

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 the Government, NGOs and businesses to advance refugee **integration**. Through these efforts, at least **214** refugees found work in 2022. Pilot projects, job fairs and a job-matching platform promise more opportunities for refugees in Greece in 2023.

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.

POPULATION OF CONCERN *

Refugees	147,420
Asylum-seekers	22,117
Others of concern	3,645

Top three countries of origin

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

*Source: UNHCR [Refugee Data Finder platform](#) as of end June 2022. 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 28 February, 21,741 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

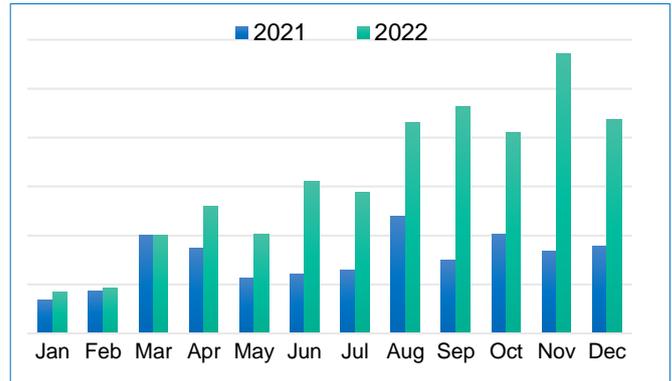


UNHCR's Protection Helpdesk provides support to asylum-seekers and refugees, by assisting individuals, groups and refugee communities throughout Greece. The team deploys different channels of communication to reach out and help as many refugees as possible. In addition to responding to phone calls and emails, they 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, so as to trigger legal and policy change.
- **Protection:** With staff at seven field locations and through a dedicated helpline, 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 personalized 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:** To those most at risk, such as unaccompanied children, those living with chronic illnesses or survivors of sexual violence, UNHCR provides psychosocial support, emergency shelter and/or foster care. 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 advice to Greece to 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:

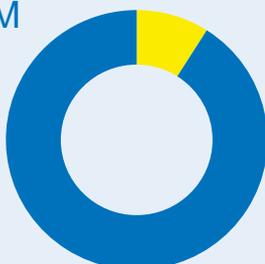
1 Country Office in Athens

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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UNHCR Greece is grateful to the donors to its 2023 programme:

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