

# Greece

September 2023

UNHCR supports national authorities in ensuring a favourable **protection space** for forcibly displaced and stateless people in Greece, and provides information on rights, procedures and obligations.

UNHCR assists refugees and asylum-seekers, including with **legal aid and referrals to specialized services**, while supporting the government with advice and expertise on asylum, reception and **durable solutions**.

Through livelihoods employability programmes, vocational projects, job fairs and upskilling projects, UNHCR supported **390** refugees **access employment** in the first half of 2023.

## POPULATION STATISTICS

Refugees	<b>169,407</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>17,828</b>
Stateless people	<b>4,488</b>
Others of concern	<b>3,638</b>

### Top three countries of origin\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Rep.	<b>43,220</b>	Afghanistan	<b>2,039</b>
Afghanistan	<b>36,340</b>	Egypt	<b>1,807</b>
Ukraine	<b>24,954</b>	Pakistan	<b>1,774</b>

\* Source: UNHCR Refugee Data Finder platform as of end December 2022. The refugee population represents people recognized as refugees by Greece including those under temporary protection, while the actual number present in Greece may be lower.

## UPDATE ON THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM (GRF)



### 13 pledges registered for Greece

during the first GRF in 2019 in the areas of **education, solutions, responsibility sharing, and sports and recreation activities**.

### Enhancing Refugee Self-Reliance

UNHCR collaborates with 11 major municipalities across Greece to support their promoting refugee integration. This involves strengthening municipal expertise and work towards including refugees into municipal service provision. UNHCR also works with NGO which promote refugee **employability**, provide language classes and support document issuance, aiming towards refugee inclusion in the labour market. Additionally, partner NGOs connect refugees with employment opportunities in the private sector and offer vocational trainings.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Legal Assistance

UNHCR supported **2,360** refugees and asylum-seekers through **legal assistance** so far in 2023.

### Helpline

UNHCR reached some **1,460** people through the **protection Helpline**. Callers predominantly contacted UNHCR for legal advice, information about asylum procedures and accommodation.

### Street Outreach Initiative

Since March 2023, UNHCR has been assisting refugees and asylum-seekers in central Athens by identifying needs, providing information and facilitating referrals to specialized services when needed. The key challenges refugees face include **lack of housing**, lack of **basic necessities**, especially amongst families with children, and limited access to information and **legal aid** for asylum procedures.



### More Than a Job – a Warm Embrace for Refugees

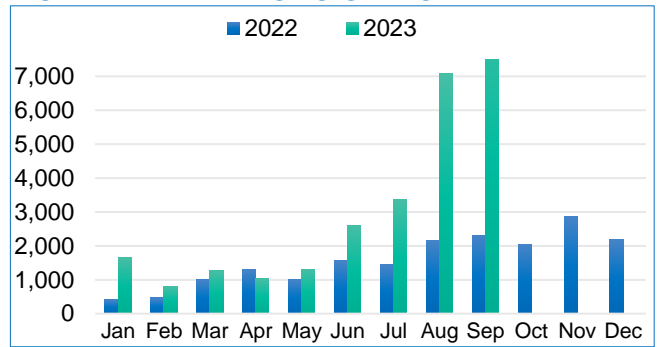
Every day at the UNHCR Protection Hub, located in the Closed Controlled Access Centre on Lesbos, Greece, UNHCR aims to offer solutions for asylum-seekers and refugees in need of assistance.

You can read more [here](#).

## Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR utilizes its dedicated Helpline and field presence to identify and refer people to specialized services in a timely manner.
- **People with specific needs:** Through referrals to specialized partners, UNHCR connects vulnerable refugees and those most at risk – including people living with chronic illnesses, survivors of GBV, and unaccompanied and separated children with relevant support services. UNHCR also links refugees with disabilities to the national social protection system to benefit from existing safety nets.
- **Inclusion:** Working with refugee communities, UNHCR identifies refugees' skills and experience while mapping intentions and needs. Together with the Government, NGO partners, the private sector and municipalities, UNHCR connects refugees to jobs and helps them acquire documentation necessary to live and work in Greece. UNHCR also offers advisory support to national authorities to avoid administrative hurdles hindering refugee inclusion.
- **Legal aid:** UNHCR offers personalized legal aid through partners to ensure refugees and asylum-seekers have unhindered access to their rights.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR engages with relevant authorities and actors to address key issues impacting refugees and asylum-seekers' access to rights—including access to territory and asylum procedures—to catalyse legal and policy reforms.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR strives to raise awareness of the refugees' plight among the host population, foster solidarity and cultivate partnerships with the private sector to mobilize wider support.
- **Institutional strengthening:** UNHCR deploys staff and provides technical advice and expertise to strengthen State systems and expertise on asylum, reception and durable solutions.

## MONTHLY ARRIVALS TO GREECE



Source: [Mediterranean Situation Data Portal](#)

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works primarily with the National Government, municipalities as well as EU institutions, UN agencies, I/NGOs, refugees, local communities and the private sector.

## Statelessness

- Greece has acceded to the 1954 Statelessness Convention but has yet to accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- UNHCR has been working with the Government with a view to establish a statelessness determination procedure, data collection and issue legislation on citizenship. In cooperation with the municipality of Athens, UNHCR also provides classes and support to those preparing to sit the Greek citizenship exams.

## UNHCR Presence in Greece

### Staff:

104 National Staff  
 10 International Staff

### Offices:

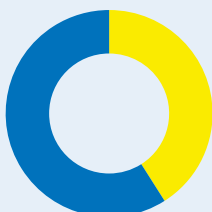
1 Country Office in Athens  
 7 Offices in Lesbos, Samos, Kos, Chios, Evros, Thessaloniki and Athens

## Financial information (September 2023)

**Financial requirements**  
**\$48.5 M**

**Funde 41%**  
**\$19.7 M**

**Funding gap 59%**  
**\$28.8 M**



UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked, and earmarked funding:

**Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America**

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