

Spain

February 2022

Arrivals: In 2021, 43,197 persons arrived in Spain by land and sea, a slight 3% increase from 2020, with arrivals primarily of persons from Algeria, Morocco, Mali, Guinea and Ivory Coast.

Asylum: 65,404 persons applied for asylum, in 2021, mainly from Venezuela and Colombia, followed by Morocco, Mali and Senegal.

In January 2022 alone, 7,855 persons applied for asylum, mostly from Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Morocco. Most asylum applicants entered by air.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees**	115,258
Asylum-seekers	91,585
Stateless persons	6,092
Total population of concern	212,935

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

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees	Asylum-seekers
Venezuela (Bol. Rep. of)*** 84,237	Colombia 15,965
Syrian Arab Rep. 14,823	Venezuela (Bol. Rep. of) 14,100
Colombia 1,719	Honduras 6,885

*Source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR data finder platform

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

HIGHLIGHTS

70th Anniversary of the 1951 Convention

On 8 November 2021, the Spanish Government and UNHCR co-convened a high-level event to mark the [70th Anniversary of the 1951 Convention](#). Attended by Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and High Commissioner Filippo Grandi, the event brought together refugees, five cabinet Ministers (Foreign Affairs, Interior, Justice, Inclusion, and Universities), high-level officials, NGOs, civil society representatives, and diplomatic missions.

The event, hosted by UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Jesús Vázquez, also featured the testimony of two refugee women from Somalia and Afghanistan, who highlighted the impact of the Convention in their lives. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the soprano and Honorary Lifetime UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Barbara Hendricks also participated virtually in the event.

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Communication with Communities: UNHCR continues to bridge information gaps through its [Help Information Site](#) for persons of concern, which received over 73,000 visits from October 2021 to January 2022. The site was updated to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities and/or specific needs by including contents in various formats, descriptive links and improved navigation for keyboard-only users.

THE INTERPRETER HELPING CONNECT AND SUPPORT OTHER AFGHAN REFUGEES IN

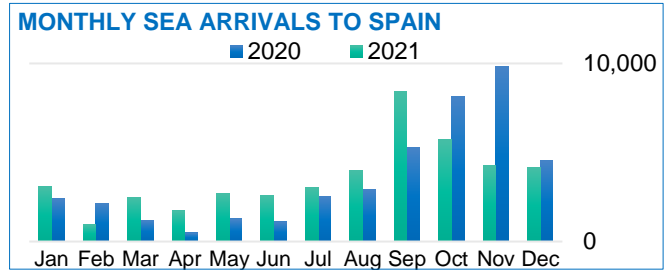


Luftu, now a recognized refugee in Spain, previously worked as an interpreter for the Spanish forces in Afghanistan. The recent reunification with his family thanks to Spain's evacuation programme encouraged him to create an association to support other refugees.

Discover his story [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory and asylum:** Most asylum-seekers arrive in Spain by air. UNHCR continued monitoring access to the territory and asylum, supporting arrival management, and partnered with State institutions and civil society to facilitate access to protection and documentation. UNHCR trained lawyers, police officers and Asylum Office staff.
- **Integration:** Regional pilot programmes on community sponsorship continue. A Framework Agreement was signed in Navarra and six Syrian families will join the programme in the Basque Country. The experience in [Valencia was showcased on UNHCR's website](#). UNHCR and the authorities will develop a national framework on community sponsorship for integration of resettled refugees.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR maintains direct and regular communication with refugee-led and grassroots organizations to support and reinforce their role as frontline service providers and advocacy actors. A group of Refugee Focal Point Volunteers and UNHCR collaborate to enhance two-way communication with refugee communities, sensitize local communities and advocate for refugee mobilization and participation.
- **Persons with specific needs (PwSN):** UNHCR focused on the identification, referral and assistance of PwSN. During the [16 days of activism campaign](#), UNHCR participated in a series of events supporting advocacy efforts by [government](#), [local stakeholders](#) and [partners](#), and launched a gender-based violence consultancy project to support reception authorities to implement the national SOP.
- **Child protection:** UNHCR supported authorities in identifying international protection needs of children through counselling and capacity-building for 300 professionals working in Andalusia, Ceuta and the Canary Islands. In addition, UNHCR coordination with the Asylum Office facilitated access for 140 unaccompanied or separated children to the asylum procedure, including 10 who were granted protection.



Source and more information: [UNHCR Data Portal](#)

Statelessness

- UNHCR organized a Protection Dialogue on Statelessness with experts from the central administration, lawyers, NGOs and academia. It focused on a possible reform of the statelessness legislation and ways to register and guarantee the right to a nationality for minors born in transit and arriving undocumented and irregularly in Spain.
- Spain acceded to the Statelessness Conventions in 1997 and 2018 and has had a statelessness determination procedure since 2001. The procedure is lengthy and needs to be enhanced. Spain pledged at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to improve and expedite the procedure.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR engaged with State institutions, UN agencies such as IOM and UNICEF, media and refugees to advocate international protection. It also teamed up with the National Association [España con ACNUR](#) to amplify key global protection messages. The partnership with Spain as a large donor including with the Spanish Development Cooperation Agency (AECID) has been scaled up, while the implementation process of the Spanish GRF pledges continues.

UNHCR Presence in Spain

Staff:

31 National Staff
2 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Madrid
3 Field Units in Algeciras, Melilla, Málaga
1 Field Presence in the Canary Islands

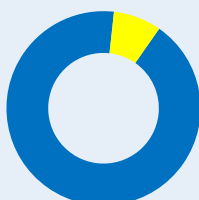
Financial information (22 February 2022)

Information relates to the Representation for Spain and Andorra

Financial requirements

USD 5.4 M

Funding gap
92%
5 M



Funded
8%
0.4 M

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland

Unearmarked contributions provides UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest needs or at the greatest risks.