

# Greece

February 2022

In the 2021 UNHCR-led Inter-agency [Participatory Assessment](#), refugees and asylum-seekers identified key concerns and recommendations on [self-reliance](#), preventing [gender-based violence](#) and strengthening [community](#) networks.

The National Integration Strategy is a positive step forward for refugee [integration](#). UNHCR works to create favourable integration conditions through projects with refugees, local communities, municipalities and the private sector.

Increasing reports of [human rights violations](#) at European Union (EU) borders are extremely worrying. UNHCR continues to call for investigations and respect for the right to asylum.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN\*

Refugees	<b>112,022</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>49,397</b>
Others of concern	<b>4,705</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Republic	<b>38,496</b>	Afghanistan	<b>14,682</b>
Afghanistan	<b>25,188</b>	Syrian Arab Republic	<b>4,297</b>
Iraq	<b>12,657</b>	Pakistan	<b>4,138</b>

\*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#). The refugee population of concern represents people recognized as refugees by Greece, while the actual number present in Greece may be lower.

## COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

**Advocacy:** UNHCR has works with the authorities to ensure vaccinations are accessible to all and to help overcome obstacles in the vaccination roll-out.

**Inclusion:** The Government has included all third-country nationals and stateless persons, regardless of legal status or residence, in the national vaccination plan.

**Communication with Communities:** UNHCR works with communities and the Government to increase awareness about the pandemic and the importance of vaccination.

**Health:** The vaccination rate among the refugee population in Greece had reached 38 per cent as of the end of 2021. UNHCR supports Greece's COVID-19 response by providing hygiene items and personal protective equipment.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**5,600**

refugees and asylum-seekers received [legal assistance](#) in 2021, including 2,000 from July to December.

**4,400**

requests received by UNHCR's [Helpline](#) in 2021, including 1,650 from July to December.

**1,600**

[unaccompanied children](#) received help through the national tracing mechanism established in April 2021 by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum with UNHCR support.

**1,100**

refugees received [psychosocial support](#) by trained refugees and through the dedicated Helpline in 2021.

## From the fear of loneliness to family safety

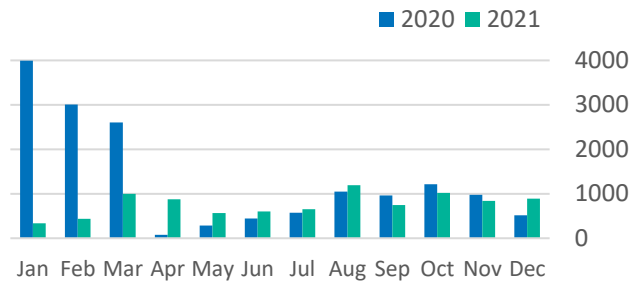


Nidal's journey from Syria took a toll on his physical and mental health. The legal assistance he received afterwards changed his life and helped him reunite with his family. Read the rest of Nidal's story [here](#).

## Key Priorities

- **Capacity-building:** UNHCR pilots good practices, deploys staff and provides training and advice to help strengthen State systems and expertise on asylum, reception and solutions for refugees.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR raises with the authorities and other key actors critical matters that affect the rights and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers to trigger legal and policy change.
- **Access to territory:** A key priority for UNHCR is that those seeking asylum can access the territory and fair procedures. In addition, UNHCR staff are at border locations to help new arrivals who need special assistance.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR supports asylum authorities to improve quality in asylum processing and provides legal aid to asylum-seekers and refugees through its partners.
- **Integration:** UNHCR advises the State to ensure that refugees have access to rights and necessary documentation; runs integration projects, including on employability and livelihoods; and supports municipalities who lead on refugee inclusion.
- **Persons with specific needs:** To those most at risk, such as unaccompanied children or survivors of sexual violence, UNHCR provides psychosocial support, emergency shelter and/or foster care.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR mobilizes refugees to create support networks, from addressing mental health issues to training youth to help their peers.
- **Relocation:** UNHCR supports the relocation of unaccompanied children and other vulnerable groups from Greece to other European States.

## MONTHLY ARRIVALS TO GREECE



## Working with Partners

- UNHCR supports the Government, which leads the refugee response, by working with State and EU institutions, municipalities, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, refugees and local communities.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR strives to raise awareness among the host population, foster understanding and solidarity with refugees, and cultivates partnerships to mobilize wider support.

## Statelessness

- Greece has acceded to the 1954 Statelessness Convention but has yet to accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- UNHCR offers advice to Greece to establish a statelessness determination procedure. UNHCR also deploys staff and offers expertise to collect and review data and implement legislation on acquiring Greek citizenship.

## UNHCR Presence in Greece

### Staff:

145 National Staff

16 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Country Office in Athens

6 Offices in Lesbos, Samos, Kos, Thessaloniki, Chios and Evros

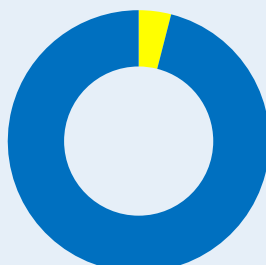
## Financial information (22 February 2022)

### Financial requirements

USD 60 M

Funding gap  
96%

57.6 M



Funded  
4%

2.4 M

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UNHCR Greece is grateful to the donors to its 2022 programme:

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