

Spain

September 2021

By 31 August, **20,604 persons arrived in Spain by land and sea**, 46% more than in the same period of 2020. Main nationalities from January to July were Algeria (29%), Morocco (27%), Mali (15%) and Ivory Coast (9%).

In the first semester of the year, **26,851 persons applied for asylum in Spain**, 40% less than in the same period of 2020. Most applicants were from Venezuela (17%), Colombia (16%), Mali (10%) and Morocco (9%).

In August, Spain established an **EU hub for 2,206 afghan persons evacuated by member states and USA**. UNHCR supported the Ministry of Interior in providing information on asylum to those remaining in Spain.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees**	103,679
Asylum-seekers	103,385
Stateless persons	5,914
Total population of concern	218,885

* Data source: Spanish Asylum Office OAR and UNHCR

**include 84,237 persons with authorization to stay based on humanitarian reasons

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Venezuela (Bol. Rep. of)	75,640	Colombia	23,735
Syria	14,660	Venezuela (Bol. Rep. of)	19,065
Nicaragua	1,303	Honduras	8,685

*Data source: UNHCR [data portal](#) and the Spanish Asylum Office (OAR).

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR keeps monitoring the access of persons of concern to the vaccination campaign and is liaising with the authorities in charge of the national reception system to ensure that COVID-19 protocols are observed.

Inclusion: The vaccination of persons of concern is being rolled out under the same prioritization scheme as for the rest of the population – with priority groups based on age, health, and professions.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR has provided COVID-19 related information to persons of concern through informative sessions, Refugee Focal Point Volunteers, [HELP website](#) and helplines in several cities. Materials in different languages have been shared in reception centres and accommodation facilities to ensure that persons of concern have access to relevant, accurate and timely information.

HIGHLIGHTS

Access to and Quality of asylum procedure:

UNHCR continued monitoring access to the territory and supporting the management of arrivals with information on asylum. UNHCR facilitated access to protection and documentation, monitored and provided feedback on the quality of the asylum procedure.

Child protection:

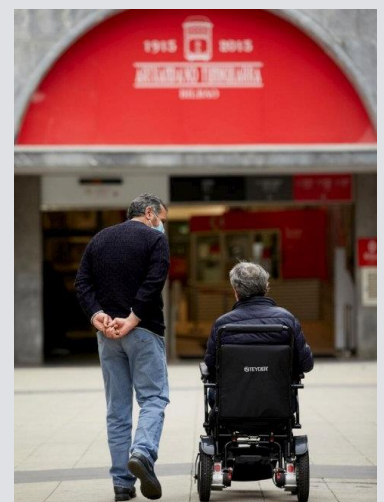
Amidst the increase of sea arrivals to the Canary Islands and the arrival of over 1,000 unaccompanied children to Ceuta in May, UNHCR redoubled efforts to support child protection authorities, from the perspective of international protection needs.

Community Sponsorship:

The Basque Community Sponsorship initiative has been renewed for two years. Two additional pilot projects are being implemented in Valencia and Navarra regions.

From refugee to savior: the story of Majed and Joseba

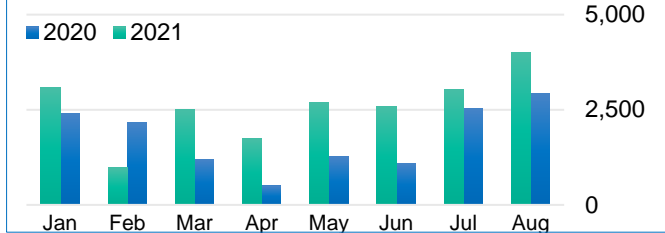
After being resettled to Spain, Syrian refugee Majed became a friend and caregiver to Joseba, the butcher who gave him a job. Learn more about this story [here](#)



Key Priorities

- Asylum:** UNHCR continued monitoring access to the territory and supporting arrival management. UNHCR partnered with State institutions and civil society to facilitate access to protection and documentation, monitored and provided feedback on the quality of the asylum procedure. UNHCR trained lawyers and new border procedure staff and launched the first [Country of Origin Information Newsletter](#).
- Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** The Basque Initiative on Community Sponsorship was renewed for two years. With two other pilots in Valencia and Navarra, 64 Syrian refugees (12 families) are supported by regional and national governments, CSOs, local sponsors and UNHCR.
- Community Empowerment:** The Refugee Reference Group and UNHCR's Refugee Focal Point Volunteers continued leading refugee outreach, supporting UNHCR in participatory activities. Trainings on refugee rights, social entrepreneurship and socio-economic inclusion were organized, helping to develop refugee-led initiatives.
- Communication with Communities:** UNHCR provided information on international protection to over 700 persons of concern of which 43% were women. Most queries related to asylum procedures (56%), reception and integration (17%), durable solutions (12%), and family reunification (8%). Focus groups discussions were conducted with women, LGTBIQ+ and persons with disabilities.
- Persons with specific needs (PwSN):** UNHCR focused on adequate referral and assistance of PwSN, capacity-building, and technical support (i.e. EASO's vulnerability SOPs for the Canary Islands, [CERMI's Guide on rights and protection](#)). An awareness-raising video on GBV against women was launched. UNHCR supported the drafting of the future national law against human trafficking.

MONTHLY SEA ARRIVALS SPAIN



- Child protection:** Amidst higher sea arrivals to the Canary Islands and over 1,000 unaccompanied children arriving in Ceuta in May, UNHCR boosted support to child protection authorities and promoted coordination mechanisms.

Working with Partners

- External Engagement:** UNHCR engaged with state institutions, UN agencies, media, refugees to advocate for international protection. UNHCR teamed up with the National Association *España con ACNUR* to mobilize resources and raise awareness on [World Refugee Day](#) and the 70th Anniversary of the 1951 Convention.
- Sports:** The office partnered with the NGO *Special Olympics* to host [sports activities](#) with refugees and persons with disabilities and supported the [Goal Click initiative's](#) photo exhibition.

Statelessness

- Spain acceded to the Statelessness Conventions in 1997 and 2018, and has a statelessness determination procedure since 2001. The procedure is lengthy; human and material resources need strengthening. Spain pledged in the GRF to improve and expedite the procedure.

UNHCR Presence in Spain

Personnel:

31 National Personnel
 2 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Madrid
 1 Field Unit in Melilla
 3 Field Presence in Algeciras (covering Ceuta), the Canary Islands and Málaga

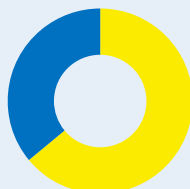
Financial information (28 September 2021)

Information relates to the Representation for Spain and Andorra

Financial requirements

USD 5 M

Funding gap
 36%
 1.8 M



Funded
 64%
 3.2 M

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UNHCR Spain is grateful for 2021 in-kind contributions from the Government of Spain to the office, which are not included in the left-hand chart.