

Spain

September 2022

Arrivals: 19,947 persons arrived in Spain by land and sea, 8% less than in 2021: 8,928 arrived through the Western Mediterranean route and 11,019 to the Canary Islands (12% more than in 2021).

Asylum applications: As of July, 66,703 persons applied for asylum, an increase of 112% compared to 2021. 68 per cent were Venezuelans and Colombians, 7 per cent Peruvians and 3 per cent Moroccans.

Protection rate: The recognition rate is 16% and the protection rate including humanitarian stay permit has reached 37%. 41 per cent of asylum seekers reside in Madrid.

POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022*

Refugees**	263,803
Asylum-seekers	124,030
Stateless persons	6,489

**Includes 96,786 persons with authorization to stay based on humanitarian reasons

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees	Asylum-seekers
Ukraine 128,129	Venezuela (Bol. Rep. of) 31,490
Venezuela (Bol. Rep. of)*** 96,786	Colombia 29,500
Syrian Arab Rep. 14,994	Peru 6,755

*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

***Persons not recognized as refugees, with authorization to stay based on humanitarian reasons

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 30 September, 144,668 refugees from Ukraine are currently present in Spain and registered for temporary protection.

Spain extended the scope of the **EU Temporary Protection Directive** to Ukrainian nationals living in Spain before 24 February. Centres for Reception, Assistance and Referral in Madrid, Barcelona, Alicante and Malaga were set up. UNHCR is present **providing legal counselling**, identifying and referring persons with specific needs and conducting capacity-building activities. **In practice, third-country nationals** living in Ukraine before the war face difficulties in accessing Temporary Protection, as they are required to prove their legal relationship with Ukrainian refugees or their inability to safely return to their country of origin. UNHCR also collaborates with **Ukrainian associations**, disseminating legal information and socio-economic opportunities for refugees,. It also carries out surveys and focus group discussions to learn about their intentions, needs and situation in Spain.

During a visit in Andorra, UNHCR assessed the protection environment for the refugees from Ukraine and reaffirmed its availability to provide support to the authorities.

HIGHLIGHTS

On World Refugee Day, UNHCR and the National Association "Spain for UNHCR" turned the **Madrid-Chamberí subway Station into an air-raid shelter** like the ones in Kyiv or Kharkov. Chamberí subway Station, built in 1919 served as an air-raid shelter during the Spanish Civil War and is now a museum. Through immersive guided tours and testimonies of refugees living in Spain, visitors experienced the different stages of the refugees' plight and the difference we all can make in refugees' lives.

Statelessness

A Spanish court recognized as a Spanish citizen a girl who lacked a birth certificate because she was born in transit in Morocco, while her mother was travelling from Cameroon to Spain. **This is the first time a minor born in transit has been granted Spanish nationality**, in line with the Statelessness Convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Spain acceded to the Statelessness Conventions in 1997 and 2018 and has had a statelessness determination procedure since 2001.

A UKRANIAN HISPANIST HELPS REFUGEES IN SPAIN

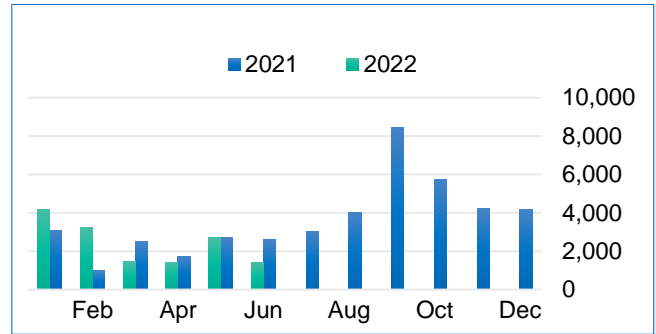


Tetiana fled the war in Ukraine. As an English philologist and Hispanist, she decided to go to Spain where her expertise in the Spanish language and culture could not only play a positive role in her integration, but also allow her to help other Ukrainian refugees. She worked as a UNHCR interpreter at the reception centre in Alicante. More about her story [here](#).

Key Priorities

- Protection profiling:** UNHCR has interviewed 559 new arrivals in the Canary Islands, Ceuta, Melilla and Andalusia, from Morocco, Sudan, Mali, Guinea, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Yemen. 74% were men aged between 18 and 35, but the exercise also included women and minors. The main reasons for leaving their countries are conflicts and generalized violence (41%), economic situation (11%), fear of harm due to ethnicity (9%) and GBV (8%). Over 60% reported human rights violations along the route. Around 50% had already sought asylum in Spain and 27% were considering doing so. 54% planned to stay in Spain.
- Access to territory:** UNHCR collected direct testimonies from persons of concern from Sudan, Yemen, Burkina Faso, Eritrea and Syria on pushbacks. Interviewees participated in two mass collective borders' jumps in March and June when 871 and 134 persons respectively crossed the fence in Melilla and at least 37 lost their lives and hundreds were forcibly returned. A [UNHCR-IOM statement was issued deploring the loss of lives](#).
- Access and quality of asylum procedure:** UNHCR launched a new bulletin about judicial developments on international protection and two training videos on interviewing techniques for police officers. It also participated in a training by EUAA for 200 new case workers of the Office of Asylum.
- Afghans:** 2 humanitarian flights arrived in Madrid with 358 Afghan nationals who collaborated with the Spanish forces or were considered at risk. UNHCR was present at their arrival, providing legal counselling.
- Community engagement:** UNHCR launched a new program providing direct financial and technical support to three refugee-led organizations to promote their advocacy and frontline service providers roles.

MONTHLY SEA ARRIVALS TO SPAIN



Source: [Mediterranean Situation Data Portal](#)

- Countering gender-based Violence (GBV):** UNHCR launched a consultancy to support the implementation of the national protocol on GBV in the reception system.
- Child protection:** UNHCR and the Spanish Childhood Platform elaborated a [set of informative child-friendly protection materials for Ukrainian children aged 12-17](#).

Working with Partners

- UNHCR started two projects with the **Bar Associations** in Madrid and Almería to provide legal assistance for persons under our mandate.
- In the Canary Islands, UNHCR has partnered with NGO ACCEM to provide **interpretation services** to new arrivals in English, French, Arabic, Bambara, Soninke, Wolof, and Peul, among other African languages. This initiative supports the work carried out by UNHCR, the Spanish Red Cross Society, NGOs managing reception centers, Bar Associations, and the Police.

UNHCR Presence in Spain

Staff:

41 National Staff
 2 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office (Madrid)
 3 Field Units (Algeciras, Melilla, Málaga)
 1 Field Presence (Canary Islands)

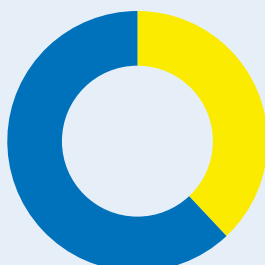
Financial information (September 2022)

*Information relates to the Representation for Spain and Andorra

Financial requirements

USD 5.8 M

Funding gap
 62%
 3.6M



Funded
 38%
 2.2M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked and earmarked funding:

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