

UNHCR supports the government to provide **essential aid and protection services** to refugees and asylum seekers, with a focus on facilitating **socioeconomic inclusion** and **social cohesion**.

UNHCR assists Bulgaria to strengthen its asylum system in line with international and EU standards. In the second half of the year, following the release of the European Commission's common implementation plan,

UNHCR focuses its support to the Government for the development **national implementation plan** for the **EU Asylum and Migration Pact**.

KEY FIGURES

74,739

Ukrainian refugees in Bulgaria with valid registration for temporary protection by 31 January 2025

368

Asylum new applications in 2025

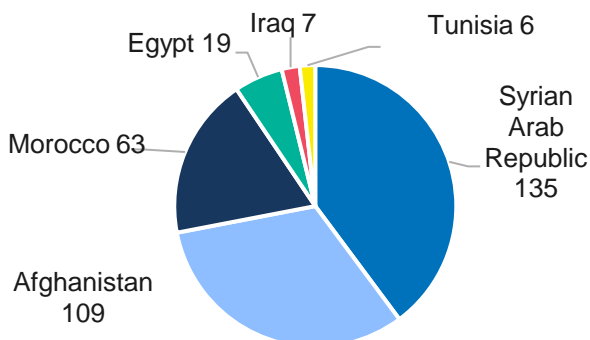
57

Unaccompanied children applying for asylum in 2025

33

Unaccompanied children with valid temporary protection as of January 2025

ASYLUM SEEKERS: COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



Total asylum applications registered in 2025: **368**
(State Agency for Refugees data)

SERVICES PROVIDED IN JANUARY 2025



9,120 people received cash assistance in 2024



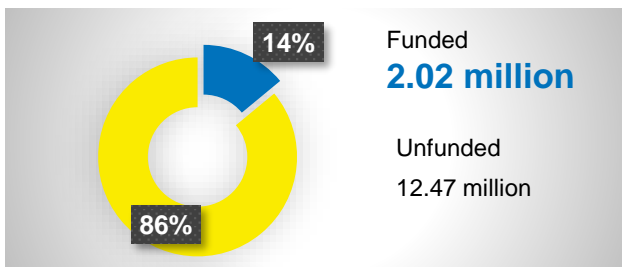
767 people received legal assistance



709 people benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion services

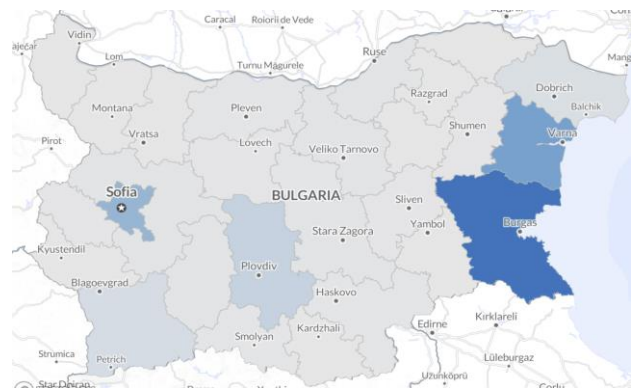
FUNDING: USD 14.5 MILLION

(Received as of 31 January 2025)



TP REGISTRATIONS IN BULGARIA BY REGION

Map showing the districts where TP holders are located



KEY HIGHLIGHTS



UNHCR Addressing Inclusion and Integration of displaced people in the 5th Sofia Economic Forum

UNHCR took part in the 5th Sofia Economic Forum, organized by the Delphi Economic Forum, bringing together leaders from politics, business, and academia. Discussions covered Bulgaria's Eurozone accession, migration management, energy security, economic growth, and sustainability. UNHCR Representative Seda Kuzucu emphasized the need for strong asylum policies and integration programs to support displaced individuals. The panel featured the inspiring journey of Dina Jebali, a Syrian engineer who is now a director at a major telecommunications company in Bulgaria.

Bulgaria becomes full Schengen member and elects new government

On 1 January, Bulgaria became a full member of the Schengen area after internal land border checks were lifted. Following a coalition agreement, Rosen Zhelyazkov, has been elected Prime Minister as the nominee of GERB-UDF (center-right). The cabinet coalition is formed by GERB-UDF, Bulgarian Socialist Party-United Left, and There is Such People (right), with support from the Movement for Rights and Freedoms. A key priority for the Bulgarian government is the Eurozone accession, while coalition divisions may impact support for Ukraine.

UNHCR Supports Refugee Women in Mentorship Program

For the second year, UNHCR has partnered with *Mentorite.bg* a six-month mentorship program supporting aspiring women entrepreneurs. This year, three refugee women from Ukraine are among the 23 participants, benefiting from guidance provided by financial institutions and the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce. The initiative offers seed funding opportunities and continues to empower refugee women, building on last year's success with graduates from Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Yemen.

UNHCR PRESENCE IN BULGARIA

Staff:
33 National Staff
11 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:

