

France

September 2021

With a **focus on expanding the potential for solutions**, UNHCR works with authorities, civil society and the private sector to improve reception and protection of asylum seekers and foster inclusion of refugees.

UNHCR places particular emphasis on the **participation of refugees** through the direct collaboration with a network of refugee volunteers and the creation of an Academy of the participation of refugees.

To respond to the pandemic, UNHCR supported the coordination of actors with a special focus on **providing access to information and strengthening services**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	436,100
Asylum-seekers	118,137
Stateless persons	2,068

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers
Afghanistan	31,546	Afghanistan	13,560
Sri Lanka	23,764	Bangladesh	8,979
Syria	21,849	Guinea	7,755

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report, UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR has consistently drawn attention to the impact of the pandemic on forcibly displaced people and highlighted the contribution of **refugees** in the response.

Coordination: UNHCR co-chairs a coordination platform with the Inter-Ministerial Delegation for the Reception and Integration of Refugees (Diair) and involves 68 NGOs and refugees to discuss major topics like vaccination, access to employment and information, legal pathways, etc.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR collaborated with the Diair to share information on the website [refugies.info](#) and created a [webpage](#) with reliable information on the pandemic, services and initiatives.

Recognition of refugees' qualifications. UNHCR worked in close collaboration with governmental partners to advocate for the inclusion of refugee health workers in the response.

HIGHLIGHTS

10,000

At the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, France pledged to resettle 10,000 refugees in 2020-2021.

379 unaccompanied children

have been relocated from Greece to France (by 17 September, source IOM).

80+ refugee volunteers

were involved in a working group on the response to the pandemic and took part in UNHCR advocacy projects and communications.

“We must succeed together”

UNHCR France published the report “**We must succeed together**”, a study on the participation of refugees and asylum seekers in NGOs in France.

UNHCR World Refugee Day’ Speech Contest



A Speech Contest was organized at the National Museum of the History of Immigration. This competition involved 18 French students and refugee students. The aim was to hear the voices of students about the inclusion of refugees in higher education in France.

Key Priorities

- **Mobilizing support:** UNHCR engages with stakeholders in public and private sectors to mobilize support for refugees worldwide and with social media and journalists to reach the general public.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR is monitoring asylum trends at the borders with the UK, Italy and Spain. Observations and recommendations are regularly shared in particular on [UACs](#).
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR provides advice to the Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) and the National Court of Asylum (CNDA). At the CNDA, UNHCR is involved in the selection, training, and participation of some 163 judges in collegial adjudication cases.
- **Reception conditions:** Monitoring visits are conducted in the context of the development of a National Scheme for the reception of asylum seekers and integration of refugees (2021-23).
- **Complementary Pathways (CP):** UNHCR supports the development of CPs through research and coordination with authorities, NGOs, MPs, academia.
- **Family Reunification Taskforce:** UNHCR hosted meetings with NGOs to share challenges and good practices in terms of family reunification procedures.
- **UASC:** UNHCR signed an agreement with the AADH for joint research on UASC access to asylum. With OFPRA and the MoI, UNHCR trained on Best interest procedures for UASC and supports the relocation scheme from Greece by facilitating coordination among actors in France.
- **Vulnerabilities:** UNHCR has trained some 100 staff of the Office for Immigration and Integration on identification and protection of asylum-seekers and refugees with specific needs.

- **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance:** UNHCR, Diar and the IFRI developed an [Academy for refugee participation in 2021](#). UNHCR and France Bénévolat granted 14 refugee volunteers so far the Passeport Bénévole recognizing volunteer work.
- **Access to employment:** UNHCR co-facilitated webinars with the Tent Partnership for Refugees and major companies to share good practices and promote better access to employment for refugees.
- **Mobilizing the Youth:** UNHCR implements various activities for youth. The [INTER'ACT project](#) will be implemented in different regions, with 20 refugee volunteers and reaching more than 3,000 middle school and 1,000 high school students in 2021.
- **Advocacy and working with partners:** UNHCR supports a 'whole society approach' partnering with the Government, civil society, Universities, media and private sector to raise awareness, also through digital engagement and expert briefings.
- **Innovation service:** UNHCR facilitates the digital inclusion of refugee influencers through a project improving two-ways communication with refugees.

Statelessness

- France has ratified the 1954 Convention in 1960 and signed the 1961 Convention in 1962. UNHCR facilitates sharing of practices on Statelessness Determination Procedures and advocates for France to ratify the 1961 Convention.

UNHCR Presence in France

Staff:

13 National Staff
 5 International Staff
 15 staff with PSP

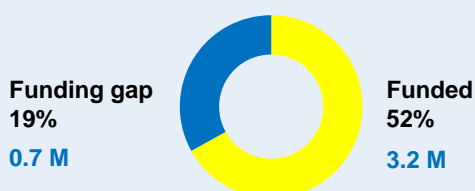
Offices:

1 Branch Office in Paris

Financial information (28 September 2021)

Financial requirements

USD 3.9 M



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