

Greece

31 August 2022

The war in Ukraine forcibly brought **75,942 Ukrainians**, mostly women and children, to Greece. By mid-August, **18,663 Ukrainians** had received **temporary protection** and **19,830** had registered their applications.

Implementing the **National Integration Strategy** can accelerate refugees' integration and boost Greece's economic growth and demographic deficit. UNHCR works with the State to **pilot projects** that advance **refugees' integration**.

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

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	119,650
Asylum-seekers	37,047
Other of concern	3,653

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	39,372	Afghanistan	9,142
Afghanistan	28,543	Syria	3,933
Iraq	13,634	Pakistan	3,790

* Source: UNHCR [Refugee Data Finder platform](#) as of end December 2021. The refugee population of concern represents people recognized as refugees by Greece, while the actual number present in Greece may be lower.

UKRAINE RESPONSE

Coordination: The Government of Greece is coordinating 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, finding work, 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.

Support to the most vulnerable: UNHCR scaled up its support in protecting children, preventing gender-based violence and communicating with refugee communities.

HIGHLIGHTS

2,488

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

2,250

career coaching services were provided to **617** refugees and asylum-seekers through the UNHCR-supported ADAMA integration centre.

2,666

unaccompanied children received help thanks to the national tracing mechanism established by Greece with the support of UNHCR. Of these, **1,242** unaccompanied children were placed in safe care arrangements.

1,430

requests for assistance reached UNHCR's protection helpline, mostly about legal advice and healthcare.

"United We Play"
Football brings children together on Lesbos island

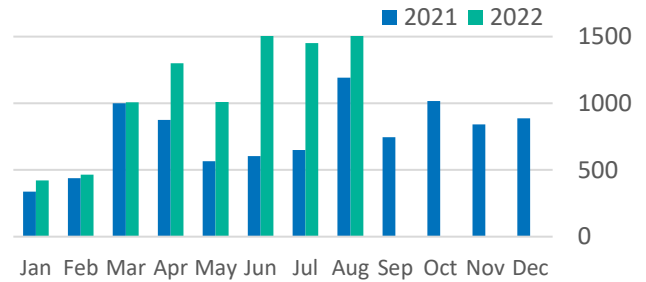


On 9 July, at the Municipal Stadium of Lesbos, over 100 children from the local football academies, unaccompanied refugee children and children living in the reception centre of the island, as well as Greek football legends, participated in a solidarity football tournament. UNHCR partners globally with UEFA to support refugees' access to sports through such activities. 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 on access to territory and fair procedures, so as to trigger legal and policy change.
- **Protection:** With staff at six field locations and through a dedicated helpline, UNHCR monitors the situation of asylum-seekers and refugees, provides support to asylum-seekers with information sessions and makes interventions and referrals to services where they can get expert help.
- **Legal aid:** UNHCR offers personalized legal aid via 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 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 ARRIVALS IN GREECE



Working with Partners

- UNHCR supports the Government, which leads the refugee response, by working 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 and 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. UNHCR also deploys staff and offers expertise to collect and review data and implement legislation on acquiring Greek citizenship.

UNHCR Presence in Greece

Staff:

158 National Staff
 15 International Staff

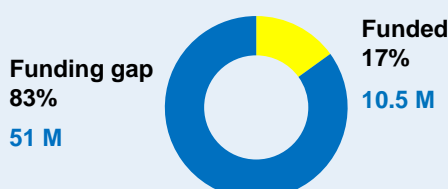
Offices:

1 Country Office in Athens
 6 Offices in Lesbos, Samos, Kos, Thessaloniki, Chios and Evros

Financial information (13 September 2022)

Financial requirements

USD 61.5 M



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