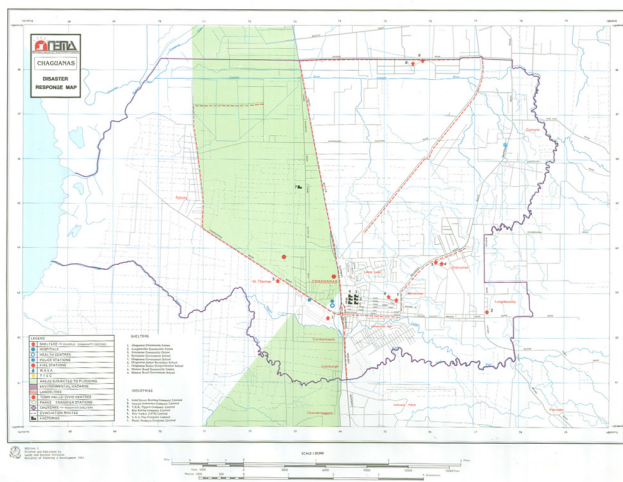
¹² It is understood as overcrowding when more than 3 people sleep in the same bedroom.

ii. High vulnerability to flooding

Chaguanas has a high susceptibility to floods. According to the report “Integrating the Management of Watersheds and Coastal Areas in Trinidad and Tobago” (Ministry of Environment & The Water Resources Agency, 2001) there has been a marked increase in the incidence of flooding and flood-related damages in recent years within the lower Chaguanas region due to the overflowing of the Caparo River and its tributaries, which drain into the area. On the other hand, the Borough presents moderate susceptibility to landslides in the rural areas of the Borough.

Improper solid waste disposal practices also compound Chaguanas’ natural risk profile, as residential areas become even more vulnerable to flooding since waterways are blocked by solid waste.

Figure 29. Disaster map response for the Chaguanas Brought Corporation



Source: Ministry of Planning and Development, 1993.

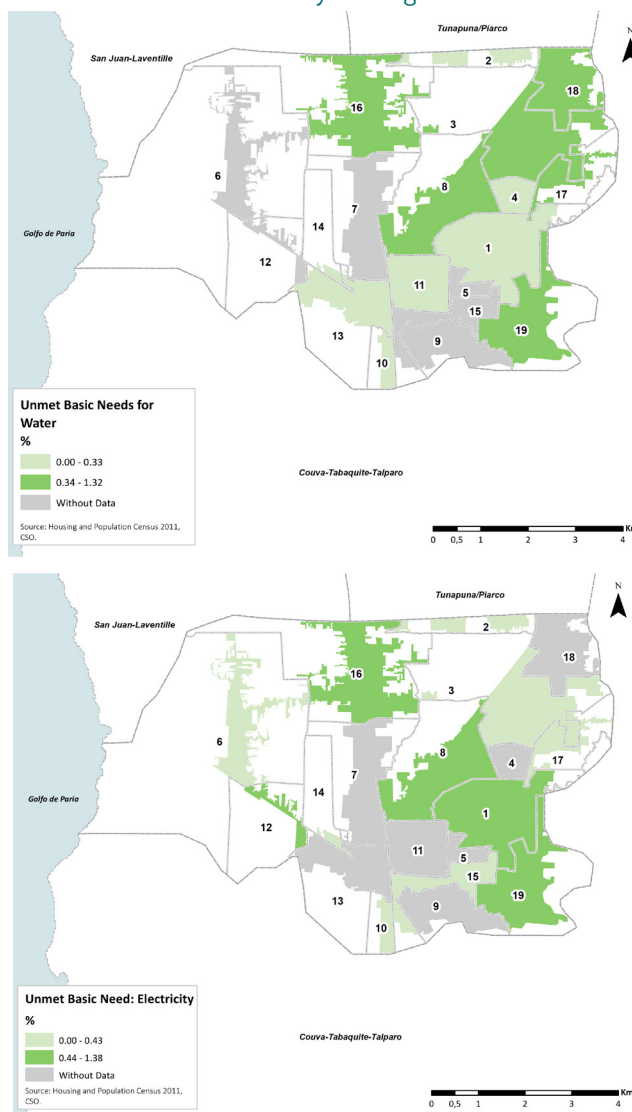
iii. Guaranteed access to water and electricity throughout the city

Access to basic services – improved water services, electricity supply, and sanitation services – is considered a fundamental right to which all inhabitants of a city should have access. To this end, an inclusive city has universal coverage of basic services guaranteeing universal accessibility. In addition, this must be accompanied by social support policies that guarantee universal affordability.

According to the Census, access to water and electricity services are almost fully covered in all the communities in the Chaguanas Borough. Munroe Settlement, Felicity, and Edinburgh Gardens, which are also located on the outskirts of the city, are among areas with good coverage of both services.

The data collected from the 2011 census highlights the Chaguanas Borough as one of the municipalities that presented an increase in the number of households throughout the city, especially due to the urban expansion that has been concentrated towards the city limits.

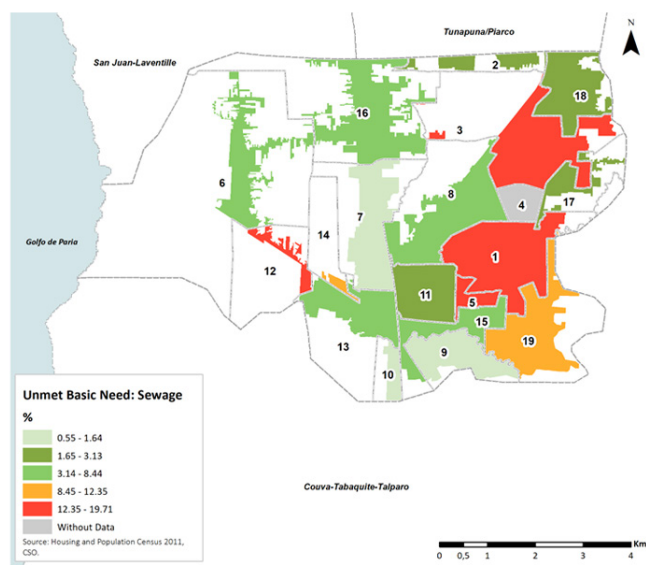
Figure 30. Access to clean drinking water and electricity in Chaguanas



Source: UN-Habitat with information of the National Census, 2011.

Although there is very good coverage of sanitation services throughout the city, the 2011 National Census shows, unfortunately, that some areas in the city, such as Enterprise, Lendore Village and a large portion of Jerningham Junction, denote a considerable percentage of dissatisfaction with sanitation services. Nevertheless, it is also important to note that except for the Petersfield community, the out-skirt areas have good access to sanitation services.

Figure 31. Sanitation coverage in Chaguana



Source: UN-Habitat with information of the National Census, 2011.

Concerning this specific topic, the Country Vision 2030 strategy recognizes the need for a better managed public services system with improved access for the entire population. The document states that Trinidad and Tobago needs efficient, cost-effective, and reliable water and wastewater services, electricity, and telecommunication services as these are key enablers that determine the quality of life. Thus, in the short term, improving the management of these systems would translate well for the country's ability to succeed in diversifying production, expanding trade, coping with population growth, improving health, and reducing poverty. (Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2016)

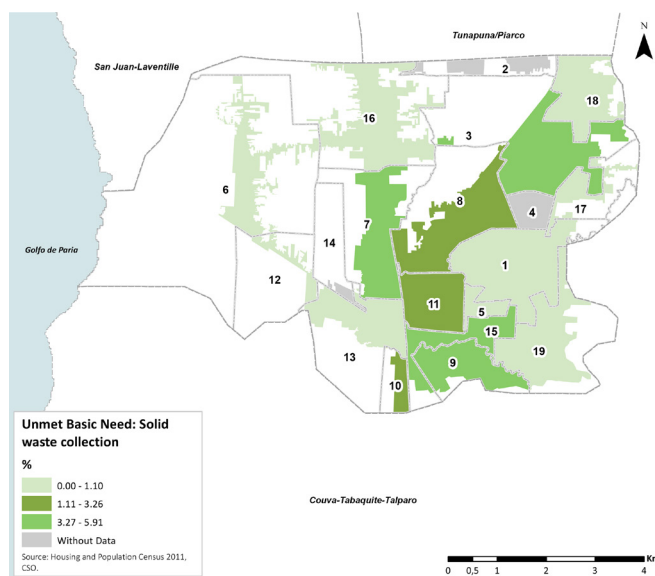
Moreover, the Local Area Economic Development profile points out that the access to basic services in Chaguana is close to universal as 99.07% of the population has access to clean drinking water and 99.01% has access to electricity. On the other hand,

7.3% of the population lack access to sanitation. (CARILED)

iv. Differentiated waste collection service

Solid waste collection is another basic service for which coverage is quite broad throughout Chaguana, with the communities near the periphery of the city having the highest percentage of households with access to this service. Additionally, some communities such as Homeland Gardens, Montrose Village, Edinburgh, and a large portion of Jerningham Junction have access that, while not alarming, are not in line with the level of access in other communities.

Figure 32. Solid waste collection in Chaguana



Source: UN-Habitat with information of the National Census, 2011

One of the possible reasons for this difference may be the contracting of these services – for the city centre, waste collection services falls under the responsibility of the public sector, while communities located at the periphery benefit from private contractor operated waste collection. According to Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited, approximately 90% of the collection function is performed by private contractors, and the remaining 10% by the public sector. The public sector focuses primarily on the town center areas. (SWMCOL, 2022)

Additionally, through its Country Vision 2030 strategy, the National Government has been vocal about

the need to strengthen the environmental governance and management systems, considering that the key to effective environmental management is the development of a comprehensive and well-coordinated system to address the many interconnected environmental issues, such as waste management (waste disposal, solid waste, electronic waste and hazardous waste built). (Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2016)

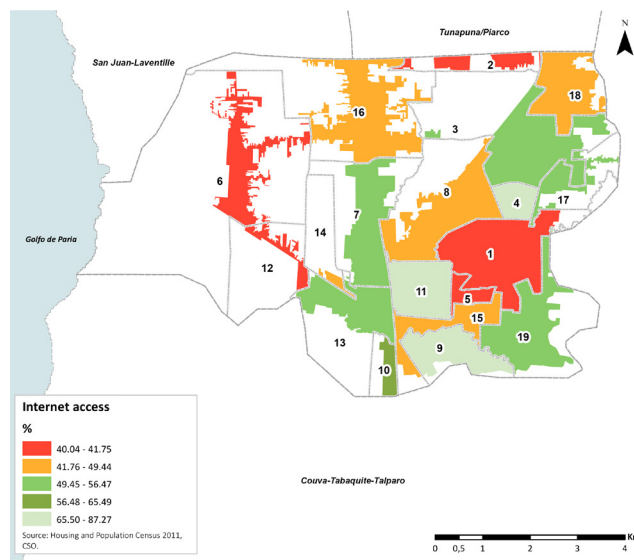
Moreover, considering that solid waste collection falls under the remit of the Environmental Management Authority (a State body), municipal corporations have limited responsibility in this area. However, they are responsible for pest control and its land-use regulation mostly focuses on conservation and risk mitigation, thereby limiting municipalities' scope of action, including for the Chaguana Borough. Nevertheless, in Chaguana, improper solid waste disposal practices aggravate the flooding risk Chaguana faces, especially in its residential areas.

v. Low internet coverage in urban expansion areas

For a city to be inclusive, it must guarantee universal connectivity for its inhabitants. Connectivity promotes and democratizes access to other fundamental rights, like health, education, employment and livelihoods. In the current global context (remote access to systems due to biosecurity measures and connectivity of markets and people worldwide due to globalization), consistent internet access can be considered an essential basic service for access to information, employment, education opportunities, and remote access to social support services and institutional care.

In the Chaguana Borough, there is a trend of regular coverage of this service (fixed internet), in which sizeable communities have more than 50% access to the internet. In addition, the areas with the lowest percentage of coverage coincide mostly with areas where urban expansion has been concentrated, such as Felicity, Munroe Settlement, and a small area in Enterprise. Nevertheless, the exception of this case is the community of Longdenville, where a high percentage of households have access to the Internet and is located in an urban expansion zone.

Figure 33. Fixed internet coverage in Chaguana.



Source: UN-Habitat with information of the National Census, 2011

Thus, it can be hypothesized that internet access is conditioned by affordability conditions of the household, as seen in Enterprise, where there is low coverage; or by the lack of infrastructure in suburban communities, as seen in Felicity, Charlieville and Monroe Settlement. Nevertheless, it is important to consider that suburban communities in the north and west can access the internet through satellite or similar services while the more vulnerable communities would find it difficult to afford the same services.

vi. Peripheries with difficulties in accessing social support services

An inclusive city tends to present less centralization in the provision of social support systems, thereby facilitating and democratizing access for all its inhabitants and paying special attention to those in more vulnerable conditions. Therefore, a city with better distribution of services and infrastructures in the territory is more inclusive.

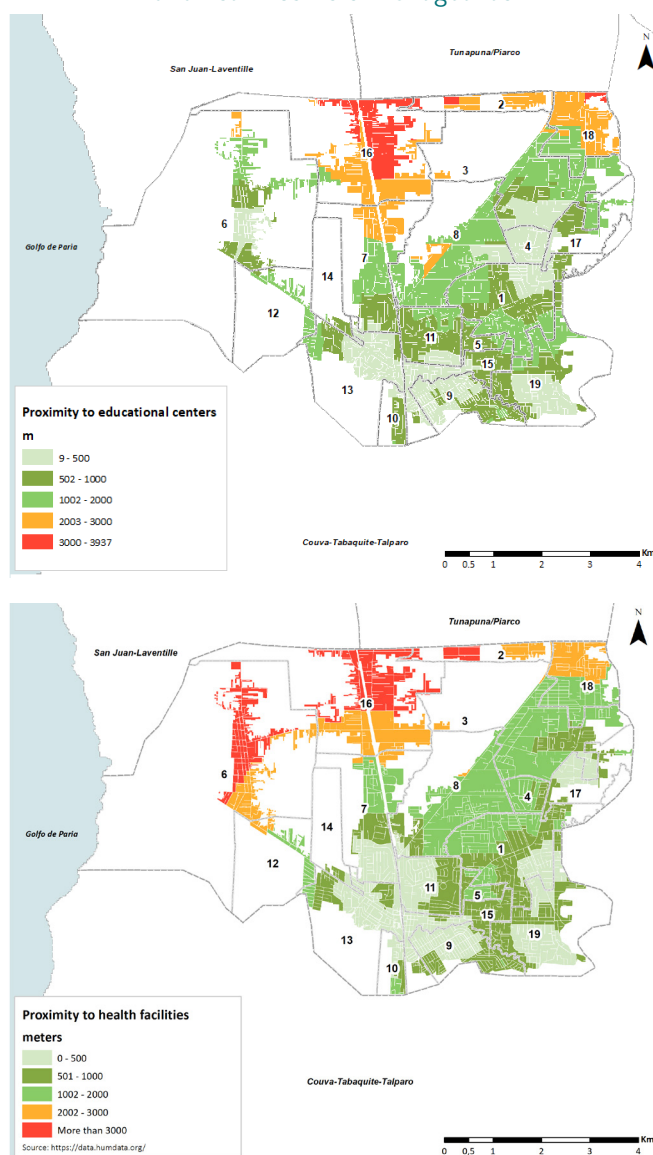
In the case of Chaguana, social support services such as health and education are concentrated in and nearby the intersection of Chaguana Main Street and Uriah Butler Highway due to its consolidated centrality. As a result, communities like Chaguana Proper, Lange Park, Edinburgh 500, Enterprise, Lendore Village, Montrose Village, and Endeavour Village experience an ease in access to

these social facilities, while suburban and peripheral communities such as Charlieville, St. Charles Village, Munroe Settlement, and Felicity experience more difficulty in access. It should be noted that schools in Trinidad and Tobago are not zoned, and nationals can attend any school in the country, once their registration is accepted. Public health care is free and accessible to citizens and residents throughout the country. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health has the Policy for Treating with Non-Nationals with respect to the Provision of Public Health Care Services, which speaks to the healthcare services which will be afforded to all non-nationals:

a. Emergency Medical Services including: initial treatment, stabilization and discharge for acute medical conditions such as accidents, injuries, asthma, heart attacks, stroke, diabetic coma; and relevant diagnostics for acute care (using the Canadian Triage & Acuity Scale (CTAS) I-V which is currently the standard assessment tool used in all public health Accident and Emergency (A&E) Departments);

b. All Population and Public Health Services including: immunization and treatment of communicable diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), and other high-risk infectious diseases (e.g. Malaria).

Figure 34. Accessibility to educational centers and health centers in Chaguanas



Source: UN-Habitat with information of <https://data.humdata.org/>

In intersecting socio-economic conditions with geographical location, it could be hypothesized that communities with high concentrations of upper- and middle-income households with access to a private car do not face distance as an obstacle in accessing social support services. Likewise, due to their proximity, lower-income communities, such as Enterprise, Lendore Village and Montrose, can access social support facilities without necessarily depending on private transport. This represents a net advantage as these more vulnerable communities would not need to invest more resources to access social support systems.

Life expectancy in Chaguanas is around 73.6 years and 21.1% suffer a chronic illness, according to the Local Area Economic Profile of Chaguanas. On the one hand, these numbers possibly reflect the negative environmental conditions that affect the population's quality of life, while, on the other hand, highlighting their lack of access to health care systems, consequently impacting their wellbeing and life expectancy. (CARILED)

Additionally, the Vision 2030 recognizes that because of rural-urban migration, healthcare and education systems must be reinforced in urban areas (in the same way as adequate housing); and territories that also faced exposure to negative environmental conditions related to inadequate waste disposal, low air quality due to pollution, and the impact of industrial activities and petroleum extraction must attract special attention. Thus, the plan proposes a medium-term strategy to strengthen, modernise

and expand the healthcare system in an effort to improve well-being and prosperity. This includes the provision of healthcare facilities in rural areas. In Chaguanas' case, this type of infrastructural development would facilitate access to health and education facilities in suburban areas. (Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2016)

Finally it is important to highlight that health and education facilities do not fall under the remit of municipal offices. Health policies are determined at the national level and administered through regional authorities, while education is assured at the national level as well. The Local Area Economic Profile of Chaguanas recognizes the need to decentralize central government functions, giving resources and institutional capacity to local governments to tackle territorial-related needs. (CARILED) Currently, in the Chaguanas Borough, the report enumerates two public health facilities – the Chaguanas District Health Facility and the Cunupia Health Centre - as well as eleven public primary schools and eleven public secondary schools; multiple denominational primary and secondary schools; and several private institutions.

The report does not present evidence regarding the capacity of health and education systems and whether they respond adequately to the territorial needs. However, other gaps are visible in the territory regarding access to education. While access to primary education is reported to be 98.9%, secondary education attendance is around 62%. Considering that education is free and compulsory in the country between the ages of 5 to 16, there are other factors (presumably socioeconomic) that are impacting the access to education for children and adolescents (CARILED).

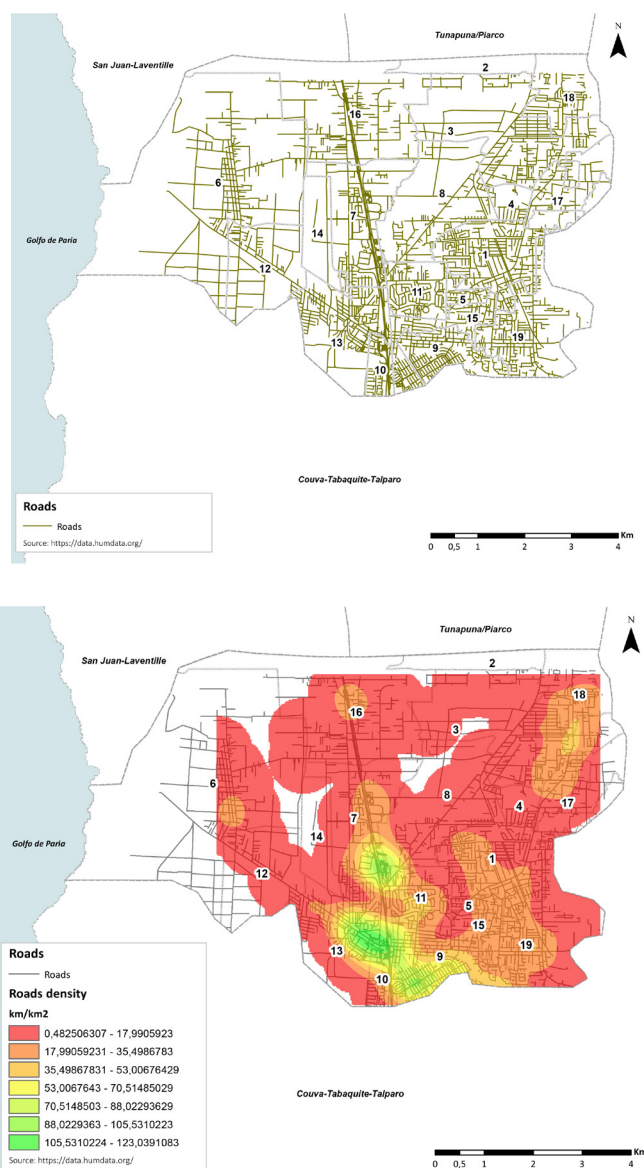
vii. Chaguanas as a city with high dependence on private cars

Urban form and mass public transport coverage represent two basic conditions of physical connectivity. The urban form is responsible for the construction of urban environments with an adequate surface for roads and an adequate number of intersections. Both are fundamental elements for the construction of a city on a human scale which, in turn, encourages pedestrian and alternative mobility. Added

to this is efficient mass public transport coverage, which serves as the main mechanism for shortening distances between points in the city and, therefore, democratizing access to services and employment, education, health, and recreation opportunities for the entire population.

Considering that Chaguanas has expanded around roads and highways that connect the centre of Chaguanas with rural areas, adequate intersection levels to consolidate a human scale and inclusive city are concentrated in communities nearby the urban

Figure 35. Streets and Intersections density in Chaguanas



Source: UN-Habitat with information of <https://data.humdata.org/>

centrality in Chaguanas. Thus, central communities such as Chaguanas Proper, Edinburgh 500, Lange Park, and Montrose Village present an urban structure that consolidates walkable and inclusive streets while suburban and peripheral areas are highly dependent of private cars for daily activities. It must be noted, however, that Trinidad has a culture of using vehicles for short-, medium- and long-distance travel.

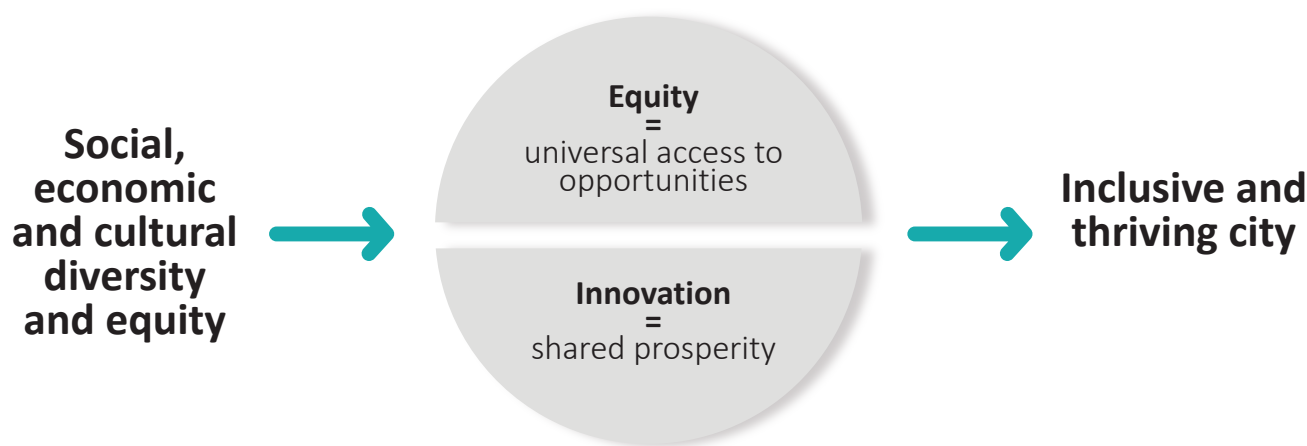
Public transport is regulated by the Ministry of Works and Transport, which gives authority to maxi and taxi operators to ply their trade on the various and multiple routes in Trinidad and Tobago, while delegating the management of the bus system to the Public Transport Service Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (PTSC). Furthermore, the formal transportation system is supported by the unregulated private-for-hire transportation system, which ply their trade at the same price as the formal route-based system. The mix of the route-based system, the PTSC and the informal, unregulated private-for-hire cars allow for mobility in the Borough, as well as from the Borough to other areas in the island. Nevertheless, there are serious security concerns related to the heavy use of the informal unregulated transport system, as individuals, especially women, have been victims of violent crimes¹³¹⁴.

b. Pillar of social, economic, cultural diversity and equity

Since inclusion is a fundamental element for strengthening urban prosperity, a diverse city is one with greater potential, especially if all groups have access to opportunities and there are no significant socioeconomic disparities in the territory. Therefore, it is important to have a balanced distribution of socioeconomic strata, as well as a diversity of land use to avoid social and spatial segregation phenomena. These conditions are indispensable to promote undifferentiated access to opportunities and services and facilitate a better quality of life for a city's inhabitants. Likewise, a culturally diverse city translates into an increased likelihood for innovation that facilitates prosperous conditions. A more prosperous territory benefits all its inhabitants by improving their economic and spatial conditions, that is, their quality of life and opportunities.

In this context, the social, economic, and cultural diversity and equity pillar presents opportunities for access to livelihoods, social equity, and conditions for the promotion of quality of life for the population. To this end, it analyses the conditions of economic equity; urban diversity; gender equity;

Figure 36. Social, economic, and cultural diversity and equity pillar



Source: UN-Habitat Andean Countries HUB

¹³ Bruzal, A. (2020, December 11). Murder of Ashanti: Driver to Be Charged. Retrieved September 9, 2022, from https://trinidadexpress.com/news/local/murder-of-ashanti-driver-to-be-charged/article_1def9c6e-3c1e-11eb-aaaa-27f0446e4d87.html.

¹⁴ Bruzal, A. (2021, February 5). Killed Shortly After Kidnapped. Retrieved September 9, 2022, from https://trinidadexpress.com/news/local/killed-shortly-after-kidnapped/article_479871d4-674e-11eb-b1d3-0f70874a6d82.html.

social inclusion; security; access to employment and livelihoods; and culture. Using available information to examine the Chaguanas Borough, the following analysis takes under consideration access to urban centralities that concentrate employment opportunities and livelihoods and employment and unemployment conditions in the territory.

i. Chaguanas as a monocentric territory

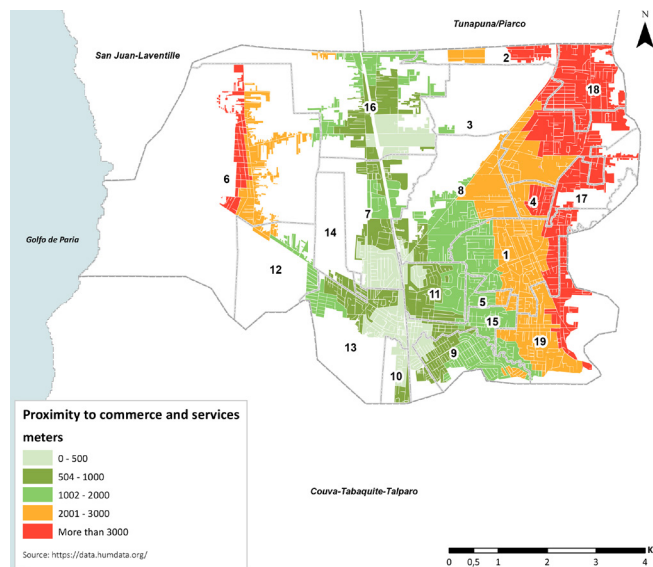
The Chaguanas Borough was born as an agricultural area, strongly reliant on the sugar industry. However, due to the decrease in the sugar demand and rise in the industrial sector, Chaguanas transformed from a rural area into an urban area. At its city center, retail activity, light industrial manufacturing, clothing and fabrics, general merchandise, hardware, commercial banks, insurance companies, and professional services are found. Thus employment opportunities and economic prosperity are more readily found at the city center – located in Chaguanas Proper; along Chaguanas Main Road; Ramsaran Street; and Caroni Savannah Road while other communities in the Borough are predominantly residential dotted with businesses, with some of the more peripheral communities specialising in agricultural activities.

Following this model of land occupation and considering the territorial concentration of livelihoods and economic activities, Chaguanas could be considered a city with high centralization of productive activities. This dynamic impacts the capability of communities to access opportunities, especially for vulnerable communities that do not have accessibility (in terms of proximity) to central areas.

In this context, the east part of Enterprise, Longdenville, and Endeavor that are communities with urban characteristics demand more resources (in terms of time and resources for transportation) for their inhabitants to access job opportunities and means of life while communities such as Chaguanas Proper, Lange Park, and Edinburgh 500, that are in the urban centrality or nearby demand fewer resources from their inhabitants to access to opportunities.

According to the Chaguanas Local Economic Profile, the Borough has the potential to position itself at the national level as a hub of opportunities in Trin-

Figure 37. Accessibility to economic agglomerations in Chaguanas



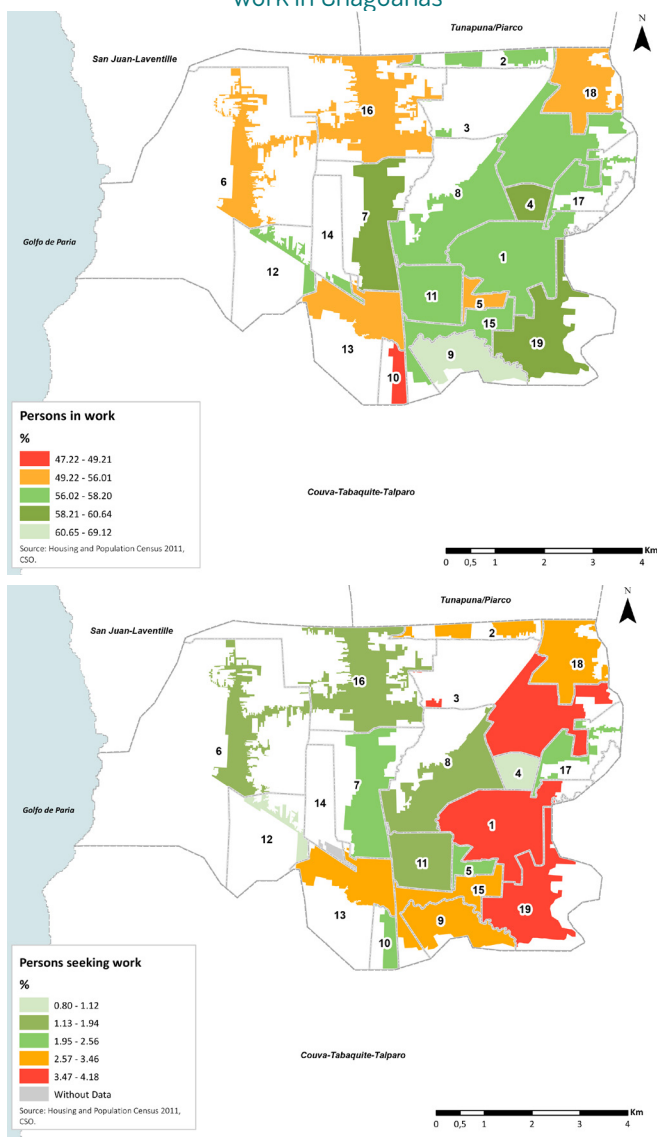
Source: UN-Habitat with information of <https://data.humdata.org/>

idad. With this in mind, the proposed strategy is to position legal and business services, and develop new opportunities around knowledge-based sectors, culture, education, research, and ICT. The Borough is also proposed to benefit from the traditional land use of the territory to strengthen agriculture and agro-processing activities, the food and beverage industry, restaurants, cafes, bars, and lounges, as well as arts and crafts, and tourism. Moreover, the profile mentioned the implementation of the Evolving TecKnologies and Enterprise Development Company Limited (eTeck) as an effort to promote digital enterprise and the construction of light industrial parks in Chaguanas to promote territorial prosperity. (CARILED)

ii. High unemployment in the east of the Borough

Chaguanas presents territorial gaps in employment conditions, with some communities tallying more than 4% of its population seeking employment opportunities, while other communities registering less than 1% with the same conditions. In this particular municipal district, eastern communities such as Enterprise, Longdenville, and Jenningham Junction present less employment advantages for its inhabitants. It is important to consider that these communities also have to use more resources to access the consolidated urban centrality in the territory.

Figure 38. Person in work and persons seeking work in Chaguanas



Source: UN-Habitat with information of the National Census, 2011

Yet, the aforementioned communities do not report high levels of unemployment. This dynamic could be the reflection of informal employment. Informal employment and inadequate employment conditions highly impact communities' development since it could impact access to social security systems and its benefits.

iii. Gender inequity in Chaguanas

In terms of entrepreneurship, there are significant gaps related to gender and ethnic groups, according to the Local Area Economic Profile of Chaguanas. 28.1% of businesses are reported to be owned by women while men's ownership reaches 51.4%, although there is an almost even distribution between the sexes.

c. Pillar of Inclusive Governance

A city requires a solid governance framework that supports both the conditions for the fair distribution of resources and the promotion of diversity for equity and innovation. In this sense, the role of local governments is to guarantee a solid institutional framework with policies that facilitate achieving the conditions for an inclusive city based on a differentiated approach to mitigate social gaps, with the capacity to collect and manage resources, with transparent and efficient reporting and monitoring systems, and open to participation with adequate mechanisms to promote the co-creation of opportunities and the habitat that supports them, from the smallest level of the territory to the city scale.

Figure 39. Inclusive governance pillar



Source: UN-Habitat Andean Countries HUB



The Inclusive Governance pillar seeks to recognize how the different actors that inhabit the city (public, private and civil society) develop processes to guarantee efficiency and institutional capacity; transparency and good use of public resources; quality in regulation; coherence with the law; citizen participation in decision making; as well as in the monitoring and evaluation of these within a framework of transparency and inclusion.

To propel these actions towards conditions of prosperity for the urban population and promote integration, each of the intervening actors plays a specific role in this process. These include, for example, the generation of jobs and income by the private sector, or participation in social, economic, political, oversight and control, planning, and other activities that involve the participation of civil society. In turn, the State creates an enabling political and legal environment that responsibly regulates and manages processes related to urbanization and city development. To this end, a prosperous city seeks to ensure that local legislation and urban governance effectively

control the functioning of the other dimensions of prosperity, guaranteeing optimal conditions for its population.

In the case of the Chaguanas Borough, it is important to consider that the levels of centralization in the country limit the actions of the local government in the territory. Planning for the development of the municipality falls under the national government’s responsibility. However, the government has recognised the need to expand the municipal authorities’ scope of authority, autonomy and responsibility, and had recently assented the Miscellaneous Provisions (Local Government Reform) Bill 2020 (Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago) in June 2022. Nevertheless, the role of local government is limited, without the possibility to conduct participatory processes to define strategic needs from communities, on one hand and, on the other, to implement actions to tackle those needs with a differentiated approach for most vulnerable communities. The following table presents the responsibilities of the local government in Chaguanas:

Table 2. Responsibilities of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AUTONOMY	OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuing of food badges • Registration of food premises –hotels, restaurants, bars, supermarkets, and shops • Provision of public restrooms • Rodents, insect vectors, and vermin control • Cleaning of septic tanks and cesspits • Garbage collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health • North Central Regional Health Authority
Property Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building and land development control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health • Ministry of Works and Transport • Town and Country Planning Division, Ministry of Planning
Recreation and public facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of recreation grounds, stages, squares, and parks 	
Cemeteries and burial grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision and maintenance of public cemeteries and burial grounds 	
Disaster management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster preparedness and management 	Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management, Ministry of National Security
Roads, drains, and other physical infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of drains and minor watercourses • Maintenance of secondary roads, bridges, and culverts • Maintenance of street signs 	Ministry with responsibility for works and infrastructure

Source: (CARILED)

In this scenario, the planning strategies for development that have incidence in Chaguanas Borough Corporation territory are the Vision 2030- The National Development Strategy of Trinidad and Tobago 2016-2030, Chaguanas Regional Corporation Local Area Economic Profile and the October 2016 Transitioning of Local Government Draft Policy document which are described as follows.

i. Planning instruments:

First of all, it is important to note that the two instruments mentioned below, although defined as descriptive and guiding documents on Trinidad and Tobago, are not legally constituted as binding national or municipal planning manuals.

National Development Strategy- Vision 2030 for Trinidad and Tobago

The National Development Strategy- Vision 2030 for Trinidad and Tobago is defined as the country's principal strategic planning document and contains the priorities for the country. These priorities and goals set are well-aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), insofar as the entire implementation approach is directed at keeping pace with the 2030 Global Development Agenda.

Throughout this document we have identified five thematic axes that the National Government has considered to be the main ones for development throughout the country, and on which efforts should be concentrated at the national, regional, and local levels. These five thematic axes are:

a.) **Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Asset** – this specific theme recognises the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago as central to the development of the country, as well as being one of its greatest assets;

b.) **Delivering Good Governance and Service Excellence** – the strategy highlights how good governance and service excellence are crucial to the achievement of a high-quality life for all its citizens and to business expansion;

c.) **Improving Productivity through Quality Infrastructure and Transportation** – a.) this thematic

axe indicates how high quality infrastructure would unlock economic potential, ensure an equitable distribution of growth and opportunities throughout the country, and create networks that bind the country together;

d.) **Building Globally Competitive Businesses** – in this chapter, the national government recognises that a more competitive economy requires their citizens to have the right skills and capabilities to perform higher-value jobs; as well as enabling businesses and people with enough the agility and creativity to seize on new opportunities;

e.) **Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development** – lastly, it is recognised that Trinidad and Tobago will continue to support international efforts to tackle shared environmental challenges which include climate change, ozone depletion, land degradation, biodiversity loss, illegal species trade and the movement of hazardous wastes, as these issues also affect the wellbeing of the country.

Regarding municipalities, this guiding document mentions the importance of modernizing the role of the national government, the corporations and the various communities found in Trinidad and Tobago. In the interest of intelligently distributing the prerogatives between the national and regional/local levels, it was mentioned that the timely access to services and opportunities required certain Central Government responsibilities, such as physical planning, to municipalities; involving more persons in decision-making, especially at the grassroots level; and the strengthening of local governance.

One of the policy areas in which the central government wants to improve efforts is the modernization of governance structures, specifically through an Amendment of the Municipal Corporations Act, to give greater powers and responsibilities to the local government bodies. To this end, the government introduced the Miscellaneous Provisions (Local Government Reform) Act in 2020 and recently assented the bill. Furthermore, the National Development Strategy also recognized the trend of a sharp increase in the world population brought with it a series of consequences that could manifest themselves in urban settlements, such as mass migration, human



and narcotics trafficking, terrorism, global pandemics, cyber-crime, urbanization, resource scarcities and environmental degradation due to the effects of climate change.

Unfortunately, the issue of migration and forced displacement is hardly mentioned in this strategy. Its only mention comes from the focus on internal migration, which states that “as persons migrate to urban areas in search of economic opportunities, many challenges arise that must be addressed through public policy”. (Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, 2016) Additionally, it is mentioned that for Trinidad and Tobago, these challenges include the growth in homelessness, and increased demand for public utilities, housing, schools, transport, and public spaces in urban areas. Finally, a small mention is made of immigration to Trinidad and Tobago, however, from the perspective of strengthening border security.

Chaguanas Regional Corporation- Local Area Economic Profile

This informative document provides a profile aimed at improving the local economic development of the Chaguanas Borough, of which its Corporation is listed as one of the fourteen (14) municipalities that are part of the local system in Trinidad and Tobago. This means that as a Municipal Corporation, Chaguanas does not have an independent revenue base and depend entirely on the central government for allocations from the national budget.

According to this document, given that the Planning duty in Trinidad and Tobago is done almost exclusively at the national level, have been initially limited to spatial development and has not gone further with topics such as socio-economic conditions or migration management, although efforts have been made to develop municipal development plans.

The issue of national prerogatives and those concerning municipal corporations is an issue of great importance for territorial development, especially if we consider that one of the most important issues in the development of the region is tax collections. For example, one source of revenue for municipal corporations was the land tax, until its collection was initially waived for the period 2010-2015 and,

although in 2022 the central government has made steps to reinstate it, has yet to do so. The waiving of these taxes was done to allow for the revision of the overall revenue administration of the country.

In line with the aforementioned trend, it is important to mention that the responsibilities of municipal corporations are aimed at very specific categories and are oriented towards the maintenance of physical structures. These categories are: *Public Health, Property Development, Recreation and Public Facilities, Community Services, Cemeteries and Burial Grounds, Disaster Management, and Physical Infrastructure.*

Additionally, when revising the local budget for the Chaguanas Borough Corporation, it can be seen that although the lines of investment tend to be broader than the responsibilities attributed to the municipal corporations, they remain within the logic of a large investment in the physical infrastructure of the city, leaving aside other issues that may have an impact on the socioeconomic level.

For example, the following investment lines were found in the 2012/13 budget: *Drainage and irrigation programme, Development of Recreational Facilities, Development of Cemeteries and Cremation Facilities, Construction of Markets and Abattoirs, Local Roads/Bridges Programme, Local Government Building Programme, Procurement of Major Vehicle and Equipment, Municipal Police Equipment, Municipal Police, Municipal Police Station, Disaster Preparedness, Environmental Project, Establishment of Spatial Development Plan and Establishment of a Tourism Park.*

Considering these lines, it is evident that except for the Construction of Markets and Abattoirs program and the Establishment of a Tourism Park, there are no lines of investment oriented to social and economic development. This then becomes a problem of resource allocation. The Borough, however, has the authority to collect dues and charges for the rental of market stalls and abattoirs as well as through the issuance of food badges and vending licenses. Furthermore, it should also be noted that this document/instrument does not include, under any premise, any information related to migrants or their role in possible local economic development programs.

Transitioning of Local Government Draft Policy, Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government

In October 2016, the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government published the “Transitioning of Local Government Draft Policy”, a document presented in support of the government’s drive to “create a modern, efficient and properly resourced Local Government system” (Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government). This document identified inadequacies experiences across the municipalities, and highlighted areas where responsibilities could be expanded in the local government structure, as well as new roles and responsibilities for municipal offices.

Among the issues identified as sources of problem were *inadequate funding, political interference and manipulation, inadequacy of current legislation and a sluggish administrative structure*. In order to respond to these concerns brought up during a nationwide consultation on the proposed reform, the policy proposes expanding local government responsibilities in the areas of *public health, municipal police, spatial planning and the inspectorate, disaster management, repairs and maintenance to government schools and specified public buildings, as well as cemeteries and crematoria*. Finally, the new local government roles and responsibilities would include *securing funding, social welfare services, decentralisation of social services, management and repairs of community centres, development of small contractors, civil society participation, economic research and planning, local economic development units, information and communications technology and monitoring and evaluation*.

3.3 Governance and institutional framework

Trinidad and Tobago has a highly centralized history in relation to local government and planning due to its unitary parliamentary republican model of governance. General vision and objectives are set at the national level, mainly under the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government’s watch, and cities, regional corporations and boroughs are empowered to execute such guidelines with specific and more operational tasks with little power and

scope for manoeuvre. Some of those functions are described below (Government of Trinidad and Tobago, 2021):

- The provision of community services and facilities such as maintenance of public spaces including parks, markets, town halls and community centers. Cultural entertainments and sports events as well as disaster management efforts for which each borough has a disaster management unit, are also part of such services.
- Guaranteeing public health including garbage collection, maintenance of sanitary landfills and public toilets.
- Municipal infrastructure: General construction and maintenance of secondary roads, bridges, and drains as well as maintenance of parks and community facilities.
- Small scale tender projects.

Further, entrusting more responsibility and authority to the local government level have been promoted by the GORTT through the “Local Government Policy-Draft” in 2016 in which more powers were intended to be assigned to them. However, based on the consultations made in each Borough, concerns were raised as people perceived local administrations as weak and, in some cases, unable to fulfil their current responsibility. In fact, the report after consultations were made, indicate that 99% of participants agreed that the current local governance system has failed (Ministry of Rural Development & Local Government, 2016). However, this might indicate as well that further reforms are required in opposite direction to the concentration of power in the national level.

For the promotion of refugees and migrants’ effective integration in the medium- and long-terms, it is necessary to strengthen municipal capabilities for the implementation of decentralized actions underscored by a participatory approach. Such actions should include those affecting living conditions in urban environments and facilitating the access to services, opportunities, and infrastructures for all communities.

Applied to the Chaguanas Borough, local policies governing migration and city-wide inclusion do not exist, as they are addressed at a national level. Given the current scope of responsibilities entrusted to administration at the local level, policies developed at this level are focused towards infrastructural development and maintenance to support economic, social, and cultural prospects of its residents and, through failing to explicitly include or exclude the refugee and migrant population, leave room for these groups to benefit from most publicly/commonly shared goods and services (garbage collection, park management, etc.). On the other edge of the sword, due to the absence in application of a dedicated refugee and migration framework/scope to guide the development of policies at the municipal level, refugee and migrant community concerns regarding more personal needs (protection of rights, access to basic services, etc.) that are more difficult to access, although local actors, CSOs and other stakeholders may take it upon themselves to act independently and in favour of refugees and

migrants. Nevertheless, the GORTT is debating reform currently, to widen the scope of responsibility, authority and autonomy at the local government level, so that “residents [will be able to] have more avenues to participate in the development of their communities” (Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government Facebook page) In order for all residents to benefit from these proposed changes, it is strongly urged that this reform take place under an inclusive lens.

3.4 Mapping of international cooperation present in the community

International cooperation in the Chaguanas Borough can take form through two means – either through targeted action with the Borough or a community within the Borough identified as the of engagement, or nation-wide projects through which Chaguanas becomes a beneficiary. Listed below is a sample of international cooperation undergone in the Borough of Chaguanas.

Table 3. International organizations identified in the Chaguanas Borough Corporation

NAME OF ORGANISATION	AREA OF ACTION	MISSION	HOW IT SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY
UNDP Accelerator Labs	Humanitarian, CSO assistance, capacity building, technical assistance for grassroots associations	Reimagining development for the 21st century	Hydroponics with Freely Give and the Ryu Dan Dojo project
USAID	Poverty reduction, strengthening democratic governance, helping people progress beyond assistance	Transforms families, communities and countries so they can thrive and prosper	The Ayúdate Hotline, done in conjunction with
Democracy International	Promoting responsive politics and empowering citizens, strengthening systems of accountable governance, supporting peaceful and resilient societies, improving development assistance through learning,	Supporting active citizens, responsive governments and engaged civil society and political organisations to achieve a more peaceful, democratic world	Community Resilience Project Junto es Mejor Challenge and other projects implemented jointly with partners
IOM	Migration and migration related issues	Humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society	R4V Platform and other projects implemented jointly with partners

NAME OF ORGANISATION	AREA OF ACTION	MISSION	HOW IT SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY
UNHCR	Protection of the rights of refugees and asylum seekers	Safeguard the rights and well-being of people who have been forced to flee, working to ensure that everyone has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another country, as well as striving to secure lasting solutions	R4V Platform and other projects implemented conjointly with partners
European Union	Humanitarian Assistance / Emergency Response / Mental Health Psychosocial Services / Social Protection	Work together with partner countries and international organisations to achieve sustainable development, with the ultimate goal to reduce poverty, ensure sustainable development and promote democracy, human rights, and rule of law across the world	Hydroponics with Freely Give and the Ryu Dan Dojo project
UNICEF	Protection / Education / Health / Child development	Save children's lives, defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through to adolescence	Emergency interventions to ensure protection and life-saving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations affected by the crisis in Venezuela in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak and its aftermath (nationwide project)
Red Cross Society of Trinidad and Tobago (EU & Embassy of Kingdom of the Netherlands funded)	Humanitarian Assistance / Emergency Response	To mobilize the power of humanity through volunteerism and by being a beacon of hope that supports and connects people to regain control of their lives	Response to Recovery – COVID-19: Reducing Vulnerability: Enhancing Resilience for Migrant Population (nationwide project)
InterAmerican Foundation	Community Development / Social Inclusion	Support community-led development across Latin America and the Caribbean by directly engaging local leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs in underserved areas to create more prosperous, peaceful and democratic communities	Working Together to Promote Community Change for Venezuelan Migrants in Trinidad & Tobago (through Ryu Dan Foundation)

NAME OF ORGANISATION	AREA OF ACTION	MISSION	HOW IT SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY
<p>Pan American Development Foundation</p> <p>with funding from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM),</p>	<p>Humanitarian Assistance</p>	<p>PADF and its program partners, are providing protection and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers, and sustainable solutions to vulnerable Venezuelan migrants and other host community populations. Activities are designed to increase Venezuelans’ access to legal status, promote local integration, and improve the lives of vulnerable populations.</p>	<p>Projects are carried out at a national scale and include: Supporting Venezuelan Migrants in the Caribbean: Guyana, and Trinidad & Tobago - a two-year program to provide protection, assistance and sustainable solutions to vulnerable Venezuelan migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. Activities are designed to increase migrants’ access to legal status; promote local integration through language lessons, cross-cultural activities and communications campaigns; and improve the lives of vulnerable populations through psychosocial support and access to education. A cross-cutting theme of this program is the prevention and response to gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and human trafficking. A Story of Hope: a children’s illustration book that tells the story of Venezuelan migration through the experience of Gabriela and her mother. The book is tailored to young readers and introduces the topic of migration with hopes of generating positive conversations in safe spaces where children learn, as well as within their homes.</p>
<p>Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC)</p>	<p>Trade liberalization and economic development / NGO strengthening and capacity building / Governance and participation / Sustainable development</p>	<p>To build civil society organisations partnerships through engagement with people, governments, and other relevant partners to influence the design and implementation of policies that empower and improve the lives of Caribbean people</p>	<p>Implements projects with TTO partners</p>

Source: Direct correspondence with the organisations, official organisation websites

3.5 Profile and situation of refugees and migrants in the Chaguanas Borough

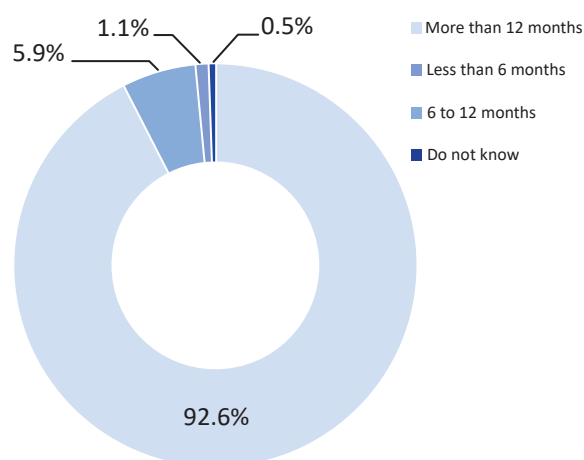
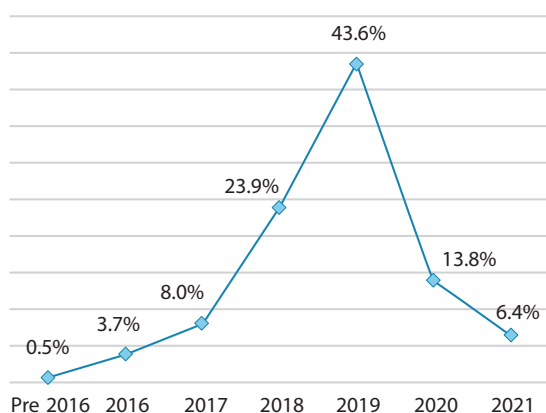
In the absence of a local and a national asylum system, UNHCR Trinidad and Tobago undertakes registration of asylum-seekers and recognition of refugee status under its mandate. As of 30 June 2022, the active registered population in Trinidad and Tobago in ProGres is 22,705 persons; 19,682 (86.68%) of these POCs are Venezuelans. 3,502 individuals were recorded as living in Chaguanas, with an equitable distribution between the sexes, and 1,126 individuals identifying as having a specific need or vulnerability. 63.6% of the registered population in Chaguanas are Venezuelans between the ages of 18 and 59. Areas within Chaguanas with sizeable numbers of individuals include Cunupia, Charlieville, Montrose, Endeavour, Enterprise and Longdenville.

Moreover, the IOM implemented the DTM instrument in the Chaguanas Borough between October and November 2021 with the participation of 188 Venezuelan migrants. Given the ongoing COVID 19 situation, the data collection method involved phone interviews with participants over 18 years old. To define participants, an online survey was circulated in social networks to promote the registration of interested Venezuelans. This sampling method, together with COVID-19 restrictions imposed some limitations on the exercise regarding representativeness.

The following analysis has been developed with the ProGres and DTM information.

i. Characteristics of the displacement

Figure 40. Date of arrival of Venezuelans to T&T

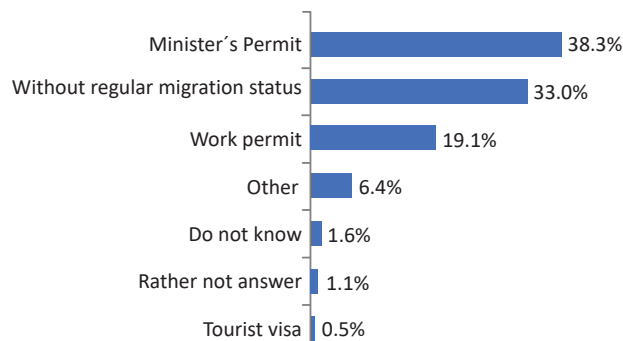


Source: (IOM, 2021)

According to the 2021 Chaguanas DTM, the majority of Venezuelans that are located in the Borough were born in the eastern states of Venezuela, with Delta Amacuro as the state where most interviewees were born. Moreover, regarding the length of stay in Trinidad and Tobago, two thirds of DTM respondents arrived either in 2018 or 2019 while only around 6% arrived between the last 6 to 12 months.

Furthermore, regarding the migratory status, the DTM reports that 57% of interviewees in Chaguanas had either Minister’s Permit or Work Permit while the remaining 33% were without regular migration status. In the same way, considering the efforts developed by the national government to register human mobility at 2019, it was discovered that 61% of DTM respondents had been already registered. It is evident that Venezuelans with irregular migration status were most likely to have not participated in the national government’s registration processes.

Figure 41. Venezuelans’ refugees and migrants’ migration and registration status





Source: (IOM, 2021)

On the other hand, the preferred means of transport to T&T for Venezuelans in Chaguanas are 86% by sea transport and 14% by air. Most of respondents report to spend between 100 to 499 USD in transport, condition that explains why sea transport is the preferred and cheaper solution.

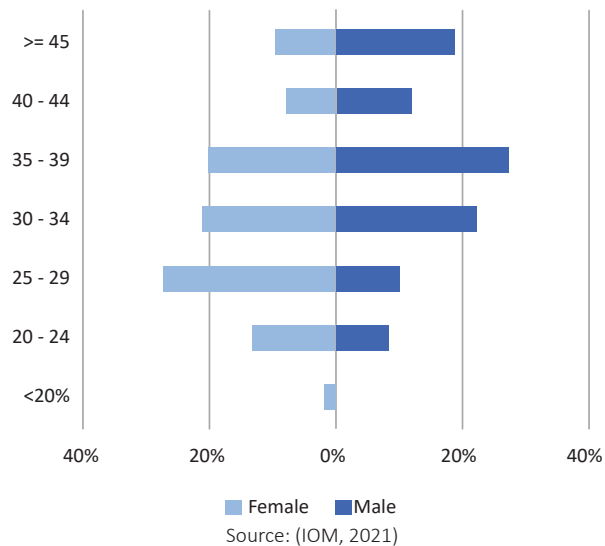
Finally, the areas with the highest number of respondents in Chaguanas were Cunupia, followed by Longdenville, and Chaguanas Proper, indicating the communities with a high concentration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

ii. Refugees' and migrants' demographic profile

Both the Chaguanas DTM 2021 and an analysis of UNHCR's registrants by age show close statistical outcomes, with IOM observing 78% of the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population between the ages of 18 and 59 years old, while for the same demographic, UNHCR observed a 63.6% statistic at June 30th, 2022; but the DTM registered significantly more female than male respondents. Considering a break down by age and sex, it is reported that 35-39 age group had the highest number of respondents, followed by the 25-29 and the 30-34 groups.

On the other hand, the 2021 Chaguanas DTM registered slightly more married, free union, or cohabiting respondents (51.1%) than single persons (45.7%),

Figure 42. Refugees and migrants distribution by gender and age



while UNHCR's statistics showed that approximately 41% of its registrants were single persons, and about 31% were in common law married relationships or were married persons.

Moreover, of the DTM female participants, 7% were pregnant, of which approximately 63% were below 30 years old and roughly 38% were single.

iii. Education

An analysis of the sector shows that while there are early learning opportunities supported by parents and caregivers, there are gaps in early childhood education (for 3-4-year-olds); geographical disparities play a determinant role in children's access to primary and secondary education and related services; and significant gaps persist in terms of skills development. In Chaguanas, the DTM showed that 59% of the children did not have access to education in Trinidad and Tobago, which was almost 20% higher than the national DTM. 'Fees', 'lack of access/lack of information regarding access', and 'lack of documentation', respectively, were identified as the main reasons for this inaccessibility. There was also one case in which a respondent identified 'working' as the reason.

Moreover, academically, 40% of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the Borough had completed university education, and about 29% of had completed secondary level education, a condition

that makes visible the potential of human mobility to contribute to local development. (IOM, 2021) Among this statistics, it is important to consider that people between 30 to 39 years old reported mostly university-level education while 20 to 24 years old reported mostly secondary education. Conversely, the UNHCR’s data showed that the majority of its registrants had primary or secondary level education, and about 21% had university or postgraduate education, with 9.6% of the registrants stating they had no education.

Furthermore, a disaggregation of completed education by work sector in the Chaguanas DTM showed that 16% of the interviewees were university graduates who worked in the agriculture sector, while approximately 45% were university graduates who are engaged in babysitting work. These conditions reflect the challenges that Venezuelans faced in the local context in terms to access to opportunities for integration.

Based on a current assessment of the education sector in Trinidad and Tobago, the priorities to be em-

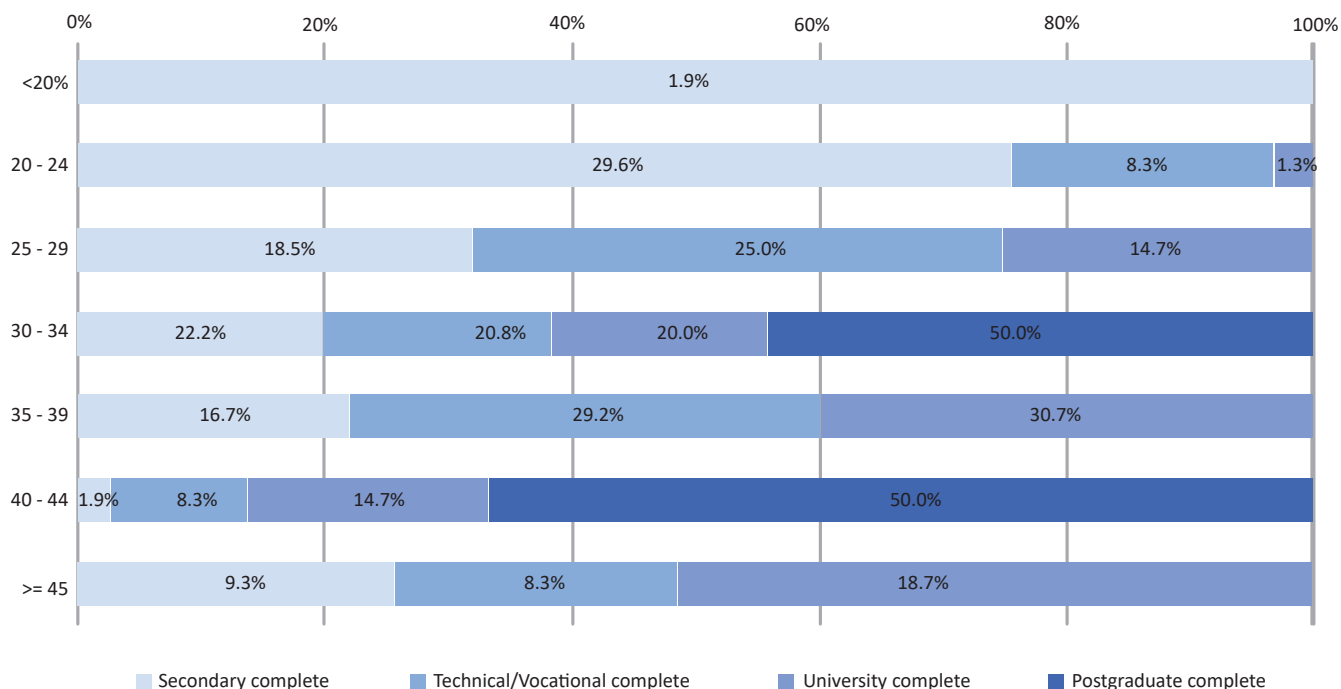
phasized in the interest of Venezuelan refugees and migrants should be access to national education. This includes early childhood education, scaling-up English as a Second Language (ESL), and developing skills training opportunities for adolescents with heightened risk (trafficked, unaccompanied and separated children, etc.) Cross-cutting emphasis should be given to streamlining support services needed so that children transition between educational levels, non-formal and formal modalities, and academic vs. more skills oriented.

Percentage-wise, it is of note that education and training for children was listed as the third-highest primary need in the Chaguanas Borough (13%) for the Venezuelan refugee and migrant community.

iv. Employment and livelihoods

Effective integration results in refugees and migrants accessing essential goods and services, such as food, education, health, and housing without having to rely on assistance. However, during the post-migration period¹⁵, there was a rise in unem-

Figure 43. Education level by age

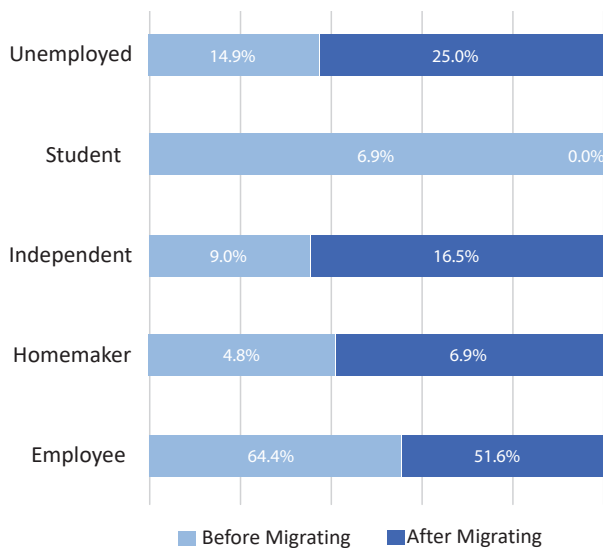


Source: (IOM, 2021)

¹⁵ “Pre-migration period” refers to the period of time the Venezuelan refugee and migrant spent in a territory outside of Trinidad and Tobago, before moving to the country. “Post-migration period” refers to the period of time after the Venezuelan refugee and migrant moved to Trinidad and Tobago.

ployment amongst the interviewees who resided in the Borough of Chaguanas, as well as a decrease in employment. In addition, all students discontinued their educational pursuits, after their migration, and 46% of them were absorbed into the labour market as employees, while a little under one-third were recorded as unemployed. These findings concurred with the national exercise.

Figure 44. Work status by migration



Source: (IOM, 2021)

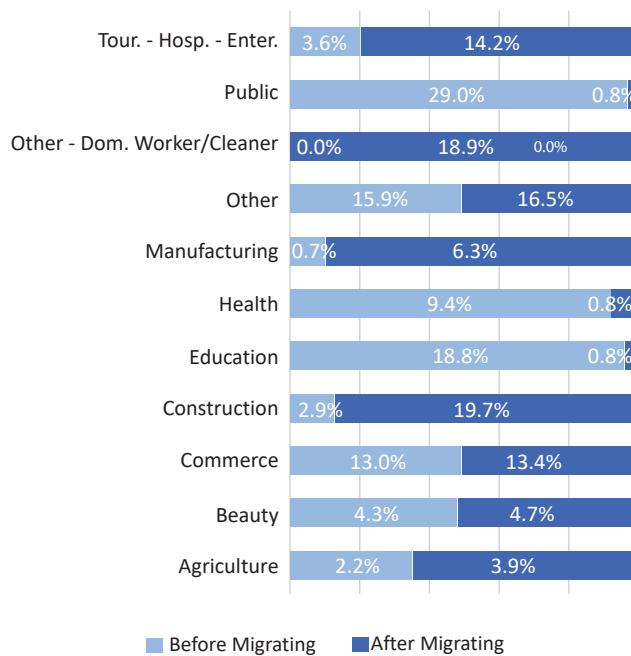
An analysis of the pre- and post-migration work sectors also showed respondents' shift into the construction sector and domestic work. Accordingly, after their migration, about 20% of the respondents were employed in the construction sector and 19% in domestic work/cleaning. It must be noted that in the national DTM there were slightly more respondents employed in domestic/cleaning work and a little less in the construction sector. UNHCR's data supported these patterns as it showed that the highest number of its registered population was employed as personal service workers, labourers in mining, construction, manufacturing and transport, and cleaners and helpers, respectively.

The Chaguanas DTM data also outlined that 52% of the currently employed interviewees worked in the informal sector. Furthermore, approximately 91% of the persons working in the informal sector, and 72% of the persons working in the formal sector had not signed contracts and/or had no proof of payment for their services. Similarly, an assessment of salaries,

rated either hourly or monthly, indicated that 24% of the respondents working in the formal sector, and 36% of the respondents working in the informal sector were underpaid, as they reportedly received less than Trinidad and Tobago's minimum wages. These trends were aligned with the national exercise.

Parallel to this, it was determined that 22% of the respondents within the Chaguanas dataset were aware of someone in their migrant community who worked and received less than the agreed payment, and 40% were aware of persons who had not received payment. Approximately 54% of the persons who had not received payment were reportedly employed in the construction sector. Further to this, approximately 6% of the persons interviewed were aware of someone, in their migrant community who was forced to perform work, or other activities, against their will. These cases were concentrated in the construction and agriculture sectors.

Figure 45. Work sector



Source: (IOM, 2021)

As a consequence, 42% of interviewees 'skipped meals or ate less than usual' or 'went one whole day without eating' during the seven days before the interview.

In addition, is important to consider that refugees and migrants usually have dependents in the des-

tinuation as well as country of origin. In the case of Chaguanas, 85% of respondents send resources to Venezuela periodically combined with food, clothing, and medicine. The most common method to transfer resources is informal transfer. On the other hand, 57% reported to have dependents in T&T and in Venezuela.

v. Shelter

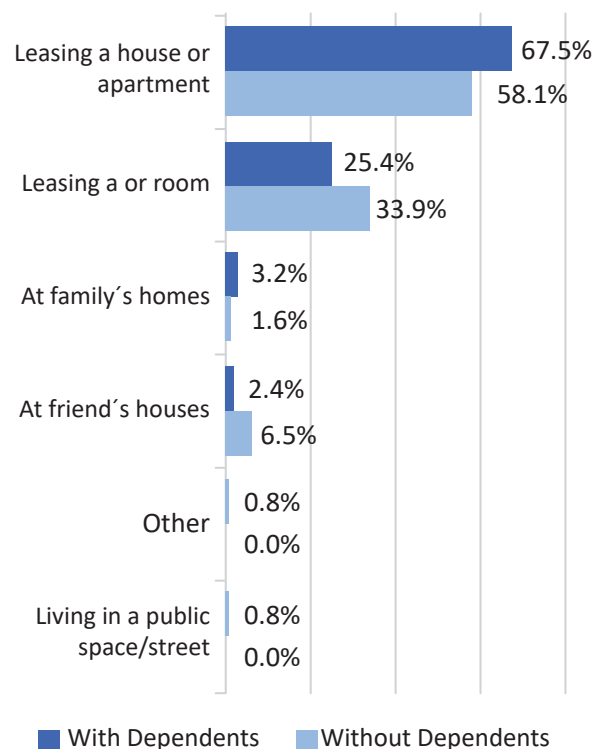
Safe and adequate housing is a challenge faced by refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Trinidad and Tobago, due to rising rental costs and requirements, lack of financial resources and documentation, as well as limited accountability mechanisms for landlords. The economic contraction in Trinidad and Tobago, experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, left numerous refugees and migrants without jobs and unable to find work even when lockdown restrictions were lifted. Many smaller businesses that employed them also closed. This further decreased their ability to meet rent obligations, resulting in evictions, more persons at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Instances of Venezuelans occupying overcrowded and more unhygienic housing situations have been noted, with some groups occupying make-shift domiciles in remote areas, without access to sanitation, potable water, and hygiene materials.

State-run shelters are overrun and not adequately resourced to treat refugees and migrants, who also do not qualify for public sector assistance. With no rental oversight board, some landlords inflate their rental values, rendering prices out of reach, which also encourages overcrowding; they often rent poor quality and inhabitable accommodation, often without any binding contractual arrangement. Overcrowding in turn exacerbates concerns regarding rapid COVID 19 spread and other protection risks including child protection and gender-based violence. Affordable, habitable housing and security of tenure for most persons, as well as housing that is culturally adequate, particularly for certain groups, like indigenous persons, are key, identified needs in this regard.

According to the DTM 2021, 68% of respondents with dependents were renting housing while single-person households tend to live in rooms or fami-

ly or friends' houses. The DTM also register a 0.8% of people in homeless situation or living in the streets.

Figure 46. Accommodation of refugees and migrants



Source: (IOM, 2021)

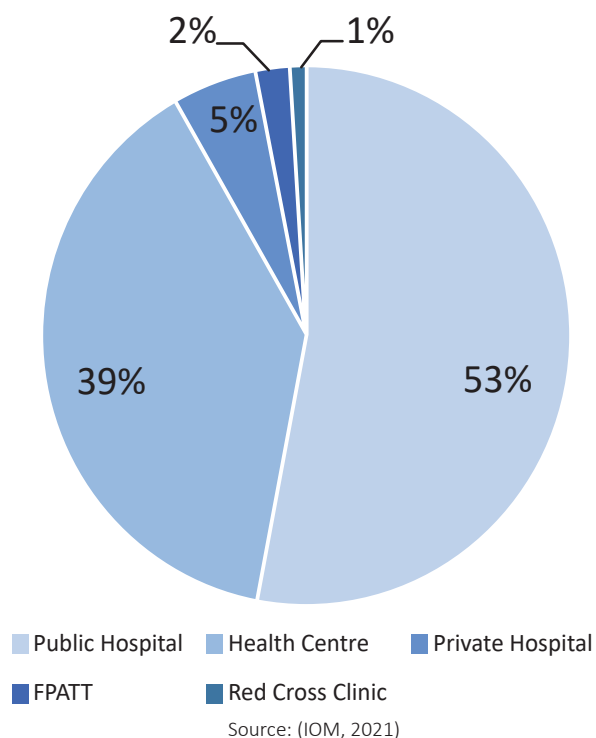
vi. Health

With regards to the Chaguanas Borough, according to the 2021 DTM, while about 21% of the interviewees had no current need for health care services, 26% of the interviewees asserted that they had no access to health services when they needed them. Of the persons who had access to health services, 53% reported that the public hospital was their primary option, followed by the health centre. These findings were comparable to the national DTM.

It was further noted that, approximately 36% of the interviewees received information about health services from their relatives and friends, and 20% obtained the same from websites/social media and the internet. Interestingly, 'do not know where to obtain information' emerged as the third most popular option. (IOM, 2021)

Notably, 87% of the respondents did not access reproductive and sexual health services. Yet, persons

Figure 47. Health services options



who did obtain these services listed contraceptives (inclusive of condoms) as the main service accessed. Further to this, 38% of the pregnant mothers did not access prenatal services, and this represented a lower percentage than the national exercise. Also, 72% of the interviewees advised that they did not suffer from any chronic medical conditions, whilst about 17% acknowledged having chronic conditions such as: diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and respiratory diseases.

In addition, DTM 2021 probed the issue of disability, and it was determined that most respondents in the Borough of Chaguanas did not encounter any difficulties engaging in key activities. Notwithstanding this, a few interviewees reported some challenges in the following areas: seeing even if needing wearing glasses; communicating with usual language; remembering or concentrating and walking or climbing stairs.

The survey also sought to ascertain the respondents' emotional well-being and 14% of them had been upset 'some of the time' during the two weeks prior to the interview, whilst 20% were upset 'a little of the time'. More pointedly, 78% of the persons who felt upset some of the time, and 66% of those of who

felt upset a little of the time did not access counselling or psychosocial support in Trinidad and Tobago.

vii. Protection

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated protection concerns among the population of Venezuelans in Trinidad and Tobago, who continue to attempt to enter the country irregularly and are also exposed to heightened protection risks, including detention and deportation, exploitation by traffickers/smugglers, unsafe travel conditions and shipwrecks at sea. According to the Immigration Act, all persons who overstay or enter irregularly are prohibited entrants and liable to be detained and deported. The exception to this is the population of Venezuelans who received the Government's permission to remain and work in 2019. (IOM, 2021)

Thus, 68% of DTM respondents have experienced difficulties since the beginning of the COVID 19 crisis. Around 34% of them have reported not to have access to good food quality, 31% reported not to have a place to sleep due to evictions, and 23% reported an increase in discrimination due to their nationality. Moreover, other problems during the crisis were unemployment for 15% of respondents while 52% reported not receiving any support during the crisis.

On the other hand, 35% of the respondents had witnessed physical violence and 14% had witnessed sexual violence, during their time in Trinidad and Tobago. Respondents also noted that in situations of violence against females, whom they knew, the police and a medical clinic were the primary and secondary options for seeking assistance. The survey data also informed that 51% of the respondents experienced discrimination that was primarily related to their nationality

Moreover, regarding child protection and, consistent with the national DTM effort, the specific situation of children was analysed, and it was noted that there were 277 children, under the age of 18 years, who lived with 69% of the interviewees from the Borough of Chaguanas. Additionally, an age and sex disaggregation of these children showed that there were more males than females. The 0-4 category had the largest number of children, followed by the 5-9 age

group. These patterns were also observed in the national effort.

Regarding the possession of birth certificates, 14% of the respondents were aware of circumstances in which children were born in Trinidad and Tobago, to Venezuelan migrants, and did not have birth certificates. Lack of documentation; opting not to approach the authorities; and fees/ costs were the major explanations for this situation. (IOM, 2021)

Moreover, respondents reported a few instances of children involved in work that jeopardized their health, along with a small number of child detention cases. Yet, it must be stated that there is neither a policy on, nor provisions for the detention of children by the authorities in Trinidad and Tobago. Nevertheless, there may be extenuating conditions whereby the court may place children under the custody of a specific authority. Within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent national border closure from 23rd March 2020 to 16th July 2021, however, all irregular entrants were placed within quarantine stations, according to the prevailing health protocols. Reported situations of separated and unaccompanied children were negligible.

The data further informed that 10% of the respondents had heard of situations, within their migrant community, in which children were the victims of physical violence. Also, 7% had heard of cases, within their migrant community, of sexual violence against children. Additionally, 40% of the interviewees, who resided with children, reported strong changes in the child/children's mood since their departure from Venezuela, with detachment from family and friends being the most cited reason for the change. It must be noted, however, that the reported instances of strong mood changes in children amongst the Chaguanas DTM respondents was approximately double that of the national effort.

viii. Gender Based Violence

Refugee and migrant women and girls and other vulnerable groups face heightened risks of gender-based violence. These groups also have challenges accessing well-coordinated lifesaving SRH services as national systems are overburdened and

under resourced. There is a need to enhance national systems through capacitation, resources, and technical support to provide comprehensive GBV services to survivors such as sexual and reproductive health, case management, mental and psycho-social support, legal and justice support services, emergency shelters and safe spaces adapted to the COVID-19 context. Advocacy, training and sensitization of government actors, host community, refugees and migrant populations are critical for GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and response.

ix. Integration

When asked, about 77% of the interviewed Venezuelan refugees and migrants were uncertain of their intended period of stay in Trinidad and Tobago. Further to this, 15% expressed their intention to stay for more than 12 months. Smaller percentages of the respondents reported that they intended to stay for '6 to 12 months' and 'less than 6 months.' Nevertheless, Trinidad and Tobago was the final destination country for 84% of the persons interviewed. Venezuela emerged as the second most popular destination for a considerably lower number of respondents. It should be noted though, that 39% of the respondents planned to return to Venezuela, but most of them were undecided on when they would do so. Of the remaining respondents, 37% of the interviewees did not intend to return to Venezuela and 24% were uncertain of their return. These findings were congruent with the national 2021 DTM.

A comprehensive response requires coordination on protection issues to prevent GBV, xenophobia, discrimination and labour exploitation and to disseminate information related to referral pathways on regularization and integration; on education issues for entrepreneurship programmes and vocational trainings; on health issues to support the integration of the population within the Trinidad and Tobago health care system; and on social security issues to facilitate the transition from a humanitarian to a social protection approach that also includes a territorial perspective.

3.6 Mapping of CSOs linked to the integration of Venezuelan people in conditions of human mobility

The Chaguanas Borough counts local action and engagement among the aid response to Venezuelan refugees and migrants, as well as to host communi-

ty members. Their actions, missions and how these projects support the Chaguanas community are listed in the table below:

Table 4. Civil society organization identified in the Chaguanas Borough Corporation

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION	AREA OF ACTION	MISSION	HOW IT SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY
Within the Chaguanas Borough			
Freely Give Foundation	Children/Community Development	To provide children and youths in Longdenville with alternative outlets of expression and to foster positive community engagement	Food distributions, camps, activities
Community, Unity, Responsibility, Education (CURE Trinidad)	Community Development / Children / DV-IPV victims	Primarily to provide resources to victims of DV and IPV, however has expanded to providing help to those in need, principally within Chaguanas, but can provide help throughout Trinidad	Medical interventions, food support, clothing, back to school drives, vacation activities
Redemption Worship Ministry	Faith Based Organization	Christian church with outreach to the Venezuelan refugee and migrant community	Provides religious services in Spanish, food distribution, outreach, free English classes in the Chaguanas Borough
Enterprise Community Police	Police Youth Club	To provide youths with an environment to be able to engage positively with their community	Youth focused activities
Cunupia Community Police	Police Youth Club	To provide youths with an environment to be able to engage positively with their community	Youth focused activities
Ryu Dan Empowerment Foundation	Youth/Sports Club	Sports club model to engage youths in the Enterprise area to counter criminal and negative activity	Blended approach model targeted at Venezuelan girls and women, including sporting activities, sewing, cultural exchanges, online reading club Currently implementing a project funded through an InterAmerican Foundation grant
Lions Club Chaguanas	Community Improvement Association	To assist in improving the lives of the members of the communities it serves	With the economy reopening, they are looking to restart their activities helping Venezuelan refugees and migrants, but had a couple of distribution drives during the pandemic
Rotary/Rotaract Club of Chaguanas	Community Improvement Association	Promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders	Provided capacity building expertise to an organisation in Carlsen Field which looked to integrate Venezuelan refugees and migrants through gardening and sewing. Looking to include more projects as the economy reopens

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION	AREA OF ACTION	MISSION	HOW IT SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY
National NGOs (whose actions impact the Chaguanas Borough)			
La Casita Hispanic Cultural Centre	Cultural and Advocacy Non-Governmental Organisation	An organisation committed to search for strategies to protect the interests and basic rights of the Hispanic community in Trinidad and Tobago	Provides support to Hispanic refugees and migrants throughout Trinidad and Tobago, and works with other organisations to implement actions
Archdiocese Ministry for Migrants and Refugees	Faith Based Organisation	Welcome, protect, promote, integrate	Support refugees and migrants during their stay in Trinidad and Tobago, with strong focus on health currently
Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago/IPPF	Medical interventions / Sexual and Reproductive Health	Promoting and ensuring sexual & reproductive health and rights for all	The access to sexual and reproductive health is open to anyone residing in the country, including to Venezuelan refugees and migrants living in the Chaguanas area.
Rape Crisis Society of Trinidad and Tobago	Sexual assault, abuse and molestation / preventative health / crisis response / GBV-IPV-DV	The RCS provides support and healing to survivors of Rape, Child Sexual Abuse, Incest and Domestic Violence through our free and confidential face to face counselling, Hotline counselling, public education and training workshops. The RCS continues to actively lobby and advocate for the rights of victims of sexual and domestic violence denouncing all forms of gender-based violence plaguing our homes, communities and society.	The RCSTT has been in collaboration with UNHCR on projects that provide counselling support to migrants since 2017. Sessions with Spanish speaking migrants are conducted with interpreters assisting the process. This service continues currently. They also do community outreach activities, raising awareness among migrants and the local population on issues related to sexual and gender-based violence. In 2021, they partnered with UNWomen to distribute food and personal care vouchers to migrants. Grocery and Pennywise vouchers were distributed to clients and through partnerships with organizations assisting migrants (churches, NGO's) In May 2021, the Ayúdate Hotline was launched through grant funding from the BetterTogether Challenge which is an IDB/USAID collaboration. The hotline is toll-free due to a partnership with the Digicel Foundation which gave us the phone number 866-7428. This project saw bilingual listeners trained to work nightly from 6pm-6am. Counselling is also provided to migrants and locals who may call the line and request to see a counsellor. This project continues currently while looking for funding opportunities for the continuation beyond mid-2022 and possible expansion of the hotline. Within the execution of this project was the production of an animation series which is available on our FB/IG pages which addresses SGBV issues and xenophobia faced by Venezuelan migrants.
Families in Action	Psychosocial support to families / Counselling, Domestic Violence Support, Employee Assistance and Workplace Support / Parenting / Education / Migrant Support / Youth Education initiatives	The transformation of individuals, families and organizations across global communities through quality services that are solution focused and people driven	Psychosocial Support – In-person and virtual counselling (Democracy International- USAID, IOM) 24Hr Bilingual Hotline (2019-2021) - (Democracy International- USAID) Train the Trainers- Bilingual Virtual Facilitators (Democracy International- USAID) Food Security Support Living in Trinidad and Tobago (LITT) Academy (LITT Academy) (Democracy International- USAID , CPDC-Inter American Foundation) Dream to Succeed- (Democracy International- USAID) Grow to Earn Project (CPDC-Inter American Foundation)

Source: Direct correspondence with the organisations, official organisation websites



4. REFUGEE AND MIGRANT COMMUNITY ACCESS TO FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN THE CHAGUANAS BOROUGH

This chapter refers to the main socio-economic, governance, and spatial factors that impact the conditions and access to fundamental rights by the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population, as well as by host communities in vulnerable conditions.

With the aforementioned national and municipal contexts serving as a foundation to understanding the social and economic dynamics shaping Venezuelan refugee and migrant daily lives in Trinidad and Tobago, what can be observed about the various rights to which this community has access? In this chapter, and using the context of the city, refugee and migrant access to various rights in the Chaguanas Borough will be analysed, taking under greater consideration crucial socio-economic, governance, and spatial-territorial factors.

Yet, to detect the nuances of these factors, there is a need to keep in mind the jurisdictional framework that determines the boundaries of State and municipal action. In its first chapter of its Constitution, Trinidad and Tobago recognizes and protects fundamental human rights and freedoms. (GORTT) This acknowledgment underscores the country's 1991 accession to the American Convention on Human Rights; the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Refugee Convention) in 2000. Further to this, the government has elaborated draft policies and signed legal notices regarding the conditions surrounding the legal status of refugees and migrants, in particular, persons from neighbouring Venezuela¹⁶. This lends to the understanding that the GORTT recognizes the important contributions refugee and migrant populations can make to national and local development.

Against this jurisdictional background and through the next eight sub-sections, this part of the profile seeks to demonstrate in which ways distribution or lack of access to resources; social, economic and cultural diversity and equity; and inclusive governance

or lack thereof affect refugee and migrant life in the Chaguanas Borough.

4.1 Access to the right to the city

In 1968, French philosopher and sociologist Henri Lefebvre published his concept called “Right to the City” which emphasized the principles of inclusion, community ownership, self-determination, and urban development. Indeed, “the right to the city is, therefore, far more than a right of individual access to the resources that the city embodies: it is a right to change ourselves by changing the city more after our heart's desire. It is, moreover, a collective rather than an individual right since changing the city inevitably depends upon the exercise of a collective power over the processes of urbanization” (Harvey, 2008) of which should be taken into consideration, marginalized groups.

More recently and intersecting this philosophy with the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals, UN-Habitat declared “the Right to the City as the right of all inhabitants, present and future, permanent and temporary, to inhabit, use, occupy, produce, transform, govern and enjoy cities, towns and human settlements that are just, inclusive, safe, sustainable and democratic, defined as common goods for enjoying life with dignity and peace.” (United Nations, 2017)

Taking into account the **Inclusive governance pillar of the right to the city** and transposing this philosophy to the wider Trinidad and Tobago national context, the same ideological principles can be found in the Commencement of the Constitution, which affirms that the people of Trinidad and Tobago “have asserted their belief in a democratic society in which all persons may, to the extent of their capacity, play some part in the institutions of the national life and thus, develop and maintain due respect for lawfully constituted authority”.¹⁷ However, it can be

¹⁶ See Chapter 2.4

observed that this is an engagement made by and on behalf of persons who have Trinidad and Tobago citizenship. For persons outside of this category, this engagement should be voluntary, and in that same vein, should that engagement come of their own volition, space should be made to allow their expression of this engagement, even though there remains the possibility of it not being considered¹⁸. From this, constraints to link Venezuelan refugee and migrant communities to the institutional processes, such as local government plans, become apparent.

Furthermore, the national government published its National Spatial Development Strategy in 2013, which speaks to the themes of strong and resilient communities, sustainable prosperity, and sustainable infrastructural development. It further looked at promoting sustainable urban and rural development as well as having a people-centred focus in spatial development; nevertheless, it does not include Venezuelan refugees and migrant population as a differentiated vulnerable group in the territory although their presence generates pressure on social systems at the city and national level.

From both the definition of the Right to the City and national government documents, it can be noted that theoretically, the successful application of the former would allow for access to crucial areas associated with basic human rights and development. But would this application be to the benefit of all members that make up the community fabric of Trinidad and Tobago? When taking into account refugee and migrant communities as part of the Trinidad and Tobago population, certain gaps can be identified in addressing access to this particular right.

When using the Chaguanas Borough as an example, and with regards to the **fair distribution of resources**, the available information shows its expansive growth may be impacting the provision of adequate habitat conditions and access to opportunities. As stated before, the difficulty in access to public transport together with the housing deficit and high centralization of productive activities, compromise the

access to services and opportunities in peripheral areas of the city, especially in communities such as Longdenville and Cunupia. Inhabitants from these communities do not have access to territorial prosperity in the same way as inhabitants in consolidated and central communities as Chaguanas Proper. With this understanding, it can be concluded that territorial prosperity is not equally distributed. Moreover, the governance structure of the country does not allow local governments to plan the development of their territory, which is reflected in the lack of local instruments to transform the urban form and correct problems related to the uneven distribution of prosperity.

Regarding Venezuelan communities, the concentration of prosperity in the territory defines the location of dwelling in the territory. Due to affordability, refugees and migrants cannot live close to urban centralities and economic agglomerations that concentrate services and opportunities under habitable conditions¹⁹, thus, they tend to occupy peripheral areas with affordable housing offers but low prosperity conditions, and in consequence, low potential for their integration. Their location in areas with already limited resources, exacerbates existing gaps for host communities and creates a sense of competition for the access to available resources and opportunities and consequently, discrimination against Venezuelan communities. Therefore, the limited distribution of resources highly influences the integration processes of these communities.

On the other hand, regarding **social, economic, and cultural equity**, the access to the right to the city is conditioned on socioeconomic and migration status. Considering class status, available socioeconomic data highlights that opportunities are more accessible to wealthier households while most vulnerable communities are, first, farther from services provision and opportunities, and second, need to invest more resources (time and money) to access them. These dynamics make visible unequal conditions in the territory that are also affecting social cohesion since there is an agglomeration of vulnerable and

¹⁷It is necessary to note that because Trinidad and Tobago is a unitary parliamentary democracy, and therefore the rights that are derived from the larger Rights to the City umbrella would be addressed through national policies and amendments; in other words, through "institutions of national life"

¹⁸This consideration or refusal thereof also extends to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, and is not limited to persons outside of this category.

¹⁹According to the IOM's Chaguanas DTM for December 2021, Chaguanas Proper was among the areas in the Borough where there were a large concentration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, however, in the same report, it is noted that this same population live in less than hospitable living conditions, including overcrowding and poor housing infrastructure.



wealthy communities across the city. In this context, the Chaguanas Borough should prioritize deconcentrating economic activities and prosperity from one main business zone to an equal distribution throughout the municipality. As a result, livelihoods and living conditions for disadvantaged and marginalized groups can improve which would lend to improved social conditions and cultural exchange.

With particular regard to the Venezuelan refugee and migrant group, however, implementation and the enforcement of mechanisms need to be placed on the front burner to ensure their full participation and contribution to the Borough's socio-economic fabric. Therefore, a differentiated approach for their integration should be considered, as well as their inclusion in decision-making processes.

However, in the Trinidad and Tobago context, these pillars would stand on a base of **inclusive governance**. Because inclusive governance seeks to recognize how the different actors that inhabit the city (public, private and civil society) develop processes to guarantee efficiency and institutional capacity, transparency and good use of public resources, quality in regulation, legality, and citizen participation in decision making, as well as in the monitoring and evaluation of these within a framework of transparency and inclusion, there is a need for direct involvement of the refugee and migrant population. This active involvement, inclusion, and incorporation of refugee and migrant voices in the design and implementation of the governance framework, both at the national and local government levels, would signal a move towards ensuring each member of the wider population is accounted for in the development and planning.

In conclusion, for various reasons, both members of the host community and Venezuelan refugees and migrants do not fully benefit from the right to the city, with the refugee and migrant community experiencing more of a disadvantage than the locals. It demonstrates that the practice of the right to the city, while on its way, has yet to reach the level of the theory.

4.2 Access to education

The Education Act, Chapter 39:01 of Trinidad and Tobago includes in it the stipulations for access to education in the island, including at the Chaguanas Borough level. Part III of the Act, in Sections 76 and 77, defines a compulsory school age (between the ages of 5 and 16) and also outlines the responsibility of the parent and/or guardian toward the individual at the compulsory school age²⁰. The Education Act states that “it shall be the duty of the parent of every child of compulsory school age to cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude, by regular attendance at a school” The question becomes, does this stipulation apply to Venezuelan refugee and migrant children who, by law, should be able to access education adapted to their situation?

Further to this, due to the 1991 Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by Trinidad and Tobago, the GORTT recognizes the right to access to education to persons of compulsory school age on Trinidad and Tobago soil, as well as individuals outside of that age range who have applied to further their studies in the twin-island State educational institutions.

Nevertheless, the right to education remains elusive to Venezuelan children on the move in Trinidad and Tobago. Among the limitations to access to education, it is made visible the affordability of households to education, especially when the lack of offer of public education demands access to a private institution. Yet, in Trinidad and Tobago, including in Chaguanas, Venezuelan refugee and migrant persons of compulsory school age are not banned from accessing an education (Matroo). Private, alternative, and informal schools, as well as homework and community centers offer to fill the gap that public schools are unable to do. The quality and level of education vary however, according to the economic means of the household, as paid private institutions are able to teach a curriculum acceptable to international standards, whereas community centre efforts more often depend on the volunteer efforts in the area and support it can get from businesses and other institutions. Thus, the quality of education of

²⁰ Section 78 states “exclusion from attendance [as attested] by written law” among the reasons why a child can be excused from attendance. However, in the case of Venezuelan refugee and migrant children, this does not apply.

refugees and migrants is conditioned to their affordability, as a constraint for the access to this right. Finally, it is important to consider the language gap between refugees, migrants, and host communities that impact the inclusion of Venezuelan children in the system.

In addition, the lack of documentation and previous education certification are two factors impacting the inclusion of Venezuelan children in the national education system. As a consequence of their irregular migration status and their inability to obtain certified documentation of academic achievement in Venezuela, refugees and migrants' access to commensurate employment is severely impacted, as currently youth and adults with advanced education degrees are underemployed in the service or manufacturing sectors.

Moreover, regarding territorial conditions in Chaguanas, while access to schooling is available to children in regularised situations, access to education for Venezuelan refugees and migrants has been more difficult, due to legal requirements, available spaces in schools and adapting the curriculum to fit the needs of both host community and refugee and migrant children. Furthermore, due to the Venezuelan community hesitation to use public transport, most likely due to cost, instances of xenophobia, harassment and discrimination, their access to educational facilities implies the expenditure of more resources (time and money) which, in turn, impacts the remaining financial resources available to the household.

Yet, to analyse the capacity of the educational system necessitates accessing accurate information about the quality and capacity of the education system. Crucial information regarding average years of education, possible gender gap disparities, access to the internet at the dwelling, and coverage of cultural facilities such as libraries, museums, and theatres, among others, is strategic for decision-making and mitigates territorial gaps to facilitate refugee and migrant, as well as vulnerable communities' access to education.

In conclusion, the limited access to adequate and adapted education for Venezuelan refugee and migrant children demonstrates a weakness in the pillars of fair distribution; social, economic, and cultural diversity and equity, and inclusive governance. In the short term, the inability to access adequate education engenders difficulties where language, social and historico-cultural differences are notable, for both adults and children, while in the medium- to long-run, the child's opportunities to fully and successfully integrate into any society becomes reduced, if not inexistent.

4.3 Access to employment and entrepreneurship

In addition to its proximity to Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago counts its economic prosperity as one of the more attractive points for Venezuelan refugees and migrants. This latter criterion especially applies as many Venezuelan refugees and migrants come to the Caribbean country for economic reasons, as inflation, cost of living and imposed economic sanctions make daily life difficult for them.

Permission for non-nationals and non-permanent residents²¹ of Trinidad and Tobago to work in the country is currently granted through the Ministry of National Security. Under the Immigration Act, Chapter 18:01, any foreign national seeking to work in the twin-island Republic must hold a worker's permit or a Minister's permit. Furthermore, justification must be provided for the hiring of that foreign national, with the obligation of that employee to impart the training and skills required to a national or a permanent resident before the expiration of their work permit. Entrepreneurial opportunities for foreign nationals, including Venezuelans, were not apparent.

With particular regard to the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population, the GORTT conducted a registration exercise in 2019 during which Venezuelans in irregular situations would be granted a permit and as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international travel, the permit's validity for registered Venezuelan nationals still in the country has continuously been extended and, at the time of writing, will now expire at 31 December 2022. Through

²¹Under non-permanent resident, the profile excludes CARICOM countries (except Haiti) whose citizens are able to work in Trinidad and Tobago under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy Skills Certificate mechanism

this permit, Venezuelan refugees and migrants with regular migratory status were afforded the right to stay and work on Trinidad and Tobago soil until its expiry. Nevertheless, because the registration exercise was completed only once, Venezuelan refugees and migrants who have since been undocumented and are in the country are at a disadvantage when trying to access employment and wider rights in the city. This is in addition to refugees and migrants of other nationalities who were not afforded a registration exercise and also remain at a disadvantage.

In addition to irregular situations, skilled Venezuelan refugees and migrants are often underemployed and in situations of exploitation due to the lack of certifications of their previous education in Venezuela, as well as migratory status. Thus, Venezuelan refugees and migrants tend to access employment through the informal sector (mostly construction, agricultural, and domestic work) without any guarantees and with a lack of access to social security²². Access to opportunities and adequate employment is fundamental for inclusion processes in the medium and long term and, as consequence, refugees and migrants from Venezuela do not have stable conditions to afford and satisfy other fundamental rights such as housing, education, and health.

Furthermore, in terms of entrepreneurship, it is important to consider that their irregular migratory status does not allow Venezuelan refugee and migrant community's inclusion in the financial system. This limits their access to seed capital and their ability to start a business through institutional channels.

On the other hand, considering the territorial conditions of Chaguanas, its economic growth, and transformation from an agricultural area to an industrial one, refugees and migrants are attracted to the city. Considering that there is productive activities are centralised to Chaguanas Proper, refugees and migrants who live in high-concentration peripheral communities such as Cunupia and Longdenville and do not have access to transportation are required to expend more resources to have access to livelihood and employment opportunities. This is underscored by a need for internet access to acquire

training and employment opportunities. Obstacles impeding vulnerable communities' access to these services impact their ability to insert themselves into the employment market. At the time of writing, spatial level data on access to the internet in the Borough was unavailable.

However, it is important to note that since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chaguanas Borough has seen a number of business launches in the area, which could represent employment opportunities for its inhabitants. Furthermore, with the recent openings of telephone based service providers such as iQor and Teleperformance to the country, coupled with the demand for bilingual Spanish-English speakers, there are employment opportunities which afford persons the ability to work from home, with their main resource being access to a telephone and internet services. These recent business developments open the door for more employment opportunities for vulnerable populations, including for Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

To sum up, there are institutional, socioeconomic, and territorial constraints that impact the access to employment opportunities for refugees and migrants from Venezuela. These also pose as obstacles to benefitting from human mobility for territorial development and engendering these communities' contributions to fostering local prosperity. Moreover, because access to employment and entrepreneurship is a cross-cutting issue, it requires a comprehensive response and coordination on protection issues to prevent GBV, xenophobia, discrimination, and labour exploitation and to disseminate information related to referral pathways on regularization and integration; on education issues for entrepreneurship programmes and vocational trainings; and on social security issues to facilitate the transition from a humanitarian to a social protection approach that also includes a territorial perspective.

4.4 Access to health and social security

Trinidad and Tobago's healthcare system is known to be free to access for anyone on the soil, however, this access is limited to primary healthcare. Se-

²²It should be noted that Venezuelans regularized through the 2019 registration exercise are exempt from NIS and health surcharge payments, although they do have PAYE deductions. Undocumented Venezuelan migrants are subject to worse payment conditions, in addition to the inability to access social security services and benefits

condary and tertiary healthcare are often obtained through the private healthcare system²³, although it is offered through specially-designated days at the adjunct public health clinics. Access to this system is not available to Venezuelan refugees and migrants, and this lack of access can be noted among the factors that contribute to prolonged illness in this community. However, it should be added that some medication is available free of charge to the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population and that they were also able to have access to COVID-19 vaccines, free of charge and regardless of migration status.

Important gaps persist with access to secondary and tertiary health care, particularly regarding sexual and reproductive health and mental health, and psychosocial support. Challenges to access health care include language barriers, lack of knowledge of the services available and where, and the lack of documentation due to migratory status. As consequence, vulnerable Venezuelan refugees and migrants access predominantly by emergency services without integral attention to existing conditions that could finally affect their capacity to work and satisfy fundamental needs of themselves and their families.

On a related note, there is a close relationship between the healthcare system and municipal management. The Regional Authorities Act Chapter 29:05, section 6 details the functions of the Regional Health Authority (RHA) as well as the collaboration with and the rendering of advice to municipalities on matters of public health. In the case of the Chaguana Borough, it falls under the purview of the North Central Regional Health Authority (NCRHA). This relationship is further bolstered by the responsibility of the municipal office to receive complaints about public health nuisances, which is then charged with investigating each matter and taking appropriate action. In this way, we see that Municipal Corporations and the public health system are supposed to have a healthy relationship in the interest of serving the public and population that fall within its territorial limits, especially as access to adequate health care is a universal right. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health also has a specific policy for non-nationals accessing healthcare²⁴.

It is also important to note the role civil society and international organizations play in filling the gap left vacant by the public administration. Tables 3 and 4 of this document detail the various health services Venezuelan refugee and migrant populations can access, acting as a stopcork measure until public authorities undertake the responsibility. Whether this will be done will depend on several factors, including insisting on maintaining an inclusive lens in the formulation and amendment of legislation and practice.

Nonetheless, in analysing healthcare, this paradigm cannot be limited to access to the public/private health services and access to medication; its definition must also include the wider public health scope, disaster management, and public infrastructural construction and maintenance; both of which are the direct responsibility of the Municipal Corporation. The Chaguana area counts among the better-served municipalities in the country, due in part to its infrastructural development and its rapidly growing economic development.

The Chaguana Borough is susceptible to flooding and strong winds. Both natural risks can be a health hazard to its inhabitants; with flooding especially of concern as waterways are blocked by solid waste, thereby placing persons, including Venezuelan refugees and migrants, at risk of contracting water-borne diseases. However, access to information on their disaster and health management on the issue, as well as how inclusive it is of Venezuelan refugees and migrants is unknown at the time of writing. Moreover, regarding territorial conditions in Chaguana, it is important to mention the lack of coverage of health facilities in the northern communities of the city, with special emphasis on Charlieville, and Felicity. This negatively impacts access to health services for refugees and migrants and vulnerable communities that are located in the peripheries. Finally, due to housing conditions in Chaguana for refugees and migrants (overcrowding and lack of access to basic services), there are physical and mental conditions that could be associated with low quality of living.

²³While the public healthcare system is subsidized through health surcharge and revenue earned by the State, the private healthcare system is often paid by the individual, either from their own income or subsidized partially by independently afforded health insurance policies.

²⁴Policy for Treating with Non-Nationals with respect to the Provision of Public Health Care Services. See Chapter Three, section regarding Peripheries with difficulties in accessing social support service



It must be noted that the GORTT is currently conducting an exercise to expand the scope of the Municipal Corporation's responsibilities, authority, and ability to respond to the specific needs of the area under its purview, and this may extend to health and health-related services. It is imperative, however, that this expansion keeps the principle of inclusivity throughout the adjustment of this local government policy.

Basic rights to health care are available to Venezuelan refugees and migrants, and in theory, there is room for recourse should they face obstacles to its access. However, given that a high percentage of these individuals find it difficult to get information to orient them to services for their benefit, the practice is that this population remains marginalized in this respect. This prevents them from being able to contribute fully to the economic fabric of the community, and by extension to its social and cultural development.

4.5 Protection against discrimination

The Trinidad and Tobago Constitution, both in its Commencement and Chapter 1, speaks to the dignity of the human individual and the respect for their equal and inalienable rights, stating that race, origin, colour, religion, or sex cannot be used as a reason to discriminate and transgress on fundamental rights and freedoms. Among those rights and freedoms include the right of the individual to respect for his private and family life, to equality before the law and the protection of the law, and the right of a parent or guardian to provide a school of his own choice for the education of his child or ward.

Furthermore, the Equal Opportunities Act, Chapter 22:03 Part II defines the limits within which this particular act can eject authority, applying its remit to cases of employment, the provision of goods and services, the provision of accommodation, and offensive behaviour²⁵. This Act also provides for the establishment of a Commission and a Tribunal to respectively address and adjudicate over questions and litigation that fall under its remit.

Yet, Venezuelan refugees and migrants are subject to discrimination and xenophobic actions in Trinidad and Tobago. Access to fair working conditions and adequate housing are but two examples where this population faces difficulties and, anecdotally, are refused access due to their origin and/or race. Within the general social fabric, Venezuelan refugees and migrants, in particular women, are subject to slurs and disparaging songs, among other acts of discrimination, reinforced by social perception of this community as criminals, prostitutes and gold-diggers.

Although recourse is available through the wider Police and Judicial services and, in specific cases through the Equal Opportunity Commission and Tribunal, access to these institutions could prove particularly difficult, due to lack of resources, fear, ignorance of its existence, and language barriers. However, protection against discrimination against Venezuelan refugees and migrants is very necessary for the pillars of inclusive governance and cultural diversity and equity to take place in Trinidad and Tobago.

Thus, in the Chaguanas area, several efforts have been implemented by international cooperation organisms, civil society organisations, and community-based associations to mitigate discrimination and xenophobic actions. Among these efforts, health fairs, sensitisation workshops, sustainability projects, informal education centres and religious services have been noted to contribute to the anti-xenophobia movement in the area.

4.6 Access to adequate housing and basic services

Chapter 1, Part I of the Trinidad and Tobago Constitution, enshrines the right to housing among other fundamental rights. Furthermore, the Equal Opportunities Act places the provision of accommodation as one of the areas for which discrimination according to race, origin, colour, religion, or sex cannot take place. However, in the Trinidad and Tobago context, access to housing is a difficult endeavour, for locals and even more so for Venezuelan refugees and migrants. This corresponds to an international trend

²⁵ Offensive behavior includes giving offense, insulting, humiliating or intimidating behaviour, done on the basis of an individual's gender, race, ethnicity, origin or religion, done with the intention of inciting gender, racial or religious hatred, in either a private or a public space.

where more and more persons are unable to afford homeownership and are oftentimes reliant either on rental agreements or moving in with a family member or relative for shelter. This is further supported by the 2016 published Vision 2030 document, detailing planning developments to modernize the country, and is moreover underscored by the 2022 delivered budget speech, where the Minister of Finance shared that there was a backlog of 175,000²⁶ applications for housing.

The stark difference between housing opportunities for locals as opposed to Venezuelan refugees and migrants are two-fold: on one hand, the lack of affordability of refugees and migrants' communities due to their migratory status and their predominant access to informal employment conditions. These conditions also impact their capability to access formal tenure of housing and make them vulnerable to forced evictions. On the other hand, xenophobic conditions impact the access to adequate housing considering that landlords often charge refugees and migrants higher rent than host communities and are not always open to renting the dwelling to Venezuelans. In the same way, the lack of a social support system does not allow refugees and migrants to easily find rental dwellings. Thus, more often than not, Venezuelan refugees and migrants are left with no choice but to live in poor housing conditions to avoid homelessness, including overcrowding and lack of basic services.

In the Chaguanas Borough, statistics related to the access to housing as a fundamental need and the access to basic services show that the communities of Enterprise and Longdenville have low housing and habitat conditions. Nevertheless, access to water and electricity are considered basic rights with coverage of around 99% and regular supply although overcrowding conditions and lack of sewerage infrastructure and, in the case of Longdenville, a high concentration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants are noted. Thus, together with differentiated perceptions and legal conditions, refugees and migrants also face already-present territorial challenges to access housing.

In this context, it is important to consider that access to housing may be under registered for refugees and migrants communities, especially for the 25% that, according to the 2021 Chaguanas DTM, have dependents and are renting a single room unit. Overcrowding conditions, together with the lack of access to a bathroom and a kitchen could greatly compromise their living conditions although territorial conditions of host communities lie under adequate habitat standards. This scenario brings to the fore how differential legal and perceptual factors impact access to fundamental needs and the inclusion of the most vulnerable Venezuelan communities.

Under the purview of the Borough's authority, maintenance of public infrastructures as sewerage or garbage collection and management are available to any address found under the Borough's boundaries, however, proof of ID can be requested for recording purposes. This may be a deterrent to ensure clean and salubrious surroundings for persons who find themselves in irregular situations.

While access to basic services is ensured to the Venezuelan refugee and migrant community, by virtue of being residents of the Chaguanas Borough, the precarity in housing and housing conditions can render social, economic, and cultural diversity and equity out of their reach and, as a result, be a stumbling block for truly inclusive governance. On the Maslow hierarchy of needs, housing and health are foundational for the individual before they can think to become deeply involved in the development of their society and, in the case of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, the need to address the housing, and by extension health, conditions under which they are often placed hinders their ability to ensure that their own voices are among those rallying for more inclusivity.

4.7 Access to political participation, inclusion in local decision-making, and validity of public freedoms

Among the rights enshrined by the Constitution are the rights to join political parties and express political views, the freedom of conscience and religious belief and observance, the freedom of thought and

²⁶ Trinidad and Tobago has a population of approximately 1.4 million persons



expression, and the freedom of association and assembly. Although local media has increased media coverage of Venezuelan refugees and migrants living in the twin-island Republic, it remains that civil society actors, international organisations, and long-established Venezuelan migrants are among those who tend to speak on their behalf.

This further begs the question: does more exposure translate to forthcoming inclusion? It has been established that the mechanisms for redress exist, but Venezuelan refugees and migrants are unable to access them, for a number of reasons. These reasons range from the lack of institutional frameworks, to questions of legal status; from having enough resources to facing xenophobia. Furthermore, if and when they do have access to these means of redress, addressing and resolving their issues through institutional frameworks take a long time. Here again, civil society actors, international organisations, and special interest groups often intervene and aid the Venezuelan refugee and migrant population until the State is able to do so.

Applied to the local government context²⁷, both civil society organisations and municipal actors are responsible for, or undertake the responsibility of engaging members of their community, with an eye to stimulating change and fostering inclusion even for the most marginalized groups in the area. Looking closely at municipal actors, the Village Council, the Councillors, and the Mayor's Office work within their legal authority to ensure that its residents can benefit fully and communally from their community. Using the 2016 Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government-led public consultations on local government reform, the overwhelming feedback from the population identified a lack of accountability, transparency, and process of participation in the local government offices to address their community concerns as crucial areas to address (Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, 2016). The question arises – how inclusive are these municipal actors of Venezuelan refugees and migrants if local members of the community do not see their own concerns addressed? How safe and welcomed would Venezuelan refugees and migrants feel in advocating

for their own concerns if currently, special interest groups and not the State ensure that their rights and freedoms are being met?

This begs the question of the freedoms enshrined by the Constitution: the freedom of movement, the freedom of conscience and religious belief and observance, the freedom of thought and expression, the freedom of association and assembly, and the freedom of the press. Venezuelan refugees and migrants can move about relatively easily within the borders of the twin-island State, although they may be subject to xenophobic expressions. Church services, such as those offered by the Redemption Worship Ministry in Chaguanas, offer services in Spanish. Traditional and social media coverage of the daily living conditions and daily experiences of Venezuelan refugees and migrants are becoming more prominent. These accesses to freedoms are brought about by Venezuelan refugees and migrants adapting to the cultural particularities of Trinidad and Tobago life, as well as an increased willingness by local populations to better communicate with them.

The ruling political party, the People's National Movement (PNM), has done the necessary to ensure that Venezuelan refugees and migrants are able to access rights to sojourn in Trinidad and Tobago, but policies to support Venezuelan refugee and migrant long-term integration into the society is virtually undetectable. The main opposition party, the United National Congress (UNC), changes its stance regarding Venezuelan refugees and migrants, at times accusing this population of being political peons for the ruling party and calling for their exit from the country²⁸, while at another time demanding justice for them. With such stances from both parties, ideological alignment between the Venezuelan migrant and refugee group may exist, but at the time of writing this profile, is unknown. It is also unknown whether this population has independently formed their own political group within Trinidad and Tobago, although special interest groups, civil society organizations, and non-governmental organizations do act on their behalf for favourable policy development toward this marginalized community.

²⁷ It should be noted that the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities (TTALGA) form an umbrella group for all local government offices to act as a link between the municipal actors and national government and its associated bodies.

In conclusion, while Venezuelan refugees and migrants can attest to a small degree of inclusion, there remains a lot to cover to consider them as able to meaningfully contribute to and benefit from the social and cultural diversity and equity in the country, and even less so with regards to inclusive governance.

4.8 Social and cultural integration

Due to their close proximity and various periods of economic prosperity, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela have a history of migration fluxes between the two countries. This has led to cultural and social influences historically developing in Trinidad and Tobago, including in the local lexicon, culinary offerings, and music. The national songs for Trinidad and Tobago boast a melting pot of races, emphasizing harmony amongst people despite their origins (NALIS).

However, with this newest migratory flow to Trinidad and Tobago, the social and cultural integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants can be considered a mixed bag. On the one hand, Venezuelan refugees and migrants can be seen participating in the many festivities of the country, Venezuelan and Venezuelan-fusion themed restaurants are becoming more popular. However, there is a pervasive stigma of Venezuelans in the country, which most likely influences the way local communities interact with this group and vice versa.

Furthermore, due to economic demands, Venezuelan refugees and migrants tend to experience very fluid mobility in the country, resulting in their temporary presence in various communities. This internal migratory pattern would affect the cultural and social integration this population would be able to have with host communities. Government policies, especially at the national level, would be crucial in promoting the presence of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in communities they would like to settle in, and positively contribute to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of the national community. This would be especially key to consider in a country whose population is rapidly aging and its skilled and

qualified persons prefer to migrate than stay in the country.

Moreover, regarding opportunities for Venezuelans to coexist with host communities at the national and local level (Chaguanas), it is important to consider, on one hand, the availability of public spaces and cultural facilities as scenarios to promote integration and change the perception of Venezuelans by host communities. Data regarding the coverage of these facilities, which are considered part of social support infrastructures, is not available for the Chaguanas area. On the other hand, considering the fundamental needs of refugees and migrants and their socioeconomic conditions, it can be assumed that there is not enough free time for recreation and cultural activities that allows them to coexist with host communities and facilitate their integration. Refugees and migrants from Venezuela predominantly have access to informal employment with low pay ranges and extended hours.

Finally, it must not be ignored that Trinidad and Tobago is one of 38 UN recognised Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (United Nations, 2021), and therefore can only accept a sovereignly-determined limited number of refugees and migrants per year. However, drafting a policy that takes this particular condition into account plus including benefits for Venezuelan refugees and migrants can bring both socially and culturally would attest to inclusive governance for both locals and foreigners. Once this larger framework is concretised, it would allow for Venezuelan refugees and migrants to be able to experience and contribute to the diversity of the country and take advantage of the potential that human mobility brings to the territory and its prosperity.

²⁸(Boodan, 2019) (Ramdass, UNC keeping sharp eye on Venezuelans on voting day, 2020)

²⁹(Webb, 2022) (Ramdass, 'It's been over a week...what really happened at sea?', 2022)

4.9 Summary of aspects that facilitate and limit access to rights for refugee and migrant communities

FACILITATING ASPECTS FOR ACCESS TO RIGHTS OF THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION	LIMITING ASPECTS FOR THE ACCESS TO RIGHTS OF THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION	TERRITORIAL CONDITIONS THAT FACILITATE/LIMIT ACCESS TO RIGHTS FOR THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION
Access to the Right to the City		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commencement of the Constitution principles affirms that the people have the right to take a part in their national and local development. - National Spatial Development Strategy in 2013 with action lines to promote sustainable urban and rural development as well as to having a people-centred focus in spatial development. - International organizations, civil society organizations, and special interest groups are often likely to intervene on Venezuelan refugees and migrants' behalf to ensure that they can somewhat benefit from what is available. - International organizations, civil society organizations, and special interest groups are often likely to intervene on Venezuelan refugees and migrants' behalf to ensure that they can somewhat benefit from what is available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In a number of cases, local members of communities experience difficulties accessing the right to the city, and this access is even more difficult for Venezuelan refugees and migrants' due to legal conditions and negative perceptions by local communities. - Policies and instruments do not consider refugees and migrants as part of vulnerable communities, thus, their needs are overlooked and they are not included in participatory processes. - Centralised governance at the national government level does not allow local governments to attend to their territories and communities' demands to give an effective response to them. - Already limited territorial conditions create a sense of competition for resources between refugees, migrants, and host communities. - Centralised governance at the national government level does not allow local governments to attend to their territories and communities' demands and give an effective response to them. - Already limited territorial conditions create a sense of competition for resources between refugees, migrants, and host communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A high concentration of economic activities in one main business zone impacts the location of vulnerable communities and their access to services and opportunities - Inefficient and unaffordable public transportation system impacts the access of vulnerable communities to infrastructures, services, and livelihoods. - The urban sprawl provides affordable housing in peripheral areas that concentrate in vulnerable communities. - Lack of social diversity in the territory
Access to Education		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The GORTT recognizes the right to access to education to persons of compulsory school age on Trinidad and Tobago soil, as well as individuals outside of that age range who have applied to further their studies in the twin-island State educational institutions. - Venezuelan refugee and migrant persons of compulsory school age are not banned from accessing an education - Private, alternative, and informal schools, as well as homework and community centres offer to fill the gap that public schools are unable to do. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The right to education remains elusive to Venezuelan children on the move in Trinidad and Tobago because of national laws. This is further exacerbated by the economic and social effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on already vulnerable households Venezuelan households. - Publicly funded schools and some private academic institutions are reluctant to enrol Venezuelan children due to lack of documentation and fear of accreditation from the Ministry for engaging in illegal practices. - VR&M have access to schooling, but internationally and nationally recognized schooling curricula and their examining boards are done through the Ministry of Education, which also sets the policy for who has access to these recognized schooling curricula and exams. Therefore, if the MoE does not recognise the VR&M schooling, they are more likely to face more obstacles in furthering educational pursuits and employment opportunities - The quality and level of education varies however, according to the economic means of the household, - There are significant historical and socio-cultural differences and the language barrier. These conditions make inclusion and solidarity difficult for Venezuelan refugees and migrants and are further exacerbated in the short, medium, and long terms when access to education is limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is adequate academic coverage (public schools, denominational schools, private institutions, special interest initiatives) throughout the Borough, however, Venezuelan refugees and migrants access to them and the quality of schooling they have access to is severely limited mainly due to the legal requirements, making school attendance nearly inexistent. - Moreover, while there exists a school bus system to access education facilities, this service is open to children registered in the formal education system. This is a constraint for most vulnerable communities, including Venezuelan refugees and migrants with limited resources. - There is a lack of territorial information regarding the educational level and gaps that could be presented due to the fair distribution of resources in the territory, including the access to cultural facilities such as libraries, theatres, museums, and community centres, among others.

FACILITATING ASPECTS FOR ACCESS TO RIGHTS OF THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION	LIMITING ASPECTS FOR THE ACCESS TO RIGHTS OF THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION	TERRITORIAL CONDITIONS THAT FACILITATE/LIMIT ACCESS TO RIGHTS FOR THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION
Access to Employment and Entrepreneurship		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trinidad and Tobago is attracting a number of businesses where working from home would be possible. Thus, is attractive for human mobility. - Chaguanas is going through a period of economic growth and expansion in the national context. <p>The GORTT conducted a registration exercise in 2019 during which Venezuelans in irregular situations would be granted a permit to stay and work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current legislation demands a work permit for the foreign population as well as justification for hiring from employers that limit the access to opportunities for Venezuelans. - Informal employment is the most accessible option for refugees and migrants, nevertheless, it does not provide stability, rights, or access to social security. - Due to migratory status, refugees and migrants cannot integrate into the financial system for entrepreneurship. <p>Due to migratory status and lack of education certificates, a high percentage of skilled Venezuelan refugee and migrant persons are either unemployed or underemployed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The centralisation of productive activities and employment opportunities limits the access to territories that concentrate employment for refugees and migrants. - The inefficiency and expensive nature of the local transportation system compromises the ability of vulnerable communities, among them, refugees and migrants to access employment opportunities.
Access to health and social security		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary healthcare is accessible to Venezuelan refugees and migrants - Venezuelan refugees and migrants are able to access COVID-19 vaccines regardless of legal status and at no cost. - Some medications are available to Venezuelan refugees and migrants either at no cost or at a low cost. - GORTT is currently conducting an exercise to expand the scope of Municipal Corporation's responsibilities, authority, and ability to respond to the specific needs of the area under its purview, and it is possible that this may extend to health and health-related services. - Regional Health Authorities and Municipal Offices are mandated by law to regularly communicate to ensure health services are adequate and adapted to the Borough. - There are a number of international and civil society organizations and special interest groups within the Borough that provide healthcare support for Venezuelan refugees and migrants. - Chaguanas counts as one of the better-served municipalities in the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Important gaps exist in access to secondary and tertiary healthcare-related to the Venezuelan community's affordability. - Language barriers, lack of knowledge of the services available and where, and the lack of documentation are the most common constraints for access to healthcare reported by refugees and migrants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chaguanas is susceptible to strong winds and flooding, which bring about disaster-related health risks to Venezuelan refugees and migrants that compromise their wellbeing. - The lack of collection and management of solid waste in peripheral areas impacts health conditions and wellbeing. - Deficient coverage of health facilities in peripheral areas of the city impact access to health services - Because housing options are limited, refugees and migrants often live in less than ideal housing conditions, placing their health in danger.



<p>FACILITATING ASPECTS FOR ACCESS TO RIGHTS OF THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION</p>	<p>LIMITING ASPECTS FOR THE ACCESS TO RIGHTS OF THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION</p>	<p>TERRITORIAL CONDITIONS THAT FACILITATE/LIMIT ACCESS TO RIGHTS FOR THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION</p>
<p>Protection against Discrimination</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both the Constitution and the Equal Opportunity Act consider race and origin-based discrimination illegal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Because of the precarious and economically fragile situation, several Venezuelan refugees and migrants are in, they are often victims of discrimination. - Women of Venezuelan heritage are often victims of slurs, and derogatory perceptions of them - Recourse is available through the wider Police and Judicial services, and in specific cases through the Equal Opportunity Commission and Tribunal, access to these institutions could prove particularly difficult, due to lack of resources, fear, ignorance of their existence, and language barriers - Venezuelan refugees and migrants are subject to discrimination due to preconceptions due to their nationality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police Stations and Station outposts are numerous throughout the Borough, although accessibility may vary according to location and individual access to resources - There are courts found in each Borough, including Chaguanas, however, there is a backlog of cases. - There is one Equal Opportunity Tribunal, which is found in the Chaguanas Borough (Chaguanas Proper)
<p>Access to adequate housing and basic services</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Constitution and the Equal Opportunities Act both states that race and /or origin should not be used as criteria to discriminate in access to housing. - The local government provides maintenance services to public infrastructure in the Chaguanas Borough area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing is elusive to both locals and Venezuelan refugees and migrants, especially in communities such as Longdenville and Enterprise. - Differential conditions to access to housing for refugees and migrants related to migratory status and discrimination from host communities. - Venezuelan refugees and migrants do not have the affordability to adequate housing in Chaguanas, especially considering that due to their nationality, landlords charge them higher prices. - Venezuelan refugees and migrants predominantly have access to informal rental agreements and are vulnerable to eviction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Venezuelan refugees and migrants tend to rent wherever they can get a place to rent, which could be an inconvenient distance from their place of work and other necessary amenities. - Water and electricity is a basic right in Trinidad and Tobago and near universal coverage exists in Chaguanas . - Venezuelan refugees and migrants concentrate in communities such as Longdenville and Enterprise, where access to adequate housing is already limited at the territorial level.

FACILITATING ASPECTS FOR ACCESS TO RIGHTS OF THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION	LIMITING ASPECTS FOR THE ACCESS TO RIGHTS OF THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION	TERRITORIAL CONDITIONS THAT FACILITATE/LIMIT ACCESS TO RIGHTS FOR THE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATION
Access to political participation, inclusion in local decision-making, and validity of public freedoms		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Constitution allows for certain rights and freedoms, including speech and assembly - Media coverage of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, their daily lives, and their lived experiences is experiencing an upsurge - Special interest groups are oftentimes speaking up on behalf of Venezuelan refugees and migrants - COVID-19 would have shifted the stage for expression to online media, making it safe for Venezuelan refugees and migrants to express themselves - A Christian church in the Chaguanas Borough is noted to offer services in Spanish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special interest groups are oftentimes speaking on behalf of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, however it would be cohesive to inclusivity that the latter speak for themselves instead of through a proxy - Both major political parties distance themselves from engaging meaningfully with Venezuelan refugees and migrants, thereby limiting the latter's engagement in the political arena. 	
Social and cultural integration		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Already existing history of social and cultural exchange between the two countries, due to a history of migration to and from both countries - Venezuelan refugees and migrants are able to participate in the festivities, cultural offerings, and social activities in the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pervasive stigma of Venezuelans in the country, which most likely influences the way local communities interact with this group and vice versa - Trinidad and Tobago is a small twin-island state and is limited in what it can provide and how many Venezuelan refugees and migrants it can include in the country - Lack of free time of Venezuelan communities due to extended working hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to economic demands, Venezuelan refugees and migrants tend to experience very fluid mobility in the country, resulting in their temporary presence in various communities. However, because Chaguanas is experiencing an economic upturn and rapid development, a large population of Venezuelan refugees and migrants are observed living in this Borough. - No available data regarding public spaces and community areas in Chaguanas.



5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CHAGUANAS MIGRATION PROFILE)

The characterization of the challenges and opportunities of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation to conduct the integration of refugees and migrants with host communities, who also yearn for actions to improve their living conditions, has made it possible to find routes and priorities for action. These routes are presented schematically organized in three dimensions:

- a. Inclusive Urban Governance
- b. Access to urban rights and services for migrants and host communities.
- c. Spatial integration in the territory

Responding to the integration of migrants and refugees is a great opportunity to also address the pre-existing demands of the host communities and to energize the development of cities. In this sense, it is pertinent to summon the participation of migrants and host communities to join efforts and wills that promote socioeconomic and cultural dynamics that transform and generate collective wellbeing and an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable city.

The following are some conclusions and recommendations derived from the exercise of characterizing the challenges and opportunities of the Borough of Chaguanas to conduct the integration of migrants and refugees.

5.1 Inclusive Urban Governance

Inclusive urban governance, in the context of the New Urban Agenda, refers to the process by which national, subnational, local governments and stakeholders (citizens, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, private sector, etc.) collectively decide how to plan, finance and manage urban areas in a way that allows urban dwellers, without discrimination of any nature, to enjoy their fundamental rights and urban goods and services. In this context, some recommendations are:

a. Expansion of local capacities to generate inclusion processes

It is recommended that Chaguanas Borough Corporation's administrative, political, and fiscal autonomy be expanded in order to meet the social demands and challenges of urban growth. This will require reforms to the current legal system, in order to widen decentralization. It is also recommended to structure institutions and processes to guarantee the individual and collective well-being of urban dwellers who suffer some type of exclusion, segregation, or denial of their fundamental rights. In this sense, and given the rapid and continuous growth of the Borough and its respective new challenges, it would be advisable to manage administrative reforms to improve the coordination and joint action of government agencies in the territories, for which it would be necessary to deepen administrative, political, and fiscal decentralization instruments. It is also advisable to improve the quality and relevance of multilevel coordination and cooperation spaces and a clear definition of the mandates of some entities where there appears to be duplication of functions and competencies; coherence between the objectives and measures of sectoral policies at the different levels of administration through a territorial approach to public action; and better urban-rural relations, particularly to ensure food security, care and proper use of the water cycle and the protection of ecosystems.

It is also pertinent to establish permanent training systems for public servants, adjust the administrative career and strategies for improvement in the achievement of public administration results and in the attention to citizens. It is advisable to advance the respective agreements with the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, which is in charge of facilitating, coordinating, supervising, and guaranteeing accountability regarding the provision of quality services by municipal corporations through adequate decentralized systems and practices.

b. Advance in the structuring of Chaguanas Borough as a "smart city".

City governance demands better use of the opportunities offered by science, technology and innovation in areas such as increased citizen participation, transparency in public management, accountability and presentation of results and impact of the administration, access to urban goods and services, use of energy and clean technologies, innovative transportation technologies, etc. The idea is to use these emerging resources to provide options for residents to make more environmentally friendly decisions, drive sustainable economic growth and enable the city to improve its service delivery.

In this sense, following the provisions of the New Urban Agenda, it is recommended that Chaguanas Borough Corporation petition the relative Ministries for the increase the use of technology and data for better urban governance and service delivery, such as: i) better urban planning and design; ii) sustainable urban mobility; iii) protection of cultural heritage; iv) sustainable energy consumption; v) facilitate participation and information flow to urban residents; vi) facilitate the integration of segregated territories and communities, such as refugees and migrants.

c. Increase the quality of response to the integration of refugees and migrants and strengthen the human rights, differential, and gender approaches in the public policy cycle.

Trinidad and Tobago in general, and the Chaguanas Borough in particular, have legal and institutional instruments to address regular and irregular migration. However, it is important to improve the agility, coordination and adequate human, financial, technological, and logistical resources to meet the humanitarian, integration and socioeconomic stabilization demands of mixed migratory flows. It is especially necessary to strengthen human rights approaches with emphasis on the prevention of human trafficking, the prevention of xenophobia and the protection of migrants' labour rights. It is also necessary to deepen the gender and differential approaches in the design, implementation, and accountability of public policies for the care of people in conditions of human mobility together with the response to the demands of the host communities.

d. Strengthen spaces for citizen participation in the co-creation of the habitat and co-management of integration processes.

There are several mechanisms for citizen participation and a large number of social organizations that have not yet been convened to promote the construction of the right to the city. It is recommended that the Chaguanas Borough Corporation, along with the national government, increase and strengthen the spaces for citizen participation in the design, execution, and evaluation of public policies and that it also trains the officials in charge of these tasks and provide them with the necessary financial, organizational, and logistical resources. Likewise, it is recommended that a system of incentives and linkages with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) be created for the design and implementation of plans and programs for the socio-spatial and socioeconomic integration of refugees and migrants and host communities. For the above-mentioned purposes, it is pertinent to simplify or make more flexible the procedures and permits required to conduct undertakings and the formalization of CSOs and to promote strategies for citizen education for participation, promoting and disseminating the spaces for participation, their importance, participation and advocacy methodologies and social dialogue strategies focused on public accountability on the results of public management.

It is also worthwhile to boost social control over the results of local public management using open data and information and communication technologies; improve public accountability focused on the solution of social demands and the probity of public decisions; design and implement risk maps for the prevention of corruption in the implementation of public policies for the integration of migrants.

Likewise, it is pertinent that Chaguanas Borough Corporation implements the IntegrHá-bitat Network (designed by the aforementioned project), which empowers the centers that conduct programs to articulate the supply and demand of goods and services for community integration, with strategies for the social construction of the habitat focused on the integration of refugees and migrants.



e. Strengthening of institutions and mechanisms for the protection of rights and a culture of legality.

It is advisable to strengthen institutional spaces that can attend in a timely and effective manner to the defense, protection, and promotion of the rights of migrants and refugees, such as the Equal Opportunity Tribunal. In this sense, it is convenient to increase their budgets, the training of public servants, the improvement of their physical and technological infrastructures, the extension programs of their work in the neighbourhoods and the alliances with universities and the media. Likewise, it is advisable to deepen the strategies for the promotion of citizen culture for peaceful coexistence and compliance with the legal framework of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as for the exercise of civic duties and responsibilities.

5.2 Access to urban rights and services for refugees, migrants and host communities

As mentioned throughout this document, the issues surrounding public transportation together with the housing deficit and the high centralization of productive activities, render access to services and opportunities in the peripheral areas of the city, especially in communities such as Longdenville and Cunupia, difficult. The inhabitants of these communities do not have access to territorial prosperity in the same way as the inhabitants of consolidated and central communities such as Chaguanas Proper. With this understanding, it can be established that territorial prosperity is not distributed equitably. Furthermore, the country's governance structure makes it difficult for local governments to plan and execute agile and pertinent public policies to guide the development of their territory. It is worth reiterating that Chaguanas Borough Corporation requires greater autonomy and capacities in its governance, in order to have local instruments to transform the urban form and correct the problems related to the unequal distribution of prosperity.

a. On access to education and health care

These services are available, but the city needs to make progress in the following aspects: (i) improvement of access conditions, in particular, to overcome the language barrier, streamline and explain paperwork and procedures, generate conditions of spatial

distribution of the supply of these services, expand coverage, train officials and operators of services in quality care to users, make agreements with private sector entities and that provide these services, to facilitate-subsidize the access of migrants to these services; (ii) improvement of quality in health (deepening the provisions of the law of Regional Authorities Chapter 29: 05, section 6), to offer specialized services in particular for pregnant mothers, childhood and adolescence (sexual and reproductive health), and elderly and/or disabled persons, as well as for assistance for access to medicines; (iii) improvement of the quality and relevance of education, in particular to validate and/or certify studies completed in the country of origin, training programs in technology enabling them to perform income-generating arts and crafts, training in the language of the host country, linking education with private companies that generate decent employment.

b. On access to decent work.

It is advisable to make the existing mechanisms for the formalization of migration status more flexible, so that people in conditions of human mobility can count on guarantees for the exercise and protection of fundamental rights. This situation will allow refugees and migrants to formally deploy their knowledge, experience, and expertise to not only generate income for their subsistence but to contribute to the economic, social, and cultural development of Trinidad and Tobago. Likewise, it is recommended that the respective national and local authorities improve their action protocols to protect labour rights, such as access to social security, fair working hours, prohibition of child labour, recognition of social benefits, etc. Improving transportation conditions in settlements such as Cunupia and Longdenville, where there are high densities of refugees and migrants, will facilitate access to work and other urban services that will also benefit the host communities living there. Another recommendation has to do with the design of incentives for private enterprise to generate jobs for migrants, for which some tax exemptions and public recognition can be considered.

c. On access to adequate housing.

Adequate housing is a right that opens the door to the enjoyment of multiple rights: security, dignified life, education and health, privacy, family, etc. Access to this right can occur, among other modalities, through the provision of housing, rental housing, shared housing, and housing in transitional shelters. Usually, migrants choose to rent housing for short periods of time, given their economic limitations and their own condition of human mobility. It is therefore advisable that the Chaguanas Borough Corporation, along with the relevant Ministries and CSOs, design and implement a public policy to facilitate migrants' access to rental housing, for which it can create a trust fund to serve as a backup and guarantee of compliance with contractual obligations, generate incentives for people who offer rental housing to migrants (for example, subsidies for housing improvement), and facilitate the option of purchasing rental housing through compensated subsidies. To improve habitat conditions, it is advisable to design and implement a comprehensive improvement program for the Longdenville and Enterprise settlements, including, among other actions, housing improvement, access to and formalization of public utilities, more quality public spaces, social infrastructure, and relocation of housing in areas of unmitigable risk.

On the other hand, it is advisable to strengthen the offices in charge of handling citizen complaints and claims, in order to safeguard the rights of housing users and prevent the occurrence of illegal evictions in violation of due process.

d. Protection of rights and access to justice.

As already mentioned, it is necessary to strengthen local institutions responsible for the defense, protection, and promotion of the rights of refugees and migrants and vulnerable or at-risk populations, since they do not have adequate human, technical, financial, and organizational resources, including access to documentation and regularization of Venezuelan refugees and migrants who arrived after the 2019 registration process. Therefore, we reiterate the need to strengthen municipal institutions in charge of dealing with social tensions and the defense and protection of human rights. In the same way, it is

also recommended that employers be monitored and controlled to ensure that they respect the labor rights of refugees and migrants, with emphasis on the prevention of abuses and exploitation. Alliances with universities and international cooperation agencies can be oriented to improve attention to specific cases, the empowerment of public servants and social leaders, and institutional reorganization when required.

e. Actions in the areas of security, peaceful coexistence, and social cohesion.

It is desirable that the Chaguanas Borough Corporation to increase safe public spaces. Adequate public space is essential for integration and building social trust, as well as for the orderly conduct of community enterprises. In this sense, it is particularly important that the Borough instantly design and implement a strategic project to improve the qualitative and quantitative supply of public space, with the participation of other social actors such as CSOs, universities and private enterprise.

Likewise, it is advisable to increase actions to promote opportunities for young people who neither study nor work, both refugees, migrants and host communities. In this sense, it is also advisable to promote and empower social organizations of refugees and migrants, as well as host communities, and to stimulate joint actions to benefit the entire city and the settlements they inhabit. Furthermore, it is recommended to strengthen police training on human mobility, coexistence, and access to rights for refugees and migrants, and prevention of xenophobia.

Access to justice, the culture of legality and the instruments for dealing with social tensions that were already mentioned, must be complemented with the proper handling of news about criminal actions committed by a few migrants, which, due to poor handling, generate adverse and generalized reactions against migrants in public opinion.

f. The dynamizing and facilitating role of universities and civil society in the integration process.

In order to stimulate the participation of the different strata of society in the integration of migrants in a prosperous urban environment, it is advisable to stimulate the linkage of universities through activities to promote economic, social, and cultural innovation, student internships, studies and theses documenting the challenges and recommendations for the city to benefit from migratory flows, technical debates to qualify reflection and action for integration, etc. In the same way, we reiterate the recommendation to strengthen migrant CSOs through training, making migrant formalization requirements more flexible, contracting mechanisms for the provision of certain services or the execution of certain works, improvement of spaces for social dialogue, etc., and to generate some incentives. It is advisable to link the universities to the creation or habilitation of spaces or centers for integration, in the communities that suffer segregation, as well as to the validation of academic certifications of migrants.

5.3 Spatial integration in the territory

In the Chaguana Borough there is a tendency to focus on the integration of refugees, migrants and host communities from a sectoral perspective. That is, in terms of the specific provision of services such as health, education, housing, employment, etc., without taking into account the social, economic, cultural, physical, and historical dynamics of the territories in a comprehensive manner. The territorial development approach not only serves refugees and migrants, but also the host communities and provides answers and solutions to pre-existing social demands, while promoting the construction of equity and the reduction of different forms of segregation.

a. Implementation of the Urban Inclusion Marker.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Planning, the Chaguana Borough Corporation should implement and complement the Urban Inclusion Marker designed by the "Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity" project with the leadership of UN-Habitat, which will allow the Borough to have a "dashboard" with spatialized information on the opportunities and challenges of cities for the integration of com-

munities and territories that are in conditions of socio-spatial and cultural segregation. In this way, the city will have a georeferenced information system suitable for the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policies aimed at addressing the supply and demand of services and goods associated with access to economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as the exercise of public freedoms and citizen coexistence.

b. On the regulation of urban land use and management

The Chaguana Borough Corporation and relevant national Ministries should review and update its land use plans and other urban development planning instruments with a human mobility approach. For these purposes, it is pertinent to follow the guidelines of the New Urban Agenda. "This requires first examining how migration conditions and is conditioned by other sectoral policies - such as employment and productive activities, access to basic services, planning of public spaces or disaster risk management. Consequently, it requires adapting or developing new policies, strategies or programs that respond to the needs of people in human mobility as participants in their host communities and as agents of development".

These legal and planning instruments are essential to enable land use and other actions that make access to adequate housing and overcoming socio-spatial segregation, increasing density, and controlling urban sprawl, as well as providing public spaces suitable for integration and for the transition from informal economic activities (but which generate income for the poorest people, including migrants) to formal activities.

INCLUSIVE URBAN GOVERNANCE	SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND EQUITY	FAIR SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of autonomy and responsibility at the municipal level to respond to the urban and town planning needs of its area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve laws so that there are better protections for all people on Trinidad and Tobago land, whether in the short, medium, or long term, including for victims of GBV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal offices should have a greater voice in the territorial development of their area. This feedback should include the participation of their residents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving refugee and migration strategies, as well as border control policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies should be implemented to encourage family reunification for RV&M who have family members in the country (child citizen, documented VR&M, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment opportunities should not be concentrated in one area of the municipality and the distribution of public health services should be more equitable.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion as defined in the Vision 2030 strategy and the draft local government policy should be expanded to include refugees and migrants who will live in the country/municipality in the long and medium term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social safety nets to which VR&M must contribute, and from which they can benefit (regardless of whether they stay in the short, medium, or long term). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the national level, there are no guidelines for the inclusion of R+M in the professional development sectors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of possible human trafficking cases and the municipality of Chaguanas as hot spot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving protection against xenophobia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate water and electricity coverage, regular waste disposal services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include civil society groups in the urban governance process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to basic rights such as education and medical care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve mitigation strategies by reducing usability to flooding and high winds as a problem for adequate shelter.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving policies regulating rental housing, housing conditions and non-discriminatory practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement policies that mitigate flooding and high winds and the difficulty in accessing public health care, thereby improving the ability to take care of oneself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access to Internet services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to and regular maintenance of public and common assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the means by which VR&M can have their academic qualifications recognized and accredited, so that they can use their skills and experience to contribute to the development of the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and update data sources to reflect a more accurate picture of Trinidad and Tobago development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve and update data sources to reflect a more accurate picture of Trinidad and Tobago development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing language-based barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is necessary to improve and modernize an inefficient and unaffordable public transportation system.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional support for the participation of all sectors of society in the development of the Trinidad and Tobago. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs and NGOs and international organizations are willing to fill the gaps where the State cannot/will not 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to documentation for both adults and children 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to food and to better quality food 	



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