

Greece

February 2025

UNHCR works with the authorities to ensure a favourable **protection space** and developing **sustainable responses** for refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people.

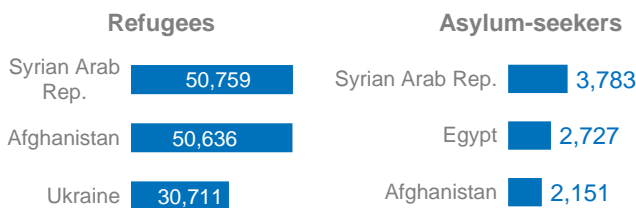
UNHCR supports asylum-seekers and refugees with **provision of information** on rights and responsibilities, **counselling, legal aid, referrals to services** and **livelihoods programmes**.

UNHCR offers legal advice and technical expertise to the Government on **asylum, reception** and **durable solutions**, including on the implementation of the EU Pact.

POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024)*

Refugees*	214,574
Asylum-seekers	20,887
Stateless	3,743

Top three countries of origin



*Source: *UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report 2024 and UNHCR data finder*. This number refers to all people recognized as refugees by Greece, including those under temporary protection, while the actual number currently present in Greece is estimated to be lower. The figure on stateless is based on the 2021 census results.

Protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes

Decent work, economic & financial inclusion

UNHCR collaborates with authorities, NGOs and the private sector to support the inclusion of refugees from the onset of their displacement. Since January 2022, over **13,400** refugees and asylum-seekers have received employability services and almost **3,500** have been hired through UNHCR programmes. In addition, **2,450** adult asylum-seekers regularly attended language classes country-wide, more than **270** attended vocational training programmes and around **65** refugees received individualized entrepreneurship support towards setting up their own businesses.

Reuniting refugee families after years apart

As part of UNHCR's efforts to find durable solutions for refugees, it supports family reunification procedures for refugees. Reuniting families enhances integration prospects and aids in healing trauma from conflict. Since August 2021, UNHCR, in partnership with the NGO Greek Council for Refugees, has assisted **290** family reunification cases, reuniting **145** individuals with their families in Greece.

HIGHLIGHTS

Legal assistance

In 2024, UNHCR supported **4,777** refugees and asylum-seekers with **legal assistance** on asylum procedures and access to rights.

Protection Helpdesk

In 2024, UNHCR's Protection Helpdesk provided **information and counselling** to **2,575** individuals on legal matters, healthcare support, accommodation/shelter and access to employment.

Urban Outreach

In 2024, UNHCR reached over **1,350** refugees and asylum-seekers in urban Attica, 23 per cent of whom women and 12 per cent children. The main **challenges** reported include precarious living conditions, risks associated with different forms of violence affecting women (including sexual violence), access to healthcare and a lack of opportunities for inclusion.



Binta (R), refugee from Sierra Leone, and her job counsellor, Mary (L) at the Blue Refugee Centre. © UNHCR/Socrates Baltagiannis

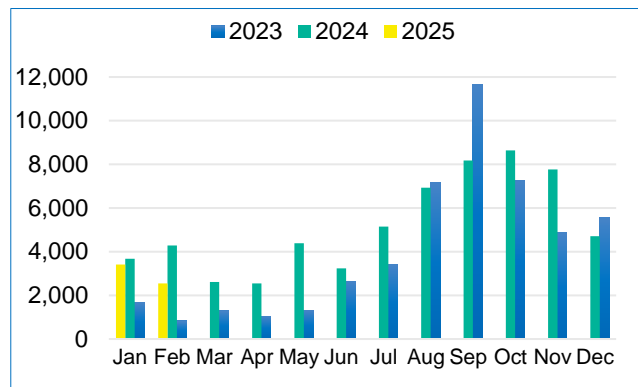
JOB COUNSELLING BECOMES A SOURCE OF HOPE AND STRENGTH: BINTA'S JOURNEY

Binta secured employment after receiving support by the Blue Refugee Centre (BRC) livelihoods programme, run by SolidarityNow in partnership with UNHCR. "I took my first steps towards integration in the country after getting in touch with the Centre. They introduced me to the job search process, and now I feel more independent. They supported me psychologically, giving me the strength to stand on my own feet," Binta says.

Key Priorities

- Access to territory and asylum:** UNHCR is present at arrival points providing support to asylum-seekers. UNHCR offers its recommendations to authorities on procedural safeguards and on protection-centred and rights-based border management systems.
- Information, counselling and referrals:** UNHCR provides information, protection counselling and refers asylum-seekers and refugees to specialized services. Up-to-date information is also made available at the UNHCR Greece [HELP website](#).
- People with specific needs:** UNHCR connects asylum-seekers and refugees requiring extra protection and help - including victims and survivors of different forms of violence affecting women and children (including sexual violence, human trafficking), unaccompanied and separated children, or those with mental and physical disabilities - with services and the national social protection system.
- Legal assistance:** UNHCR offers legal aid through its NGO partners to ensure refugees and asylum-seekers have unhindered access to their rights.
- Inclusion:** UNHCR offers advisory support on the inclusion of refugees and with its partners supports refugees' self-reliance through employability services, and educational and upskilling opportunities.
- Advocacy:** UNHCR advocates with the authorities and other stakeholders to address key issues impacting refugees and asylum-seekers' access to rights, with the aim to catalyse legal policy and practice reforms.
- Institutional strengthening:** UNHCR provides its expertise to strengthen the Greece's asylum, reception and inclusion systems, including through deployed staff. UNHCR supports the Ministry of Migration and Asylum through a technical support project focusing on legal reforms for reception and integration conditions for unaccompanied children and youth. UNHCR also offers its expertise to the Ministry on the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

MONTHLY ARRIVALS TO GREECE



Source: *Mediterranean Situation Data Portal*

Working with Partners

- UNHCR collaborates with various stakeholders for creating a more inclusive environment for refugees. This includes working with central and local governments to provide support and advice, partnering with NGOs to deliver services to asylum-seekers and refugees and engaging with refugee communities to identify protection needs and develop responses. Additionally, UNHCR mobilizes solutions through the private sector, while raising public awareness and fostering solidarity within the wider community.

Statelessness

- Greece has acceded to the 1954 UN Statelessness Convention but has yet to accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. UNHCR advises the Government on stateless determination procedures, citizenship legislation, data collection mechanisms and supports municipalities in preparing candidates for Greek citizenship exams.

UNHCR Presence in Greece

Staff:

131 National staff
 (including affiliates)
 8 International staff

Offices:

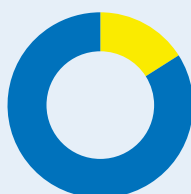
1 Country office in Athens
 8 Field offices in Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Kos, Leros, Evros, Athens and Thessaloniki

Financial Information* (31 January 2025)

Financial requirements

\$39.0 M

Funding gap 92%
 \$35.8 M



Funded 8%
 \$3.2 M

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UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.