CYPRUS FACT SHEET

8 February 2024

From Jan-Dec 2023 some **11,617 persons** applied for asylum in the Republic of Cyprus (RoC).

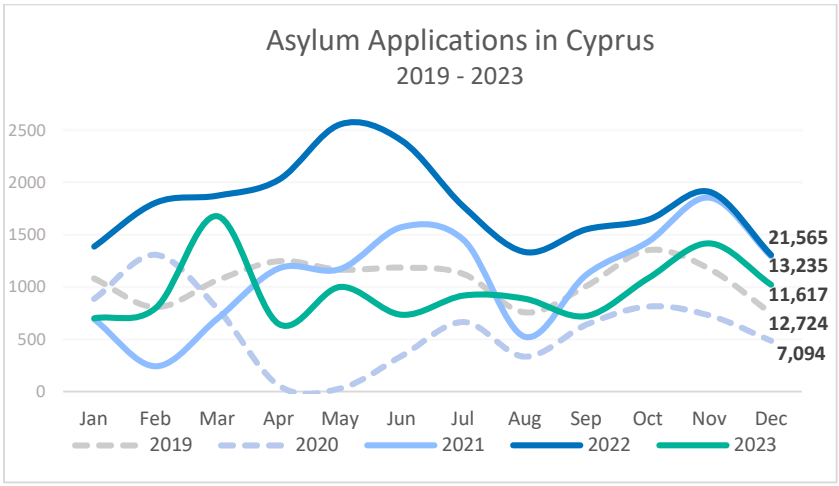
As at end December, some **26,599 persons'** applications are pending decision at the Asylum Service. Another **5,073 persons'** appeals are pending at the International Protection Administrative Court (IPAC).

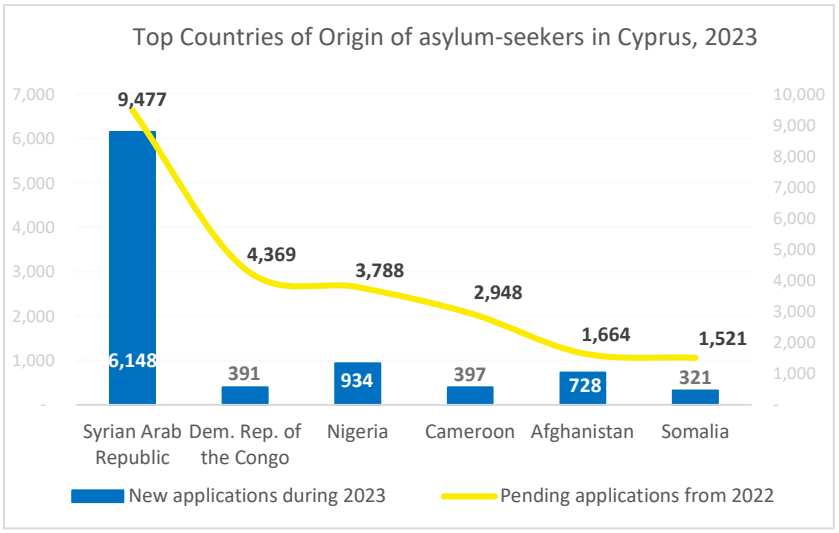
There are some **19,498 persons** currently registered as international protection beneficiaries in the RoC, of whom **3,265** have been granted refugee status, and **16,233** are subsidiary protection beneficiaries.

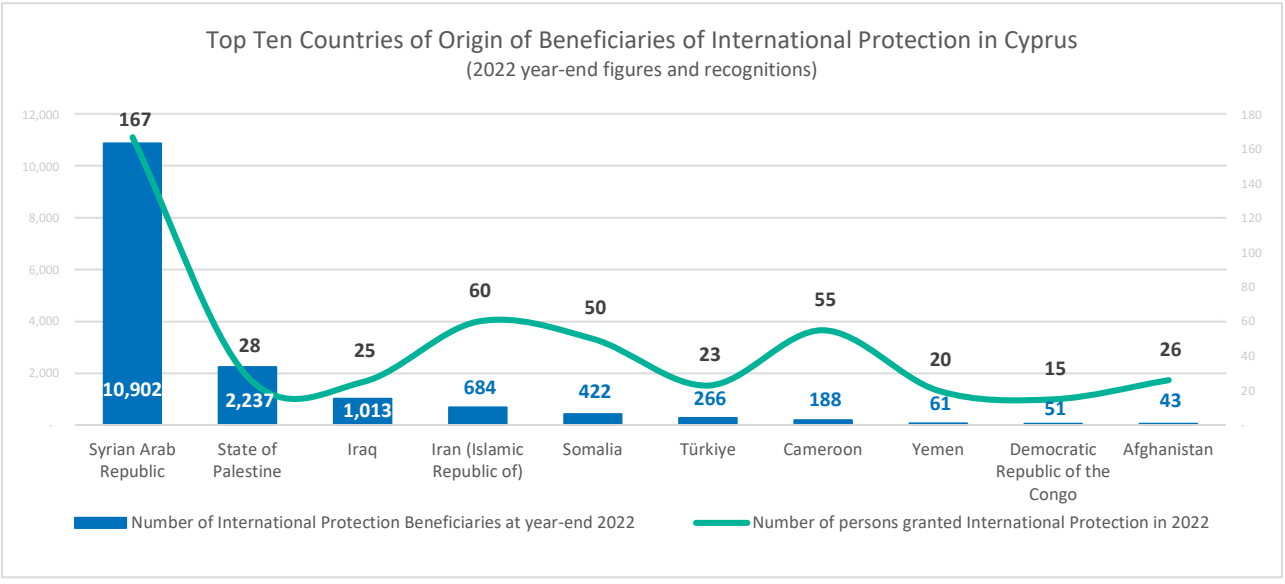
Some **138 refugees** are under UNHCR's mandate in the northern part of Cyprus.

In 2022 some **925 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)** applied for asylum in the RoC. From Jan-Nov 2023, some **380 UASC** applied for asylum, per EASO data, while a total of **1,015 UASC** were registered as having arrived at Pournara in 2023.

Up until 14th Jan 2024, some **20,127 refugees from Ukraine** have applied for Temporary Protection in the RoC.







Key Priorities

- **Protection monitoring:** UNHCR promotes refugee and asylum-seekers' rights, particularly access to asylum procedures, reception conditions and detention.
- **Promoting legislative amendments:** UNHCR provides recommendations on relevant draft laws to ensure compliance with international and EU standards.
- **Reinforcing asylum examination procedures:** Through legal recommendations, UNHCR supports the authorities in further strengthening their refugee status determination procedures to ensure sound decision-making.
- **UASC Monitoring:** UNHCR advocates, and works with national authorities, for timely and accurate identification of UASC to secure access to national child protection systems and procedures including documentation and family reunification.
- **Capacity building:** UNHCR provides training to government and civil society stakeholders on key protection issues including refugee rights, reception conditions and child protection.
- **Local Integration:** UNHCR makes recommendations for social, economic, and cultural integration of refugees, and promotes, among others, naturalisation, long-term residency, and family reunification.
- **Statelessness:** UNHCR promotes accession to the Statelessness Conventions, to which Cyprus has not acceded.
- **Raising public awareness:** UNHCR engages in public information and media relations; education activities; World Refugee Day and other events; campaigns and constituency-building.
- **Communication with Communities:** UNHCR engages in communication with refugee communities through the Refugee Outreach Volunteers Programme.

Working with Partners

- **The Government of the Republic of Cyprus** is UNHCR's key partner in ensuring the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, in accordance with EU and International standards. UNHCR works with Parliamentary committees; the Offices of the Ombudsman and the Child Commissioner; diplomatic missions and the media, among others.
- **Civil Society Engagement** is fundamental to UNHCR's work in supporting refugee and asylum-seeking communities in Cyprus. UNHCR is partnered with the **Cyprus Refugee Council** and the **Refugee Rights Association**.

UNHCR Presence in Cyprus

1 Office in Nicosia; 1 International Representative; 16 Staff.

Data

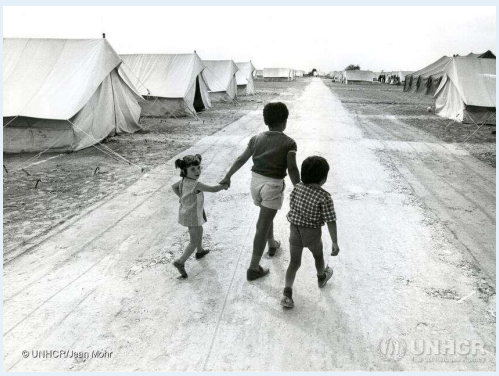
Cyprus Statistics | https://www.unhcr.org/cy/publications/

Operational Portal | Mediterranean Situation
https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean

Operational Portal | Ukraine Situation
https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine

Wasif is a stateless Palestinian who fled from Iraq. A mathematician, academic and father, he hopes to attain Cypriot nationality to settle a safer future for his family.

UNHCR Historically in Cyprus



- UNHCR first arrived in Cyprus in 1974 to coordinate the international humanitarian aid to displaced persons in both communities.
- By 1998 the work of relief assistance for internally displaced Cypriots was handed to other UN development agencies.
- With the increase of refugee arrivals in 1998, UNHCR assumed responsibility for registration and processing asylum applications.
- In 2000 the Government of the Republic of Cyprus adopted its first national refugee legislation and in 2002 took over from UNHCR the responsibility for asylum adjudication.