

# The Netherlands

February 2023

**Asylum:** New arrivals increased by **44% in 2022**, totalling 35,500 first time applications, thereby increasing the asylum applications backlog.

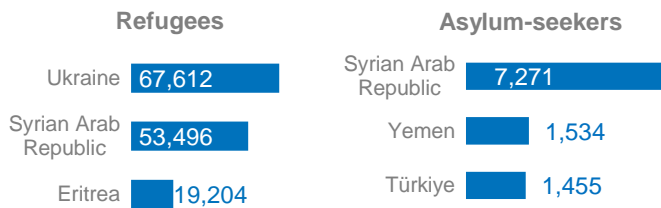
**Reception Capacity:** The government is working on a law to settle asylum-seekers evenly throughout the country, which will strengthen the reception capacity that had been overstretched in 2022.

In August, the government introduced **measures to reduce pressure on the asylum system**, limiting family reunification, resettlement of Syrians from Türkiye and the length of asylum.

## UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022\*

Refugees **198,407**  
Asylum-seekers **21,070**  
Stateless persons **4,570**

### Top three countries of origin\*



\*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

### UKRAINE REFUGEE situation response

As of 28 February, **85,210** refugees from Ukraine were registered for temporary protection in the Netherlands.

**Reception:** Refugees from Ukraine are accommodated in facilities managed by municipalities. UNHCR conducted several visits to some of these reception facilities.

**Coordination:** Together with OPORA Foundation, a Ukrainian diaspora organization, UNHCR will fund a research into the housing situation of refugees from Ukraine. UNHCR wants to focus on the long-term housing possibilities in reception centres as well as private accommodation with the aim for an improved longer-term strategy on housing for refugees from Ukraine.

**Advocacy and inclusion:** UNHCR undertook focus group discussion with third country nationals who fled Ukraine. It was found that they feel marginalized, especially as the Dutch Government announced they would no longer fall under the TPD in the Netherlands, a decision that was postponed with 6 months, after pressure from municipalities as there were no alternative shelter. UNHCR will undertake advocacy efforts for improved policies and inclusion of this group.

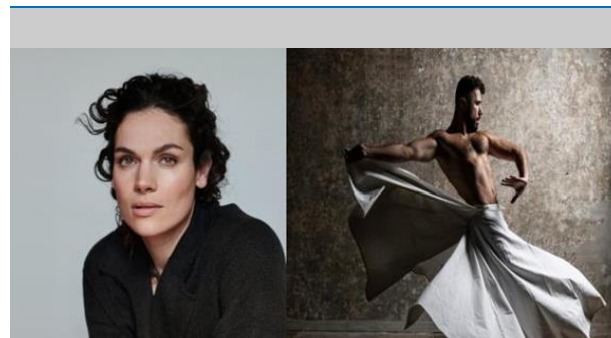
## HIGHLIGHTS

### Strengthened cooperation with the immigration service

Through UNHCR's quality assurance work and the extension of the agreement on facilitating family reunification between UNHCR and the Asylum Service, implementation of the Refugee Convention and protection of asylum-seekers and refugees improved.

### Statelessness

A draft law establishing a Statelessness Determination Procedure was adopted in the House of Representatives. If adopted in the Senate this will ensure determination of statelessness status and improved access to nationality.



### UNHCR SUPPORTERS HELP RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS REFUGEE MATTERS

Actress Anna Drijver (left) and dancer Ahmad Joudeh (right) are both staunch supporters of refugees. Anna feels a strong responsibility to enter a dialogue with refugees and to highlight the stories of people forced to flee, especially women and girls. Ahmad is a strong advocate for refugees and stateless persons through various means, including the art of dance.

Read more about their involvement [here](#).

## Key Priorities

- **Family Reunification:** In 2022, UNHCR and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) extended their global agreement on the facilitation of family reunification interviews for 5 years. In 2022, 91 interviews were facilitated by UNHCR operations worldwide with 132 family members interviewed.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR increased its cooperation with the INS with the aim of strengthening quality and capacity of the asylum procedure. UNHCR provided inputs to the INS instructions on interviewing and decision-making in technical topics, including on the assessment of asylum applications relating to religion. Upon invitation of the INS, UNHCR is exploring and planning to provide topical workshops (e.g. on SOGI) and structural training for INS staff.
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** UNHCR, the Dutch Council for Refugees and the Ministry of Justice and Security worked together with resettled refugees with the aim of further strengthening the Refugee Advisory Group (RAG). The RAG has been created to be the voice of resettled refugees in the Netherlands in order to improve resettlement policies.
- **Reception monitoring:** UNHCR undertook 19 reception monitoring visits in 2022. Many of the visits were to emergency reception facilities. UNHCR is concerned over the reception conditions in emergency facilities as these may compound mental health issues and hamper inclusion and the development of children.

## Working with Partners

- **Refugee Led Organizations (RLOs):** UNHCR strengthened its cooperation with refugee-led and community-based organisations through the creation of a RLOs network. Led by the organisations, a strategy will be developed to strengthen the impact and ensure the voices of the persons UNHCR serves are included in policy and decision-making.
- **Joint UNHCR VWN position on reception:** UNHCR and the Dutch Council for Refugees (VWN) joined forces to develop a position paper advocating for a new and improved reception model for asylum-seekers in the Netherlands, focusing on improved reception conditions, smaller-scale facilities and an increased focus on inclusion.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR organized events and campaigns with the involvement of their two high profile supporters, Anna Drijver and Ahmad Joudeh, aimed at positively influencing public attitudes towards the persons UNHCR serves, with a focus on generating understanding and solidarity.

## Statelessness

The Netherlands acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. Awaiting the adoption of the draft law establishing a statelessness determination procedure by the Senate, UNHCR has started the development of a statelessness determination training for the judges.

## UNHCR Presence in Netherlands

### Staff:

7 National Staff  
 1 Protection Intern

### Offices:

1 National Office in The Hague

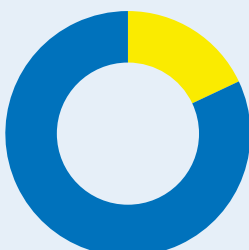
## Financial information (February 2023)

Information relates to Representation for EU Affairs, Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the Liaison Offices to EUAA and Frontex

### Financial requirements

USD 12.0 M

Funding gap  
 82%  
 9.9 M



Funded  
 18%  
 2.1 M

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