

Greece

28 February 2022

In the 2021 UNHCR-led inter-agency **Participatory Assessment** refugees offered recommendations on how to overcome obstacles in reaching

self-reliance, prevent **GBV** risks and strengthen **community** networks The National Integration Strategy is a positive step towards refugees' **integration**.

UNHCR works with the State to create favourable conditions by realizing projects with refugees, locals, Municipalities, and the private sector.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	112,022
Asylum-seekers	49,397
Other of concern	4,705

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	38,496	Afghanistan	14,682
Afghanistan	25,188	Syria	4,297
Iraq	12,657	Pakistan	4,138

Data source: UNHCR [Refugee Data Finder platform](#). The refugee population of concern represents people recognized as refugees by Greece, while the actual number present in Greece may be lower.

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR works with the authorities to overcome practical obstacles that hinder the roll-out of vaccination and ensure it is accessible to all.

Inclusion: The Greek Government has included all third country nationals and stateless persons, regardless of legal status or residence, in the national vaccination plan.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR works with communities and the Government to increase awareness about the pandemic and the importance of vaccination.

Health: The vaccination rate among the refugee population in Greece has reached 38 per cent (Ministry of Migration and Asylum official data as 26 December 2021). UNHCR supports Greece's COVID-19 response by providing hygiene items and personal protective equipment.

HIGHLIGHTS

2,000

refugees and asylum-seekers received **legal assistance** from July to December 2021 and **5,600** in 2021.

1,650

requests reached UNHCR's **Helpline** from July to December 2021 and **4,400** in 2021.

1,600

unaccompanied children received help thanks to the national tracing mechanism established in April 2021 by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum with the support of UNHCR.

1,100

refugees received **psychosocial support** by trained refugees and a dedicated Helpline in 2021.

From the fear of loneliness to family safety

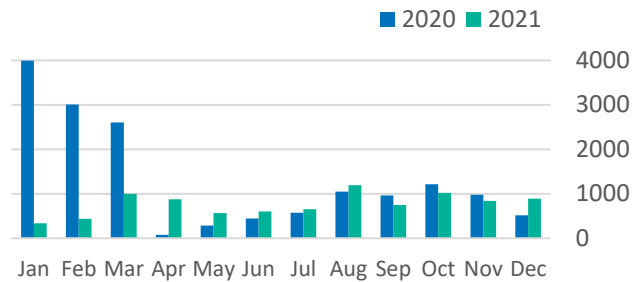


Nidal's journey from Syria took a toll on his physical and mental health. The legal assistance he received afterwards changed his life and helped him reunite with his family. You may read the rest of Nidal's story [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Institutional strengthening:** UNHCR pilots good practices, deploys staff and provides training and advice to help the State strengthen systems and expertise on asylum, reception and solutions for refugees.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR raises with the authorities and key actors critical matters that affect rights and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers so as to trigger legal and policy change.
- **Access to territory:** A key priority for UNHCR is that those seeking asylum can access the territory and fair procedures. In addition, UNHCR staff are at border locations to help new arrivals who need special assistance.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR offers quality assurance support to the asylum authorities and legal aid to asylum-seekers and refugees through its partners.
- **Integration:** UNHCR advises the State to ensure that refugees have access to rights and the right documentation; runs integration projects, including employability and livelihoods, and supports municipalities who lead in inclusion of refugees.
- **Persons with specific needs:** To those most at risk, such as unaccompanied children or survivors of sexual violence, UNHCR provides psychosocial support, emergency shelter and/or foster care.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR mobilizes refugees to create support networks, from addressing mental health issues to training youth to help their peers.
- **Relocation:** UNHCR supports the relocation of unaccompanied children and other vulnerable groups from Greece to other European States.

MONTHLY ARRIVALS TO GREECE



Working with Partners

- UNHCR supports the Government, which leads the refugee response, by working with State and EU institutions, municipalities, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, refugees and local communities.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR strives to raise awareness among the host population, foster understanding and solidarity with refugees; and cultivates partnerships to mobilize wider support.

Statelessness

- Greece has acceded to the 1954 Statelessness Convention but has yet to accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- UNHCR offers advice to Greece to establish a statelessness determination procedure. UNHCR also deploys staff and offers expertise to collect and review data and implement legislation on acquiring Greek citizenship.

UNHCR Presence in Greece

Staff:

145 National Staff

16 International Staff

Offices:

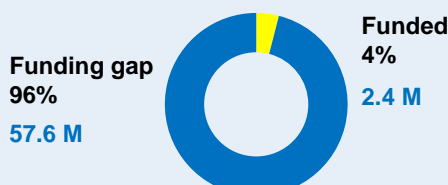
1 Country Office in Athens

6 Offices in Lesbos, Samos, Kos, Thessaloniki, Chios and Evros

Financial information (8 February 2022)

Financial requirements

USD 60 M



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UNHCR Greece is grateful to the donors to its 2022 programme:

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