

# Greece

February 2023

**Sea and land arrivals doubled in 2022**, compared to 2021. By the end of the year, more than 86,600 refugees and asylum-seekers were in Greece, with refugees from Ukraine representing 25 per cent.

UNHCR works with government counterparts, NGOs and the private sector to advance refugee **integration**. Through these efforts, at least **214** refugees found work in 2022.

In 2022, UNHCR continued to receive reports of **human rights violations** in the context of border management, and urged the authorities to conduct thorough investigations on all reported incidents.

## UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022\*

Refugees	<b>147,420</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>22,117</b>
Others of concern	<b>3,645</b>

### Top three countries of origin

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	<b>41,594</b>	Afghanistan	<b>3,407</b>
Afghanistan	<b>33,549</b>	Bangladesh	<b>2,794</b>
Ukraine	<b>16,882</b>	Pakistan	<b>2,600</b>

\*Source: UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#). The refugee population of concern represents people recognized as refugees by Greece, while the actual number present in Greece is lower.

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of mid-February, **20,955** refugees from Ukraine were registered for temporary protection in Greece.

**Coordination:** The Government of Greece coordinates the response to refugees from Ukraine with the support of UN agencies, NGOs, local authorities, civil society organizations, volunteers, and the private sector.

**Needs:** Long-term accommodation, employment, accessing healthcare and education are among the top concerns of Ukrainian refugees in Greece.

**Evidence-based advice:** UNHCR led an inter-agency assessment of the needs of Ukrainian refugees to help inform the Government and organizations on how to address them. This exercise has produced a [dynamic monitoring tool](#).

**Support to the most vulnerable:** UNHCR scaled up its support to protect children, prevent gender-based violence and trafficking and communicate with refugee communities.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**1,147**

refugees and asylum-seekers received **legal assistance**

**4,485 career coaching services**

were provided to **974** refugees and asylum-seekers through the UNHCR-supported ADAMA integration centre.

**1,980 unaccompanied children**

received help thanks to the national tracing mechanism established by Greece with the support of UNHCR. Of these, **1,125** were placed in safe care arrangements.

**1,184 requests for assistance**

reached UNHCR's protection helpline, mostly for legal advice, information about asylum procedures and accommodation.



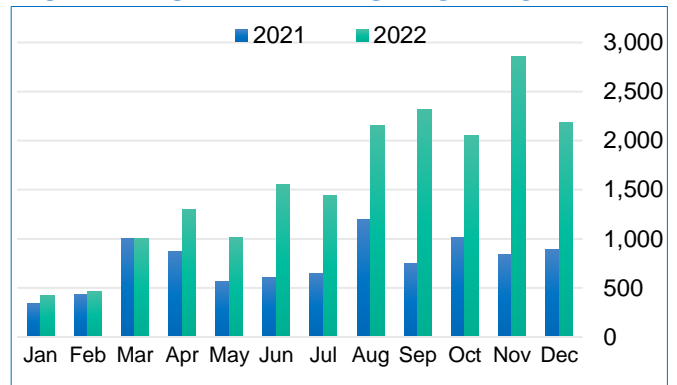
### AN OPEN CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION FOR REFUGEES

The HelpDesk provides support to asylum-seekers and refugees, by assisting refugee communities throughout Greece. In addition to responding to phone calls and emails, the team capitalize on technology and social media, and also meet refugee communities in person to offer information and support in the languages that refugees speak, such as Arabic, Farsi, Sorani, Russian, Ukrainian, Greek, English and French. You may read more: [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 durable solutions.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR raises with the authorities and key actors, critical matters that affect the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers, including access to territory and asylum procedures, to trigger legal and policy change.
- **Protection:** Through a dedicated helpline, and presence in 7 locations UNHCR monitors the situation of asylum-seekers and refugees, provides support with information sessions and makes interventions and referrals to services where they can get expert help.
- **Legal aid:** UNHCR offers individual legal aid through specialised partners to help asylum-seekers and refugees obtain equal access to their rights.
- **Integration:** Engaging with refugee communities, UNHCR identifies skills and experience, maps intentions and needs and works with the public and private sector to create livelihood opportunities.
- **Persons with specific needs:** UNHCR provides psychosocial support, emergency shelter and/or foster care persons most at risk, such as unaccompanied children, those living with chronic illnesses or survivors of sexual violence, UNHCR also links refugees with disabilities to the national social protection system and job offers.
- **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 SEA ARRIVALS IN GREECE



## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works 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 or solidarity with refugees, and cultivates partnerships with the private sector 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 recommends that Greece establish a statelessness determination procedure, deploys staff and offers expertise to collect and review data and implement legislation on acquiring Greek citizenship. In cooperation with the municipality of Athens, UNHCR also provides classes to those who wish to sit the Greek citizenship exams.

## UNHCR Presence in Greece

### Staff:

147 National Staff

11 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Country Office in Athens

7 Offices in Lesbos, Samos, Kos,

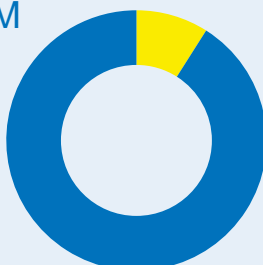
Thessaloniki, Chios, Evros and Athens

## Financial information (7 February 2023)

### Financial requirements

USD 48.5 M

Funding gap  
91%  
44 M



Funded  
9%  
4.5 M

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