BULGARIA

Operational Update:
June 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

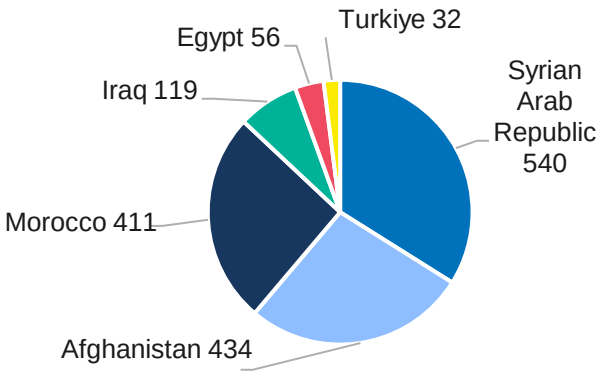
67,725
Refugees from Ukraine in Bulgaria with valid registration for temporary protection by 30 June 2025

1,742
Asylum new applications in 2025

224
Unaccompanied children applying for asylum in 2025

33
Unaccompanied children with valid temporary protection as of June 2025

ASYLUM SEEKERS: COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



Total asylum applications registered in 2025: **1,742**
(State Agency for Refugees data)

SERVICES PROVIDED IN JUNE 2025

205 people received **legal assistance**

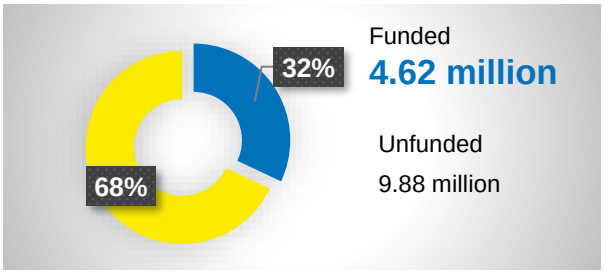
442 people benefitted from **livelihoods and economic inclusion services**

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

4 Feedback & Complaint form **submissions received**, of which **1 was responded**

FUNDING: USD 14.5 MILLION

(Received as of 30 June 2025)



TP REGISTRATIONS IN BULGARIA BY REGION

Map showing the districts where TP holders are located

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Refugees and local residents joined hands in Bulgaria's Rose Valley for UNHCR's "A Rose is a Rose" campaign, celebrating solidarity and cultural inclusion ahead of World Refugee Day.
@ UNHCR/Nikolay Stoykov

UNHCR Launches "A Rose is a Rose" Campaign to Foster Solidarity and Inclusion

To mark World Refugee Day 2025, UNHCR launched the "A Rose is a Rose" campaign with a symbolic rose harvest in Bulgaria's Rose Valley, bringing together refugees, locals, youth leaders, and civil society partners. The initiative celebrated solidarity, cultural inclusion, and refugees' contributions to Bulgarian society, while emphasizing social cohesion amid record global displacement.

UNHCR Opens New Compass Center in Harmanli to Enhance Refugee Inclusion and Support

UNHCR met with the Regional Governor of Haskovo to discuss the newly opened Compass Protection and Inclusion Center in Harmanli, home to Bulgaria's largest reception and registration center. The Governor welcomed the initiative, highlighting its role in fostering social cohesion and inclusion, and suggested additional activities to support residents' mental well-being. With this opening, Harmanli becomes part of the Compass Network of seven UNHCR-supported centers in refugee-hosting cities across Bulgaria.

UNHCR Engages in Dialogue with EU Commissioner Magnus Brunner on Asylum and Migration Pact Implementation

During EU Commissioner on Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner's visit to Bulgaria, UNHCR reaffirmed its readiness to support EU and national institutions in implementing the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration. UNHCR highlighted the importance of early identification and support for vulnerable asylum-seekers, independent monitoring mechanisms, legal aid, and alternatives to detention as key principles for effective implementation. The agency expressed commitment to work closely with Bulgarian authorities and civil society, aligning with the Commissioner's view of Bulgaria's crucial role in the Pact's application.

UNHCR PRESENCE IN BULGARIA

Staff:
27 National Staff
5 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: