

PORTUGAL

February 2021

Portugal maintains a largely **welcoming environment** for refugees and consistently engages in various solidarity and responsibility-sharing measures.

In 2020 resettlement continued despite the pandemic, with 222 arrivals. 33 persons were **relocated** from Italy and Malta, and 78 unaccompanied children were relocated from Greece.

UNHCR works with partners promoting refugee participation, improved coordination, and effective identification and referral of vulnerable persons within the asylum system.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	2,335
Asylum-seekers	469
Stateless people	14

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Rep.	768	Gambia	57
Ukraine	436	Angola	50
Eritrea	193	Guinea	43

Data source: UNHCR 2020 Mid-Year Statistical report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: Advocacy efforts in the early stages of the pandemic focused on sharing good practices related to the COVID-19 response in the context of reception and communication.

Inclusion of persons of concern: The Portuguese Government took concrete measures targeting refugees and migrants, including a specific provision extending the validity of documents and orientations on the provision of health services to refugees and migrants.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR supported the Government and other entities working with persons of concern in devising standards and practical tips for risk communication. UNHCR's implementing partner undertook sensitization campaigns among its assisted population from the onset of the pandemic, with the support of health service providers.

HIGHLIGHTS

New coordination mechanism

In November 2020, Portugal established a single coordination mechanism encompassing all refugee issues, led by the High Commissioner for Migration, one of UNHCR's key government partners.

Resettlement despite COVID-19

Portugal resumed resettlement as soon as the global travel ban on resettlement travel was lifted, implementing health safety measures, such as testing prior to departure

Inclusion

In an effort to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 and the resulting shortage in public services provision, Portugal extended the validity of all documents, including those related to residency permits, and temporarily regularized all migrants with pending regularization applications.



UN agencies welcome relocations of unaccompanied children from Greece, call for further action and solidarity.

IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF welcomed the relocation of 49 unaccompanied asylum-seeking and migrant children from Greece to Portugal and Finland.

[Link to the story](#)

Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** Through its implementing partner, UNHCR promotes quality refugee status determination procedures, provides free legal assistance to asylum seekers, both in country and at border points and facilitates access to the legal aid system at the judicial appeal stage.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** UNHCR provides technical support and capacity-building on a range of resettlement-related issues both pre- and post-arrival, including programme design, development of SOPs, coordination, selection missions, integration/social inclusion, and monitoring and evaluation components.
- **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance:** UNHCR promotes community-based approaches with Government and NGO partners aiming at strengthening engagement with persons of concern in Portugal, especially with existing refugee-led organizations, and empowering their work.
- **Protection:** Supports ongoing initiatives by the Government to strengthen protection of asylum-seeking children from the moment of arrival, including through cooperation with anti-trafficking, child protection and education institutions in Portugal.

Statelessness

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

Working with Partners

- The **Government of Portugal** is UNHCR's key partner in ensuring the protection and integration of persons of concern. 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 Integration 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 Portugal is also a key counterpart, as are civil society actors and refugee-led organizations.
- UNHCR also works closely with its implementing partner in Portugal, the **Portuguese Refugee Council (CPR)**.

UNHCR Presence in Portugal

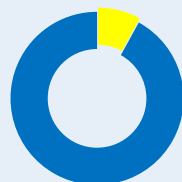
UNHCR closed its office in Portugal in 1998. UNHCR is present in Portugal through two UNHCR deployees, an Associate Resettlement Officer and a Senior Protection Assistant reporting directly to the Regional Bureau for Europe.

Financial information (28 February 2021)

*information relates to the Representations for Austria and to the European Institutions in Strasbourg, to the Office for Switzerland and Liechtenstein, the Liaison Office in Vienna and the presence in Portugal

Financial requirements
USD 5.2 M

Funding gap
 92%
5.1 M



Funded
 8%
0.4 M

UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions* to the 2021 global programmes (USD, as of 28 February 2021):

Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

*Unearmarked contributions allow UNHCR for critical flexibility in how best to reach populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Above are donors of USD 10 million or more.