BULGARIA

Operational Update:
July 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

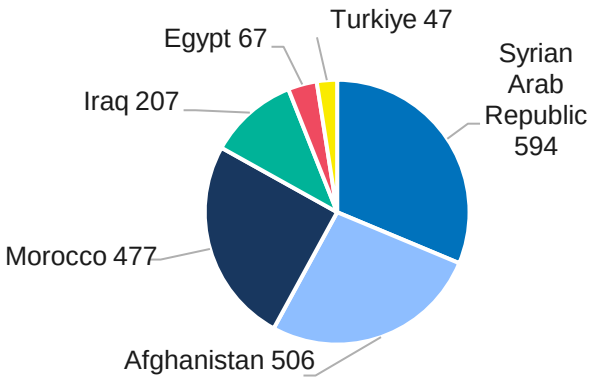
70,555
Refugees from Ukraine in Bulgaria with valid registration for temporary protection by 31 July 2025

2,080
Asylum new applications in 2025

287
Unaccompanied children applying for asylum in 2025

30
Unaccompanied children with valid temporary protection as of July 2025

ASYLUM SEEKERS: COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



Total asylum applications registered in 2025: **2,080**
(State Agency for Refugees data)

SERVICES PROVIDED IN JULY 2025

332 people received **legal assistance**

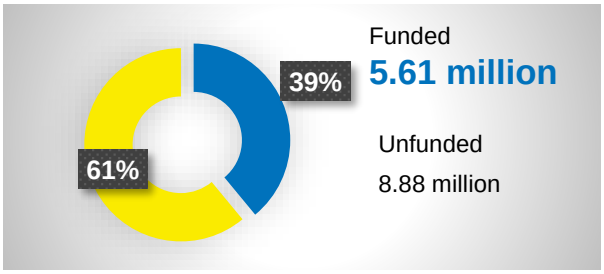
494 people benefitted from **livelihoods and economic inclusion services**

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

7 Feedback & Complaint form **submissions received**, of which **2 were responded**

FUNDING: USD 14.5 MILLION

(Received as of 31 July 2025)



TP REGISTRATIONS IN BULGARIA BY REGION

Map showing the districts where TP holders are located

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

UNHCR Representative Seda Kuzucu met with Minister of Justice Georgi Georgiev to discuss Bulgaria's preparedness for the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

@ Ministry of Justice

UNHCR and Ministry of Justice Strengthen Cooperation on Legal Aid and Refugee Protection

UNHCR Representative Seda Kuzucu met with Justice Minister Georgi Georgiev and the Director of the National Bureau for Legal Aid, Natalia Ilieva, to reaffirm UNHCR's commitment to strengthening Bulgaria's legal aid system and promoting refugee protection in line with international human rights standards. UNHCR presented plans for upcoming training programmes for magistrates and lawyers in cooperation with the Council of Europe. The meeting also emphasized UNHCR's readiness to support Bulgaria in preparing for the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum in 2026.

UNHCR Addresses Concerns Over Humanitarian Programme for Ukrainian Refugees

The 60-day accommodation period under Bulgaria's new Humanitarian Assistance and Integration Programme for Ukrainian refugees expired on 30 June, leaving only the most vulnerable eligible for continued support. UNHCR addressed its concerns with the Deputy Prime Minister's office. UNHCR recommended refugees to remain accommodated until assessments are finalized. Monitoring by UNHCR and partners reveals inconsistent implementation across regions, underscoring the urgent need for clearer and rights-based standards.

Bulgaria's Parliament Elected a New National Ombudsperson

Velislava Delcheva was elected as Bulgaria's new national Ombudsperson with broad parliamentary support, ending a vacancy in the role that had persisted since April 2024. In this period, UNHCR has addressed with the Administration the implementation of the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration. A jurist with experience at the Ministry of Justice and as an international expert, Delcheva pledged to keep the Ombudsperson's office open and accessible to all citizens seeking protection of their rights.

UNHCR PRESENCE IN BULGARIA

Staff:
23 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

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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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: