

The Netherlands (Kingdom of)

September 2024

In its coalition programme, the new government announced to implement its most stringent asylum rules yet. These include calling an asylum crisis and withdrawing the reception distribution law.

UNHCR shared [recommendations](#) with the new government to strengthen the protection of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons in the Netherlands.

In 2024, UNHCR joined a consortium of organisations to advocate for better [child protection](#) standards in reception centres, in particular unaccompanied children.

POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024)*

Refugees	255,455
Asylum-seekers	43,201
Stateless people	4,365

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	112,449	Syrian Arab Republic	13,077
Syrian Arab Republic	65,622	Turkiye	3,556
Eritrea	13,508	Iraq	3,436

*UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report 2024 and UNHCR [data finder](#)

[Protecting forcibly displaced and stateless people in The Netherlands](#)

[UNHCR joins a Child Protection Alliance in the Netherlands](#)

UNHCR joined an alliance of organisations determined to improve the reception conditions for children (including unaccompanied children) to ensure a more child-friendly approach/policies.

[UNHCR works with Refugee-Led Organisations \(RLOs\) on capacity development](#)

UNHCR continued to organize Capacity Strengthening Session for RLO's, where experts were invited to provide workshops on specific topics. Also, UNHCR assisted the RLO's in drafting a joint statement sharing recommendations with the political parties, including those forming the new government.

[Supporting access to livelihoods](#)

RefugeeWork, a Dutch-based [job matching](#) platform for refugees and asylum seekers, joined UNHCR's Refugee Employment Platform. UNHCR facilitated the first job fair organized by INDEED for refugees.

HIGHLIGHTS

[Report on Temporary \(Flexible\) Housing](#)

UNHCR visited six inspiring projects on flexible housing for refugees and will launch a report at the end of 2024.

[First Statelessness decisions issued by the Court of The Hague](#)

In April 2024, the Court of The Hague made its first ruling in the Statelessness Determination Procedure. Another two rulings followed in July and August.

[Unity Euro Cup 2024: Football Unites](#)

The preliminary rounds of the UNITY EURO Cup at the Dutch FA campus brought over 34 nationalities together. A unique team of refugees and locals was selected and will compete on behalf of the Netherlands during the European Championship in Switzerland in October.



Noori runs a successful and sustainable date business: NooriDates.© UNHCR / Sasha Lukasik

NOORIDATES: "NO WORDS BUT DATES"

Noori runs a sustainable and socially engaged date business. His journey from being a refugee from conflict-torn Yemen to a successful entrepreneur in the Netherlands illustrates his determination to improve not only his own life, but also that of others. Read his story on [unhcr.nl](#).

Key Priorities

- Asylum Capacity Development:** UNHCR facilitated a deployment from the Dutch Immigration Services (INS) to UNHCR Türkiye to support our office in their work with the Turkish authorities, and encourage future deployments from the Dutch government in support of UNHCR's work on Asylum Capacity Development.
- Reception monitoring:** UNHCR undertook 15+ reception monitoring visits since the start of the year. Many of the visits were to emergency reception facilities. UNHCR remains concerned over the reception conditions in emergency facilities as these may compound mental health issues and hamper inclusion and the development of children (due to the temporary nature of these facilities). Concerns were shared with the Central Reception Agency and location managers.
- Integration:** Refugees are residing longer in reception centers due to a shortage of social housing, consequently delaying their inclusion and participation. UNHCR, conducted a study into flexible temporary housing projects to assess the benefits and social impact in refugees to distil best practices. More municipalities are resorting to such projects as a solution to the lack of social housing. With this report to be released at the end of 2024, UNHCR seeks to support municipalities and other relevant stakeholders in their transition to flexible housing for recognized refugees and displaced persons from Ukraine by showcasing a number of good practice projects. Results from the study aim to address questions on how to establish flexible housing for this particular group; how to deal with vulnerabilities; and what social aspects should be taken into consideration.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works closely with partners the Dutch National Football Association (KNVB) and the Life Goals Foundation to provide sports opportunities for refugees by organizing regional and national tournaments and guiding a team of refugees and locals to the Unity Euro Cup 2024.

- External engagement:** UNHCR calls for more adequate reception places for refugees and asylum-seekers in the Netherlands. In April 2024, UNHCR reacted to the government's plan to host refugees and asylum-seekers in pavilions, which are not suitable for the reception of asylum seekers, particularly for longer periods. This led to media coverage by several newspapers and a reaction by UNHCR's Head of Office on national television.
- Refugee Led Organizations (RLOs):** UNHCR strengthened its cooperation with refugee-led and community-based organisations through the creation of a network. UNHCR continues to organise workshops, including one on fundraising in February 2024, to empower RLOs and to ensure the voices of forcibly displaced people are better represented in policy and decision-making.

Statelessness

- The Netherlands has acceded to both the UN conventions on Statelessness, and has a statelessness determination procedure in place since October 2023. The procedure does not automatically grant residency to those recognized as stateless and who were residing irregularly in the Netherlands. Through an additional procedure it will be assessed if a stateless individual is able to return to his/her country of habitual residence before a residence permit granted. UNHCR continues to monitor access to residency for such individuals and provides advice to judges, the Immigration and Naturalization Department and municipalities.

UNHCR Presence in The Netherlands

Staff:

7 National Staff
1 Intern

Offices:

1 Country Office in The Hague

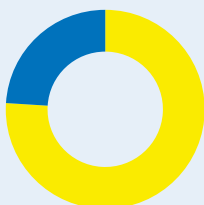
Financial Information* (as of 30 September 2024)

*Information relates to Belgium Multi-Country Office

Financial requirements

\$ 12.2 M

Funding gap 24%
\$ 2.8 M



Funded 76%
\$ 9.4 M

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