

France

February 2021

With a **focus on improving access to protection and durable solutions for refugees**, UNHCR works with the authorities, civil society and the private sector to protect and foster inclusion for refugees and asylum seekers.

UNHCR places particular emphasis on the **participation of refugees** through the direct collaboration with a network of refugee volunteers and the creation of an Academy of the participation of refugees.

To respond to the pandemic, UNHCR supported the coordination of actors with a special focus on **providing access to information and maintaining services**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	419,593
Asylum-seekers	103,754
Stateless people	1,531

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers
Sri Lanka	22,214	Afghanistan	10,027
DRC	16,383	Albania	8,032
Sudan	15,598	Georgia	7,755

Data source: OFPRA 2019 Annual Report, UNHCR 2020 Mid-Year Statistical report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR developed and implemented a strategy to raise awareness on the impact of the pandemic on forcibly displaced people and highlighted the contribution of refugees in the response to COVID-19.

Coordination: UNHCR co-chairs a coordination platform with the Inter-Ministerial Delegation for the Reception and Integration of Refugees (Diair), involving 68 NGOs, the City of Paris and refugees.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR collaborated with the Diair to share information on the website [refugies.info](#) and created a [webpage](#) with reliable information on the pandemic, services and initiatives on maintaining social ties.

Recognition of refugees' qualifications. UNHCR worked in collaboration with governmental partners to advocate for the inclusion of refugee health workers in the response.

HIGHLIGHTS

10,000

At the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, France pledged to resettle 10,000 refugees in 2020-2021.

193

Unaccompanied Children (UAC) have been relocated in 2020 from Greece to France.

72

refugee volunteers were involved in a working group on the response to the pandemic and took part in UNHCR advocacy projects and communications.

“We must succeed together”

UNHCR France published the report [“We must succeed together”](#), a study on the participation of refugees and asylum seekers in NGOs in France.



Refugees join the fight against COVID-19

Refugees are also on the front line in the fight against COVID-19. UNHCR France has portrayed refugees, everyday heroes, who decided to volunteer to help the most vulnerable in France during the pandemic.

Key Priorities

- **Mobilizing support for refugees:** UNHCR engages with a wide range of stakeholders in the public and private sector to mobilize support for refugees worldwide and works with the media to inform the general public and raise awareness.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR seeks to monitor asylum trends at the borders, notably with the UK (Calais-Grande-Synthe), Italy and Spain. Observations and recommendations are regularly shared with relevant stakeholders with a view to ensure the respect of rights of persons in need of international protection with particular attention paid to **UACs**.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR France provides advice to the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) and the National Court of Asylum (CNDA). At the CNDA, UNHCR is involved in the selection, training and participation of some 145 judges in collegial adjudication cases. UNHCR France also facilitates the sharing of practices between the OFPRA and asylum authorities in Niger, in coordination with the MoI and MFA and in the framework of the GRF.
- **Reception conditions:** UNHCR monitors the situation of asylum-seekers, including access to reception, documentation, language training, notably in the context of the development of a National Scheme (roadmap) for the reception of asylum seekers and the integration of refugees (2021-2023) and of a plan on persons with specific needs.
- **Resettlement:** Based on the important GRF pledge by France to resettle 10,000 refugees, UNHCR continues working with the French authorities towards this objective.
- **Complementary Pathways:** UNHCR is increasing activities to establish complementary pathways, including sustainable education pathways, through research, coordination and contacts with a range of actors (authorities, NGOs, MPs, universities).

- **Relocation of unaccompanied children (UAC):** UNHCR supports France in the implementation of its pledge to relocate 500 UACs from Greece. 193 UACs have been relocated in 2020.
- **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance:** UNHCR works with the Diar and the IFRI to support an **Academy for refugee participation in 2021**. CO Paris is also working with the NGO France Bénévolat to grant to refugee volunteers the Passeport Bénévole, a certificate recognizing volunteer work.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR France works to raise awareness about refugees with local authorities and implements activities targeting the Youth (**INTER'ACT project** with middle-school and high-school students).
- **Advocacy and working with partners:** UNHCR supports a 'whole society approach' partnering with the Government, civil society, Universities, media and private sector to raise awareness and create engagement for refugees and provides expert briefings.

Statelessness

- France has ratified the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons in 1960 and signed the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 1962. UNHCR facilitates sharing of practices between the OFPRA and other countries in the area of Statelessness Determination Procedures and advocates for France to ratify the 1961 Convention.

UNHCR Presence in France

Staff:

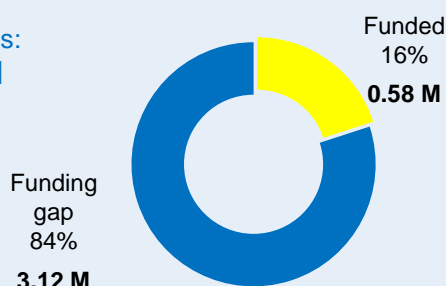
13 National Staff
 5 International Staff
 14 Staff working with PSP

Offices:

1 Country Office in Paris

Financial information (28 February 2021)

Financial Requirements:
USD 3.7 M



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

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.

UNHCR France is also grateful for 2021 contributions from the following donors (as of 28 February):

France | private donors