BULGARIA

Operational Update:
April 2025

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

UNHCR assists Bulgaria to strengthen its asylum system in line with international and EU standards. Following the release of the European Commission's common implementation plan, and the submission of Bulgaria's national implementation plan UNHCR focuses its support to the Government for the preparation of the implementation **of** the **EU Asylum and Migration Pact.**

KEY FIGURES

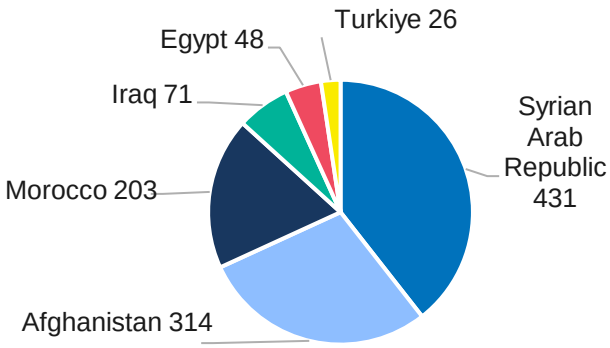
60,257
Refugees from Ukraine in Bulgaria with valid registration for temporary protection by 15 May 2025

1,203
Asylum new applications in 2025

172
Unaccompanied children applying for asylum in 2025

33
Unaccompanied children with valid temporary protection as of April 2025

ASYLUM SEEKERS: COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



Total asylum applications registered in 2025: **1,203**
(State Agency for Refugees data)

SERVICES PROVIDED IN APRIL 2025

465 people received **legal assistance**

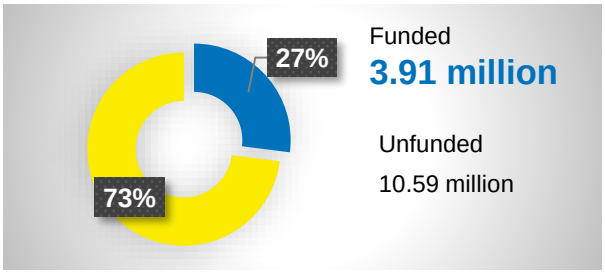
673 people benefitted from **livelihoods and economic inclusion services**

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

25 Feedback & Complaint form **submissions received**, of which **11 were responded**

FUNDING: USD 14.5 MILLION

(Received as of 30 April 2025)



TP REGISTRATIONS IN BULGARIA BY REGION

Map showing the districts where TP holders are located

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

UNHCR Representative and the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Borislav Gutsanov, met to advance joint efforts on refugee inclusion.

@ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

UNHCR and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy Strengthen Cooperation on Refugee Integration

UNHCR met with the Minister of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) to discuss integration of displaced people, child protection and care for unaccompanied children, social support for vulnerable groups, and refugee inclusion in the labour market. MLSP announced the finalization of the new Program for Humanitarian Support and Integration of Displaced Persons from Ukraine granted Temporary Protection in the Republic of Bulgaria, with funding for language training and digital skills. UNHCR offered technical support to address key challenges such as language barriers and limited access to services.

UNHCR Submits Comments to Strengthen Bulgaria's Draft Humanitarian Programme for People with Temporary Protection

UNHCR submitted detailed comments on Bulgaria's draft Humanitarian Support and Integration Programme for persons with temporary protection. UNHCR proposed extending accommodation support to 90 days, introducing an appeal mechanism, and ensuring access to food, housing, and municipal services. The Office also called for a broader definition of vulnerability, non-discriminatory access to assistance, and flexibility for temporary returns to Ukraine, aligning the programme with EU and international protection standards.

Bulgarian Municipalities Join Community of Practice on Access to Funding

Three Bulgarian municipalities and municipal organisations took part in the inaugural meeting of the Community of Practice established by UNHCR Regional Bureau Europe. Burgas, Sofia's Sredets district, and the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria were represented at the session, which focused on improving access to European Development Bank funding. UNHCR plans to facilitate similar gatherings for Bulgarian municipalities in the future.

UNHCR PRESENCE IN BULGARIA

Staff:
32 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:

Australia | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Liechtenstein | Norway | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Private donors

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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: