

Cyprus

September 2022

Increased Arrivals: 12,048 new asylum claims were filed in the first half of 2022, a 115% increase compared to the same period in 2021. Cyprus is per capita the top asylum receiving country in the EU.

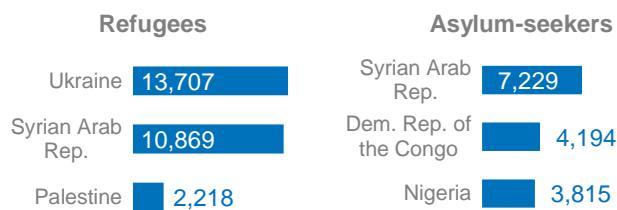
Reception: Asylum-seekers face deteriorating conditions and difficulties with State aid, housing, and employment, exacerbated by delays in the examination of asylum applications.

Integration: UNHCR advocates for State enhancement of integration prospects; the new 2021 National Integration Plan with suggestions from UNHCR is under review.

POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022*

Refugees**	30,277
Asylum-seekers	25,336
Persons under UNHCR's Mandate in the northern part of Cyprus	110
Persons at the British Sovereign Base Areas	21
Stateless persons	74

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*



*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

**includes mainly Subsidiary Protection Beneficiaries

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 30 September, **13,852** refugees from Ukraine are currently living in Cyprus.

16,481 refugees from Ukraine are registered for Temporary Protection in Cyprus.

UNHCR successfully advocated for Temporary Protection to be extended for those persons arriving prior to 24 February 2022, resulting in persons arriving after 1 February 2022 to be granted Temporary Protection as well.

Advocacy was conducted for the introduction of a one-stop-shop for Ukrainians for registration with the Immigration Police, application for Temporary Protection, and issuance of the residence permit by the Migration Department, as well as for the establishment of an online application procedure.

UNHCR conducted extensive outreach activities and identified the pending needs of recently arrived Ukrainians. Consultations with the authorities and with NGOs assisting Ukrainians are underway for meeting these identified needs. UNHCR successfully advocated to ensure access to healthcare and medication.

HIGHLIGHTS

Needs Assessment Enhanced

UNHCR has appointed a Needs Assessment Officer to enhance the capacity of the Government with newly arrived asylum-seekers and to more quickly identify and assist vulnerable cases, including SGBV victims and LGBTQI+ persons, at the First Reception Centre.

Awareness-Raising Women's Day Event

UNHCR organized an event under the auspices of the President of the Parliament on Women's Day, that was also livestreamed on social media. The event shone the spotlight on refugee women and women working with refugee-assisting NGOs who narrated their experiences.

Advocacy through Training

UNHCR has trained Police and UN Police on the rights of persons requesting international protection. All newly recruited judges and administrative staff at the International Protection Administrative Court and Asylum Service staff were also trained.

FLEEING TO SAFETY: PHOTO EXHIBITION



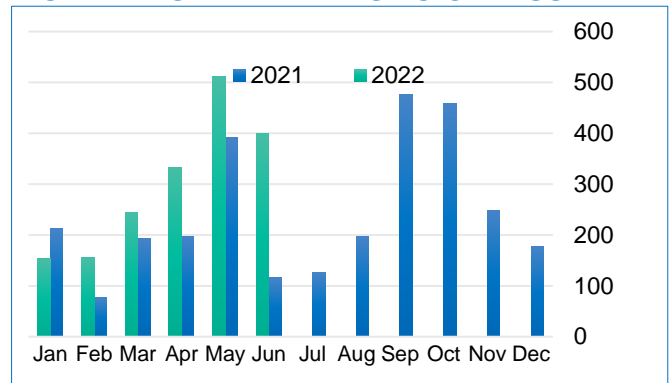
On World Refugee Day 2022, the UNHCR Country Office in Cyprus and Universitas Foundation presented the photographic exhibition **Fleeing to Safety** featuring the work of Sebastian Rich: <https://bit.ly/3DcWWuB>.

Photo: © Sebastian Rich

Key Priorities

- **Protection monitoring** and promoting respect for refugee rights and the standards of treatment of asylum-seekers, particularly access to asylum procedures, reception conditions and detention.
- **Influencing legislation** by providing expert advice on relevant draft laws to ensure compliance with international and EU standards.
- **Providing technical assistance**, legal advice, and other support to assist the authorities in further strengthening their refugee status determination procedures and ensure quality decision-making.
- **Monitoring and advocacy** on timely and accurate identification of UASC to ensure effective access to the national child protection system regarding accurate and timely age assessment; registration and documentation; guardianship and legal representation; tracing and family reunification by way of best interest determination.
- **Training key stakeholders** from the Government and civil society on key protection issues, including refugee rights, reception conditions for asylum-seekers durable solutions and child protection.
- **Advocating** for the effective social, economic, and cultural integration of refugees, including advocacy for naturalisation, long-term residency, and family reunification.
- **Promoting accession** to the Statelessness Conventions.
- **Raising public awareness** via public information and media relations; education activities; WRD and other events; campaigns and constituency-building.
- **Strengthening partnerships with NGOs** and other civil society actors working in refugee protection
- Promoting effective communication with refugee communities through the **UNHCR Refugee Outreach Volunteers Programme**.

MONTHLY SEA ARRIVALS TO CYPRUS



Source: [Mediterranean Situation Data Portal](#)

Working with Partners

- **The Government of the Republic of Cyprus** is UNHCR's key partner to ensure the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers in accordance with EU and international standards. UNHCR works with Parliamentary committees; the Offices of the Ombudsman and the Child Commissioner; diplomatic missions and the media.
- **Civil Society Engagement** is key to UNHCR's work in supporting communities of concern in Cyprus, which is achieved through funding-based partnerships with two local NGOs.

Statelessness

- Cyprus has not acceded to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. Provisions in the Refugee Law allowing for humanitarian status for stateless persons in need of protection outside the scope of the refugee definition have since 2014 been abolished, leaving stateless persons without protection. Most still resort to asylum procedures.

UNHCR Presence in Cyprus

Staff:

1 International Staff
 13 National and 4 Affiliate Staff

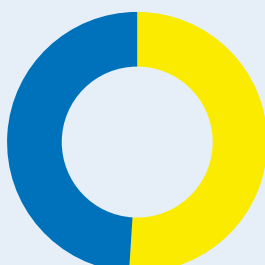
Offices:

1 Office in Nicosia

Financial information (September 2022)

Financial requirements USD 3.2 M

Funding gap
 49%
 1.58 M



Funded
 51%
 1.62 M

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As well as for the generous contributions from private individuals and the private sector.