BULGARIA

Operational Update:
March 2025

UNHCR supports the government to provide **essential aid and protection services** to refugees and asylum seekers, with a focus on facilitating **socioeconomic inclusion** and **social cohesion**.

UNHCR assists Bulgaria to strengthen its asylum system in line with international and EU standards. In the second half of the year, following the release of the European Commission's common implementation plan,

UNHCR focuses its support to the Government for the development **national implementation plan** for the **EU Asylum and Migration Pact.**

KEY FIGURES

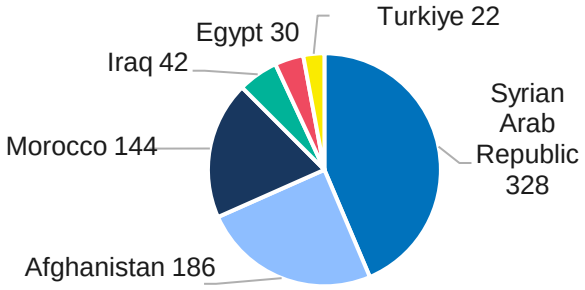
78,511
Refugees from Ukraine in Bulgaria with valid registration for temporary protection by 31 March 2025

832
Asylum new applications in 2025

111
Unaccompanied children applying for asylum in 2025

33
Unaccompanied children with valid temporary protection as of March 2025

ASYLUM SEEKERS: COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



Total asylum applications registered in 2025: **832**
(State Agency for Refugees data)

SERVICES PROVIDED IN MARCH 2025

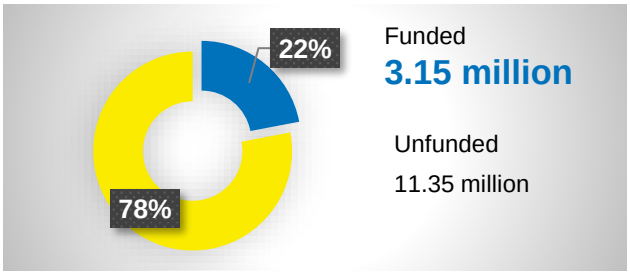
788 people received **legal assistance**

425 people benefitted from **livelihoods and economic inclusion services**

357 people received **mental health and psychosocial support services**

FUNDING: USD 14.5 MILLION

(Received as of 31 March 2025)



TP REGISTRATIONS IN BULGARIA BY REGION

Map showing the districts where TP holders are located

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

UNHCR met with the Speaker of the National Assembly of Bulgaria, H.E. Natalia Kiselova, to discuss refugee protection and future cooperation with the parliament.
@ National Assembly of Bulgaria

Meeting with Speaker of the National Assembly of Bulgaria Natalia Kiselova

On 17 March, UNHCR met with the Speaker of the National Assembly, H.E. Natalia Kiselova, to present its work in Bulgaria and explore future cooperation with Parliament. Discussions focused on unaccompanied and separated children, guardianship access, integration challenges, and public attitudes toward refugees. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to continued dialogue and collaboration.

Bulgaria Extends Humanitarian Support Program for Displaced Ukrainians

The National Operational Headquarters, led by Deputy Prime Minister Atanas Zafirov, has proposed a one-month extension of the Humanitarian Support Program for displaced people from Ukraine with temporary protection, now set to continue until May 1, 2025. The Government announced that during this period a working group will be drafting Humanitarian-Integration Programme. UNHCR was invited to join the working group that will adopt the new programme.

UNHCR Strengthens Collaboration with National Statistics Institute

UNHCR met with the President of the National Statistics Institute to discuss ongoing collaboration and finalize a proposed Memorandum of Understanding aimed at strengthening data collection for evidence-based policies supporting refugees, stateless people, and other vulnerable groups. The partnership builds on successful joint work, including the Socio-Economic Inclusion Surveys and preparations for a new survey on statelessness in Bulgaria.

UNHCR PRESENCE IN BULGARIA

Staff:
33 National Staff
11 International Staff

Office:
1 Country Office in Sofia

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to global UNHCR programmes:

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For more information, please visit the Operational Data Portal for Bulgaria.

In Bulgaria we protect the people forced to flee together with:

БЪЛГАРСКИ ЧЕРВЕН КРЪСТ
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