

Spain

February 2023

In 2022, **31,763 persons arrived** in Spain **by land and sea**, 26% less than in 2021. Among sea arrivals (30,075 people), over 52% entered through the Canary Islands.

Concerning **asylum-seekers, in 2022, most applicants were from Latin America**, mainly from Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Honduras and Nicaragua.

In January **2023, the number of sea and land arrivals reached 1,126 persons**, 71% less than in the same period of 2022.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022*

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

Top three countries of origin*

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

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

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

166,800 refugees from Ukraine had been registered for temporary protection in Spain, as per the UNHCR Ukraine Situation Data Portal on 15 February.

In 2022, UNHCR provided counselling and information to over 800 refugees from Ukraine in the reception centres of Madrid, Barcelona, Alicante and Malaga.

As the number of arrivals from Ukraine and applications for temporary protection slowed down, UNHCR provided **quality counselling**, including to third-country nationals for whom the access to the temporary protection continues to be challenging. UNHCR engages with Bar Associations to enhance legal assistance, while promoting access to temporary protection.

UNHCR also has trained government and NGO actors working in reception centres **on international protection and temporary protection**, and has promoted coordination and a more holistic response to the need of refugees from Ukraine, including **referral pathways** for refugees with specific needs.

In December 2022, UNHCR together with the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations conducted an **intentions survey** among 75 refugees from Ukraine.

HIGHLIGHTS

Recognition of UNHCR work in Spain

In November 2022, the High Commissioner received from the Minister of Interior the Recognition of Merit for International Protection at the celebration of the 30th anniversary in Madrid of the Office of Asylum and Refuge. The award recognises UNHCR support to the Office of Asylum and Refuge of over 30 years.

Statelessness

Since its accession to both Statelessness Conventions in 1997 and 2018, and the establishment of the statelessness determination procedure in 2001, Spain has consolidated its statelessness system with good practices of accessing nationality and preventing statelessness at birth. However, the status determination procedure requires some changes to ensure uniform access throughout the territory, a mechanisms to identify cases of statelessness and the improvement of applicants's rights and living conditions.



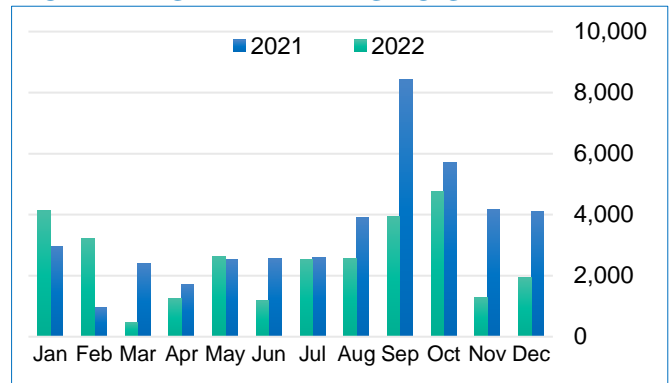
WOMEN REFUGEE INTEGRATION THROUGH SPORTS

On the occasion of the international day of the girl, FC Barcelona midfielder and UNHCR supporter, Aitana Bonmati, met Ramassà football club, which supports the integration of women refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants through football in Spain. Find out more [here](#).

Key Priorities

- Access and quality of asylum procedures:** UNHCR, in collaboration with other UNHCR operations in Europe, organized a **Protection Dialogue on access to the procedure** for staff of the Ministry of Interior. UNHCR is supporting the Police academy with learning modules on international.
- Community-based protection:** UNHCR has fostered the establishment of a national network of refugee-led associations, promoting capacity-building through networking activities and experts' talks on asylum and integration.
- Fight against gender-based violence (GBV):** UNHCR conducted a [study](#) on the implementation of the national GBV standard operating procedure (SOP) in the national reception system. Over 20 NGO, four refugee reception centres and 120 refugee and migrant women and men (incl. LGTBIQ+ persons and GBV survivors) contributed to the elaboration of tools, awareness-raising and information materials aiming to respond to some of the main identified gaps.
- Child protection:** UNHCR launched a [Guide for professionals working with unaccompanied or separated refugee children](#), developed with the University of Comillas. This tool aims at responding to some of the main protection challenges in Spain.
- Integration:** In July-December 2022, UNHCR analyzed the three regional community sponsorship (CS) pilot experiences to gather the views of all stakeholders (including national, regional and local authorities, civil society and refugees) involved to support the development and implementation of a national CS scheme.
- Resettlement:** In 2022, 1,112 persons were resettled under the National Resettlement Program (NRP) - 92% of the national annual quota. Among them Syrians from Lebanon, Iranians from Turkey

MONTHLY SEA ARRIVALS TO SPAIN



Source: [Mediterranean Situation Data Portal](#)

and 50 Eritreans from Israel. As of February 2023, 110 additional Syrian refugees were resettled from Lebanon. UNHCR works with the Spanish authorities and IOM in resettlement coordination to improve planning and implementation of the NRP.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR supports **Bar Associations** in Madrid, Almeria and Murcia to provide legal orientation to asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons.
- Sports:** [UNHCR Spain teamed up with Special Olympics](#) and the Refugee Reception Center of Seville to organize a series of football and basketball matches, where over 100 refugees and athletes with disabilities showcased how sports can foster local integration.
- UNHCR Spain and the [Association of Liberal Professionals](#) signed an agreement to promote awareness raising activities, refugees' employability and mentoring activities with volunteers.

UNHCR Presence in Spain

Staff:

41 National Staff
 2 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office (Madrid)
 4 Field Units (Algeciras, Melilla, Málaga and Las Palmas)

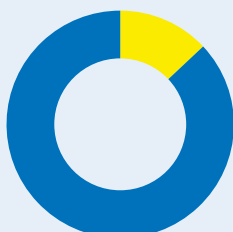
Financial information* (February 2023)

*Information relates to the Representation for Spain and Andorra

Financial requirements

USD 6.8 M

Funding gap
 86%
 5.7 M



Funded
 14%
 0.9 M

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