GREECE FACT SHEET

Greece

September 2024

UNHCR works with national authorities to ensure a favourable protection space for forcibly displaced and stateless people in Greece.

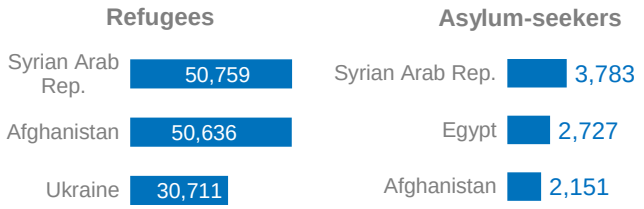
UNHCR provides information on rights and procedures and supports with the provision of legal aid, specialized services, referrals and integration support. UNHCR also offers advice and expertise to the Government on asylum, reception and durable solutions.

By August 2024, UNHCR had assisted over 10,000 refugees and asylum-seekers with livelihoods support through employability services, upskilling programmes, vocational projects and job fairs.

POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024)

Refugees*	**214,574**
Asylum-seekers	**20,887**
Others of concern	**2,427**

Top three countries of origin



Source: UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report 2024. The refugee population represents people recognized as refugees by Greece including those under temporary protection, while the actual number present in Greece may be lower.

Protecting forcibly displaced and stateless people in Greece

Livelihoods interventions

Since January 2022, UNHCR's livelihoods initiatives have helped over 3,300 refugees secure employment. In partnership with NGOs, UNHCR provides a wide range of employability services, such as career counselling, job matching, CV preparation, Greek language courses, vocational training, and legal support, while also working with the private sector to create sustainable job opportunities.

National Emergency Response Mechanism

The National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM), established by UNHCR, focuses on the identification, accommodation, protection and other support and transition to adulthood of unaccompanied children. This successful model, created by UNHCR and the Greek State, and now fully run by the State, has been adopted by the UNODC Working Group on Trafficking in Persons as a best practice recommendation in its final conclusions. NERM has received the European Crime Prevention Award as well as the 'Best Practice' award from Interreg Europe 2021-2027 program, and it is nominated for the 2024 European Social Services Awards.

HIGHLIGHTS

Legal Assistance

So far this year, UNHCR supported 3,058 refugees and asylum-seekers through **legal assistance**.

Protection Helpdesk

By August 2024, 1,616 individuals reached out to UNHCR's Protection Helpdesk seeking **information** on legal matters, medical support, accommodation, and assistance at border locations.

Urban Outreach Initiative

By August 2024, through its urban outreach activity, UNHCR approached 945 refugees and asylum-seekers in Athens, including 178 women and 84 children. Those reached reported **challenges** mainly in accessing legal employment, accommodation and legal assistance.

Naser fled his home country, Syria, searching for a place where he could live safely and play football. © UNHCR/Socrates Baltagiannis

Scoring a goal in inclusion: Naser's journey to adulthood through football

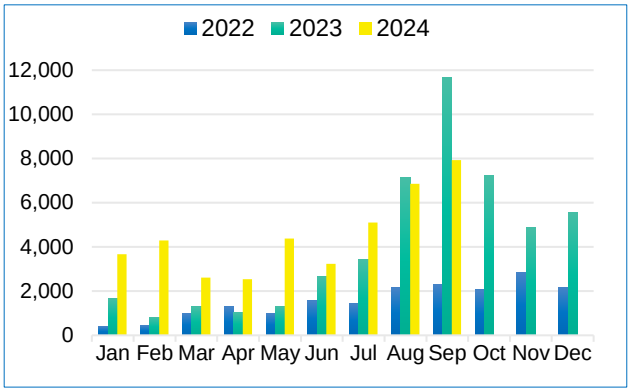
At the Municipal Stadium of Galatsi, boys train with the "Niki Galatsiou" football team. Naser, a forward, dribbles and scores. "Scoring feels amazing. Football is my greatest love," says Naser, who joined the team through a programme for young adult refugees, run by METAdrasi and UNHCR.

Read more here.

Key Priorities

- **Legal aid:** UNHCR offers personalized legal aid through partners to ensure refugees and asylum-seekers have unhindered access to their rights.
- **People with specific needs:** UNHCR connects vulnerable refugees, including those with chronic illnesses, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), and unaccompanied or separated children (UASC), with essential support services. Additionally, UNHCR integrates refugees with disabilities into national social protection systems, ensuring they benefit from available safety nets. Through its partnership with the municipality of Athens, UNHCR further enhances support for people with disabilities, broadening the scope and impact of these services.
- **Inclusion:** Working with refugee communities, UNHCR identifies refugees' skills and experience and maps intentions and needs. Together with the Government, NGO partners, the private sector and municipalities, UNHCR connects refugees to jobs and helps them acquire documentation necessary to live and work in Greece and provides support and guidance to employers wishing to hire refugees. UNHCR also offers advisory support to national authorities to overcome administrative hurdles hindering refugee inclusion.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR engages with authorities and other relevant actors to address key issues impacting refugees and asylum-seekers' access to rights, including access to territory and asylum procedures, and to catalyse legal and policy reforms.
- **Institutional strengthening:** UNHCR deploys staff and provides technical advice and specialized knowledge to strengthen state systems and expertise on all aspects relating to refugee protection and durable solutions.
- **Referrals:** UNHCR uses its dedicated Helpline and on-ground presence to identify and refer people to specialized services in a timely manner.

MONTHLY ARRIVALS TO GREECE



Source: Mediterranean Situation Data Portal

Working with Partners

- UNHCR Greece works with central and local Government as well as EU institutions, other UN agencies, I/NGOs, refugees, host communities and the private sector.

Statelessness

- Greece has acceded to the 1954 Statelessness Convention but has yet to accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- While the establishment of a statelessness determination procedure is still pending, UNHCR has advised the Government on data collection and legislation on citizenship. The Municipality of Athens, with the support of UNHCR, provides classes to those preparing to sit the Greek citizenship exams.

UNHCR Presence in Greece

Staff:

140 National Personnel

10 International Staff

Offices:

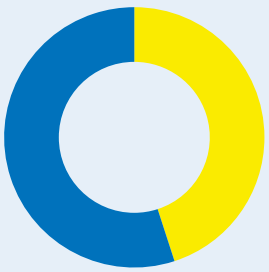
1 Country Office in Athens

8 Offices in Lesvos, Samos, Kos, Chios, Leros, Evros, Thessaloniki and Athens

Financial information (30 September 2024)

Financial requirements for 2024

$46.9 M



Funded 45%
$21.2 M

Funding gap 55%
$25.7 M

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UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.