

# Greece

February 2024

UNHCR reinforces national authorities in ensuring a favourable **protection space** for forcibly displaced and stateless people, and provide information on rights, procedures and obligations.

UNHCR supports refugees and asylum-seekers with **legal aid and referrals to specialized services**, while supporting the government with advice and expertise on asylum, reception and **durable solutions**.

By the end of 2023, UNHCR had supported 1,114 refugees and asylum-seekers with **livelihoods support** through employability and upskilling programmes, vocational projects and job fairs.

## UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS

Refugees	<b>169,393</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>17,785</b>
Stateless people	<b>4,488</b>
Others of concern	<b>3,638</b>

### Top three countries of origin\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Rep.	<b>43,220</b>	Afghanistan	<b>2,039</b>
Afghanistan	<b>36,340</b>	Egypt	<b>1,807</b>
Ukraine	<b>24,954</b>	Pakistan	<b>1,774</b>

\*Source: UNHCR [Refugee Data Finder](#) platform as of mid-2023. The refugee population represents people recognized as refugees by Greece including those under temporary protection, while the actual number present in Greece may be lower.

## Socio-Economic Inclusion of Refugees in Greece

### Generating livelihoods opportunities for refugees

UNHCR works with the authorities, NGOs and the private sector to support refugees' integration. From January 2022 , 4,192 refugees and asylum-seekers received **employability services**, 2,128 adult asylum-seekers country-wide attended **language classes** and 86 attended **vocational training** in child care and in care giving for people with disabilities.

### UNHCR and municipalities foster the inclusion of refugees in host communities

UNHCR cooperates with the City of Athens and through the **Disabilities Inclusive** programme helps refugees with disabilities access welfare and job opportunities.

In Northern Greece, the "**Advancing the Inclusion of Recognized Refugees in Greece (AIR)**" project, implemented by the Municipality of Neapoli-Sykies and UNHCR, offers refugees free language courses, helps to navigate the financial and social services, and promotes social inclusion.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Legal Assistance

UNHCR supported **4,400** refugees and asylum-seekers through **legal assistance** in 2023.

### Protection Helpdesk

In 2023, **2,835** individuals reached out to UNHCR's Protection Helpdesk seeking **information** on legal matters, medical support, accommodation and assistance at border locations.

### Urban Outreach Initiative

In 2023, through its urban outreach activity, UNHCR approached **1,484** refugees and asylum-seekers in Athens, including 430 women and 59 children. Those reached reported **challenges** mainly in accessing legal employment, accommodation and legal assistance.



Barly, a refugee from DRC, reunites with his family in Athens.  
© UNHCR/Socrates Baltagiannis

### Refugee family reunites and finds hope

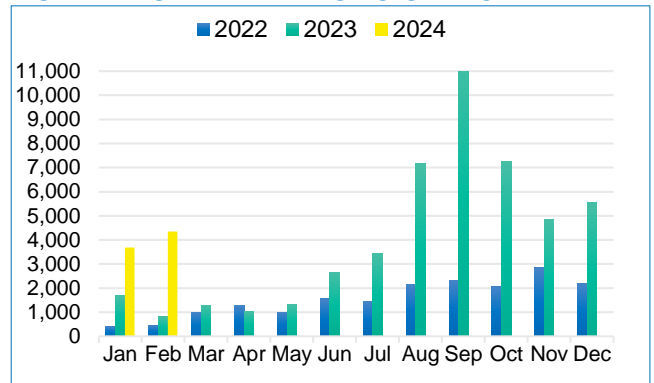
Barly waited anxiously in the arrivals hall of Athens International Airport, holding a colourful bouquet of flowers to offer to his wife, Rachel, and their four children. With the help of UNHCR's legal support partner, the Greek Council for Refugees, they met each other again after eight years of separation.

Read more [here](#).

## Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR utilizes its dedicated Helpline and on-ground presence to identify and refer people to specialized services in a timely manner.
- **People with specific needs:** Through referrals to specialized partners, UNHCR connects vulnerable refugees and those most at risk, including people living with chronic illnesses, survivors of GBV and unaccompanied and separated children with relevant support services. UNHCR also links refugees with disabilities to the national social protection system to benefit from existing safety nets.
- **Inclusion:** Working with refugee communities, UNHCR identifies refugees' skills and experience while mapping intentions and needs. Together with the Government, NGO partners, the private sector and municipalities, UNHCR connects refugees to jobs and helps them acquire documentation necessary to live and work in Greece. UNHCR also offers advisory support to national authorities to avoid administrative hurdles hindering refugee inclusion.
- **Legal aid:** UNHCR offers personalized legal aid through partners to ensure refugees and asylum-seekers have unhindered access to their rights.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR engages with authorities and other relevant actors to address key issues impacting refugees and asylum-seekers' access to rights, including access to territory and asylum procedures, and to catalyse legal and policy reforms.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR works towards raising awareness among the host population on the challenges refugees face, foster solidarity and cultivate partnerships with the private sector to mobilize wider support.
- **Institutional strengthening:** UNHCR deploys staff and provides technical advice and expertise to strengthen state systems and expertise on asylum, reception and durable solutions.

## MONTHLY SEA ARRIVALS TO GREECE



Source: [Mediterranean Situation Data Portal](#)

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works primarily with the national Government, municipalities as well as EU institutions, UN agencies, I/NGOs, refugees, local communities and the private sector.

## Statelessness

- Greece has acceded to the 1954 Statelessness Convention but has yet to accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- UNHCR has been working with the Government with a view to establish a statelessness determination procedure, data collection and issue legislation on citizenship. In cooperation with the municipality of Athens, UNHCR also provides classes and support to those preparing to sit the Greek citizenship exams.

## UNHCR Presence in Greece

### Staff:

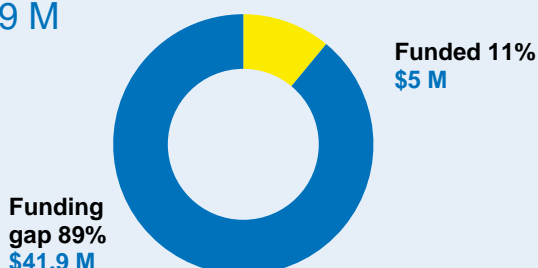
149 National Personnel  
 10 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Country Office in Athens  
 7 Offices in Lesbos, Samos, Kos, Chios, Evros, Thessaloniki and Athens

## Financial information (31 January 2024)

**Financial requirements for 2024**  
**\$46.9 M**



UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors:

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UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.