

Greece

30 September 2021

By end September, Greece had assumed the management of UNHCR's reception programmes which, with European Union funding, have offered **housing** and **cash** assistance to thousands of asylum-seekers since 2015.

UNHCR promotes refugees' **integration** by empowering refugee communities, through targeted projects and expert advice to the Government, and by working closely with municipalities.

UNHCR is extremely concerned over reports of **pushbacks**. UNHCR, OHCHR and ENNHRI have offered Greece **recommendations** for an independent monitoring mechanism.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	103,136
Asylum-seekers	60,873
Other persons of concern	4,705

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers
Syria	36,448	Afghanistan	19,706
Afghanistan	21,456	Syria	5,965
Iraq	11,840	Pakistan	5,423

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends report and UNHCR [Refugee Data Finder platform](#). The refugee population of concern represents people recognized as refugees by Greece, while the actual number present in Greece may be lower.

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR works with the authorities to overcome practical obstacles that hinder the roll-out of vaccination.

Inclusion: UNHCR advocates for the equitable and timely inclusion of all third country nationals in the vaccination scheme, regardless of legal status, including undocumented people, as many are homeless or living in precarious conditions where physical distancing not possible.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR works with communities to increase awareness about the pandemic and the vaccination.

Health: UNHCR has supported Greece's COVID-19 response from the start by moving the most vulnerable from island centres into apartments, by creating quarantine spaces in all islands and at the land border and supporting local hospitals with personal protective equipment.

HIGHLIGHTS

203,500

asylum-seekers received cash **assistance** from UNHCR since 2017 to date.

73,000

asylum-seekers and refugees **accommodated** in ESTIA apartments since 2015 to date.

4,299

vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees **relocated** to other European States with UN and European support.



national tracing mechanism

Greece established a **national tracing mechanism** for the protection of children who are homeless or living in dangerous conditions.

GIVING BACK: ABDOULAYE SUPPORTS MEDICAL SERVICES FOR REFUGEES ON LESVOS



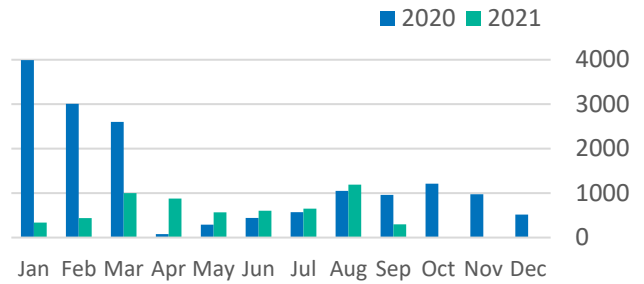
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Fleeing violence in Cameroon, Abdoulaye reached Greece in 2019. Now he works as a coordinator for a medical NGO in Lesvos. You may read more of Abdoulaye's story [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Institution building:** UNHCR pilots good practices, deploys staff and provides trainings and advice to help the State build systems and expertise on asylum, reception and solutions.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR staff are at border locations to help new arrivals who need special assistance. A key priority for UNHCR is that those seeking asylum can access fair reception procedures.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR promotes quality in asylum processing through deployed experts to the Asylum Service and offers legal aid through partners.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR raises with the authorities and key actors critical matters that affect rights and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers so as to trigger legal and policy change.
- **Relocation:** UNHCR supports the relocation of unaccompanied children and other vulnerable groups from Greece to other European States.
- **Integration:** UNHCR advises the State to ensure that refugees have in-practice access to rights; runs refugees integration projects and supports municipalities who lead in inclusion of refugees.
- **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.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR mobilizes refugees to create support networks, from addressing mental health issues to empowering children to help their peers.
- **Emergency assistance:** UNHCR assisted the State after the 2020 Moria fires and helps address key gaps to improve conditions.

MONTHLY ARRIVALS TO 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, refugee and local communities.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR works to raise awareness among the host population, enhance understanding and solidarity with refugees; and cultivates partnerships 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 helps Greece 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:

182 National Staff
19 International Staff

Offices:

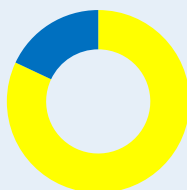
1 Country Office in Athens
6 Field Offices in Lesbos, Thessaloniki, Kos, Chios, Samos and Evros

Financial information (28 September 2021)

Financial requirements

USD 150.5 M

Funding gap
18%
26.8 M



Funded
82%
123.6 M

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