

Portugal

September 2021

Portugal maintains a largely **welcoming environment** for refugees and consistently engages in various solidarity and responsibility-sharing measures.

In the first semester of 2021 **resettlement** continued with 166 arrivals. Another 116 persons were **relocated** from Italy and Malta, while 22 **unaccompanied children** were relocated from Greece.

UNHCR works with partners promoting refugee participation, improved coordination, and effective identification and referral of vulnerable persons within the asylum system.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	2,445
Asylum-seekers	1,154
Stateless persons	45

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Rep.	789	Angola	224
Ukraine	443	Guinea-Bissau	93
Eritrea	191	Venezuela	76

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Annual Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: Advocacy efforts throughout the pandemic focused on sharing good practices related to the COVID-19 response in the context of reception and communication.

Inclusion of persons of concern: The Government took concrete measures to ensure full inclusion of refugees and migrants in vaccination campaign by creating a dedicated registration channel for those who have not yet obtained their NHS number.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR supported the Government and other entities working with persons of concern in devising standards and practice for risk communication. UNHCR's partner undertook sensitization campaigns among its assisted population from the onset of the pandemic, with the support of health service providers.

HIGHLIGHTS

New coordination mechanism

Created in 2020 and led by the government High Commissioner for Migration, the single coordination mechanism on refugee issues has been consolidated this year with several thematic subgroups established.

Relocation of UAC from Greece

By June 2021, Portugal had received 100 unaccompanied children and youth from Greece within the EU-led initiative. UNHCR supported Portugal with capacity building for reception entities and with a preliminary assessment of the reception and protection response.

Information provision and legal orientation

In the first semester of 2021, 300 asylum-seekers were provided with information and 638 interventions were made within the RSD procedure through UNHCR partner the Portuguese Refugee Council.

UN agencies welcome relocations of unaccompanied children from Greece, call for further action and solidarity.



IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF welcomed the relocation of 49 unaccompanied asylum-seeking and migrant children from Greece to Portugal and Finland.

[Link to the story](#)

Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** Through its implementing partner, UNHCR promotes quality refugee status determination procedure, provides free legal assistance to asylum seekers, both in country and at border points and facilitates access to the legal aid system at the judicial appeal stage.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** UNHCR provides technical support and capacity-building on a range of resettlement-related issues both pre- and post-arrival, including programme design, development of SOPs, coordination, selection missions, integration/social inclusion, and monitoring and evaluation components.
- **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance:** UNHCR promotes community-based and participatory approaches with Government and NGO partners aiming at strengthening engagement with persons of concern in Portugal, including with the existing refugee-led organizations.
- **Protection:** UNHCR supports the Government in strengthening identification and referral of vulnerable asylum seekers within the asylum procedure, in cooperation with the asylum and reception institutions.

Working with Partners

- The **Government of Portugal** is UNHCR's key partner in ensuring the protection and integration of persons of concern. UNHCR collaborates with a wide range of Government stakeholders, including the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF); the Ministry of Internal Administration; the High Commissioner for Migration (ACM); the Secretary of State for Integration and Migration; and the Social Security Institute. Other key actors include the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ombudsperson's Office, the Civil Registry Office and municipalities. IOM Portugal is also a key counterpart, as are civil society actors and refugee-led organizations.
- UNHCR also works closely with its implementing partner in Portugal, the **Portuguese Refugee Council** (CPR).

Statelessness

- Portugal acceded to both Statelessness Conventions in 2012, however, it does not have a statelessness determination procedure (SDP). Portugal pledged to establish an SDP at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum and is currently working on modification of relevant legal acts in order to establish the procedure.

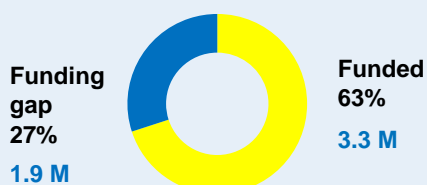
UNHCR Presence in Portugal

- UNHCR closed its office in Portugal in 1998. UNHCR is present in Portugal with two UNHCR personnel, an Associate Resettlement Officer and a Senior Protection Assistant reporting directly to the Regional Bureau for Europe.

Financial information* (28 September 2021)

*Information relates to the Representations for Austria and to the European Institutions in Strasbourg, to the Office for Switzerland and Liechtenstein, the Liaison Office in Vienna and the presence in Portugal.

Financial requirements
USD 5.2 M



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