

# Portugal

February 2023

Portugal offers a largely **welcoming environment** for refugees and engages in various solidarity and responsibility-sharing measures, in the context of growing asylum applications in Portugal.

Over **57,000 refugees** fleeing Ukraine were granted **temporary protection** as of February 2023, Ukrainians currently being the main refugee nationality in Portugal.

**UNHCR** works with partners providing capacity-building, promoting refugee protection, participation, inclusion, improved coordination, effective identification and referrals.

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

Refugees	<b>48,670</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>2,858</b>
Stateless persons	<b>55</b>

## Top three countries of origin\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	<b>38,272</b>	Afghanistan	<b>771</b>
Nigeria	<b>3,459</b>	Angola	<b>225</b>
Syrian Arab Republic	<b>906</b>	Ukraine	<b>195</b>

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

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of mid-February, 57,900 refugees from Ukraine had been registered in Portugal.

**Reception:** Municipalities throughout Portugal emerged as a key actor in providing reception and support to refugees fleeing Ukraine, with citizens offering their homes and support to individual families, as over 57,000 refugees have fled the war in Ukraine and have found safety in Portugal since 24 February 2022.

**Capacity building:** UNHCR has provided capacity building to some 90 officials from municipalities across the country to discuss topics such as reception conditions, protection standards, trafficking, identification and referral of persons with specific needs, intercultural communication, and work with interpreters.

**Coordination:** The government established a Task Force aiming to provide a coordinated response to the influx of refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### UNHCR and EUAA's joint capacity building

Within its role of coordinating the process of establishing a comprehensive identification and referral system for asylum seekers with specific needs, UNHCR organized in September and December a series of workshops on international protection and specific needs, with the support of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), which conducted trainings on the use of the **IPSN tool**.

### Launch of the UNHCR Help page

UNHCR launched its **Help page** in December with country-specific and up-to-date information on international protection and services available in Portugal. The content is tailored to the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers.

### Information, legal support

Through UNHCR partner in Portugal, the Portuguese Refugee Council (CPR), a total of 13,502 legal consultations were provided to citizens of 84 nationalities and stateless on asylum and integration-related issues.



## MUNICIPALITIES TOOLKIT LAUNCH EVENT

UNHCR launched the **Municipalities toolkit** in December, a practical tool for local authorities and other actors on the effective inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in their communities. Good practices on inclusion and refugee integration experiences as well as recommendations on strengthening inclusion locally were highlighted at the event.

## Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** Through its partner, the Portuguese Refugee Council (CPR), UNHCR provides free legal assistance to asylum-seekers and facilitates access to the legal aid system at the judicial appeal stage.
- **Protection:** UNHCR promotes protection standards in refugee reception policies and processes. It works towards the strengthening of mechanisms for the identification and referral of asylum seekers with specific needs within the asylum procedure, in cooperation with the asylum and reception institutions. In the field of child protection, UNHCR provides technical advice and trainings to government and service providers to strengthen procedures, day-to-day care, and integration of children in the community.
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** UNHCR provides technical support and capacity-building on a range of resettlement-related issues both pre- and post-arrival, including support in the coordination of the selection process, training to relevant authorities, reception entities and other local actors, as well as programme design support.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR promotes community-based and participatory approaches with government and NGO partners aiming at strengthening engagement with persons of concern in decision and policy-making processes in Portugal, including in collaboration with the existing refugee-led organizations.
- **Capacity-building:** UNHCR conducts training and capacity-building in response to arising needs, in areas such as child protection, reception, international protection and resettlement.

## Working with Partners

- The **Government of Portugal** is UNHCR key partner in ensuring the protection and integration of refugees and asylum seekers. UNHCR collaborates with a wide range of government stakeholders, including the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF), the Ministry of Internal Administration, the High Commissioner for Migration (ACM), the Secretary of State for Equality and Migration, and the Social Security Institute. Other key actors include the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ombudsperson's Office, the Civil Registry Office, and municipalities. IOM is also a key counterpart, as are civil society actors and refugee-led organizations. UNHCR also closely coordinates with the recently established National Partner **Portugal for UNHCR (Portugal Com ACNUR)**.
- UNHCR works closely with its implementing partner in Portugal, the **Portuguese Refugee Council (CPR)**.

## Statelessness

- Portugal acceded to both Statelessness Conventions in 2012, however, it does not have a statelessness determination procedure (SDP). Portugal pledged to establish the SDP at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum and is currently working to modify relevant legal acts to achieve this goal.

## UNHCR Presence in Portugal

- UNHCR has established a small presence, currently with three UNHCR personnel based in Lisbon.

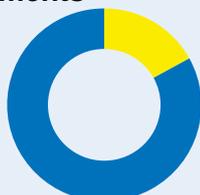
## Financial information\* (February 2023)

\* Information relates to the Representation in Austria and to the European Institutions in Strasbourg, the Office for Switzerland and Liechtenstein, the Liaison Office in Vienna and the presence in Portugal

### Financial requirements

USD 5.4 M

Funding gap  
83%  
4.5 M



Funded  
17%  
0.9 M

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