

Cyprus

February 2023

Arrivals: With 21,565 new asylum applications and 29,715 claims pending decision at the Asylum Service in 2022, Cyprus hosts large numbers of asylum-seekers, relative to its population.

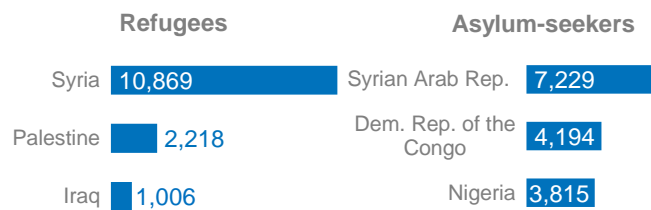
Reception: Examination of well-founded asylum claims is significantly delayed, and reception facilities remain insufficient and sub-standard, especially for unaccompanied and separated children.

Integration: While high numbers of failed asylum-seekers are returned, integration opportunities for refugees in Cyprus remain scarce and anti-refugee public opinion prevails.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022*

Refugees & Subsidiary Protection Beneficiaries	30,277
Asylum-seekers	33,391
Persons under UNHCR's mandate in the northern part of Cyprus	110
Stateless persons	74

Top three countries of origin*



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

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of mid-February, some **21,000 refugees from Ukraine** were registered for temporary protection in Cyprus.

Temporary Protection: UNHCR successfully advocated for rights under the temporary protection (TP) directive to be provided to persons arriving after 1 February 2022. TP status for refugees from Ukraine has been extended until March 2024. Refugees from Ukraine can now renew online where they have access to information on refugee rights.

Accommodation and Financial Support: The Council of Ministers approved a Rent Subsidy Scheme for refugees from Ukraine being accommodated in hotel units. Additionally, monthly financial assistance of EUR 102 for early childhood care was approved for working parents/guardians.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR engages in outreach activities to identify gaps and needs within the communities of refugees from Ukraine, providing personal hygiene items to particularly vulnerable individuals.

Information Dissemination: Information is made available to refugees from Ukraine through UNHCR [Help Platform](#), available online. Individual counselling and advice are provided by UNHCR and civil-society organizations.

HIGHLIGHTS

Financial Inclusion Workshop

UNHCR hosted a [workshop on access to financial services for asylum-seekers and refugees](#) in October 2022 to identify obstacles, and explore opportunities for refugee financial inclusion. The event was targeted for refugee entrepreneurs, the financial sector, government, and NGO stakeholders.

Training of Asylum Service Staff

During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign, UNHCR provided training to Cyprus Asylum Service staff, specifically on gender-related persecution in the context of examining asylum applications.

Fleeing to Safety Exhibition & Conference

The World Refugee Day 2022 photographic exhibition featuring portraits of refugees in Cyprus by Sebastian Rich was [re-launched at the University of Cyprus](#) with a conference exploring refugee challenges and prospects.



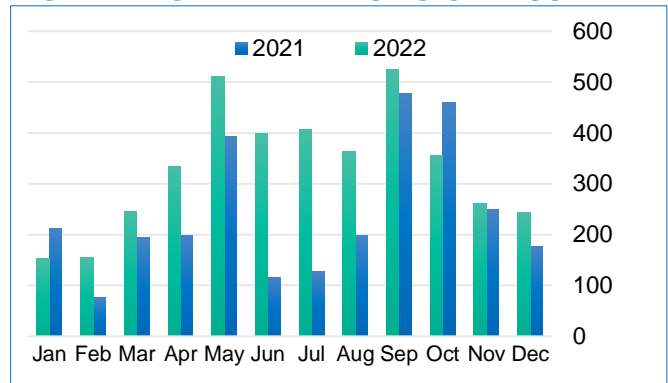
MEET DOLINE*, AN ASYLUM-SEEKER, A TRANSGENDER WOMAN AND A SURVIVOR OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

During the [16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence](#), UNHCR illuminated issues affecting asylum-seeking and refugee women through dedicated stories. Read the full article: [HERE](#).

Key Priorities

- **Protection monitoring:** UNHCR promotes refugee and asylum-seekers' rights, particularly access to asylum procedures, reception conditions and detention.
- **Promoting legislative amendments:** UNHCR provides recommendations on relevant draft laws to ensure compliance with international and EU standards.
- **Reinforcing RSD procedures:** Through legal recommendations, UNHCR supports the authorities in further strengthening their refugee status determination procedures to ensure sound decision-making.
- **UASC Monitoring:** UNHCR advocates, and works with national authorities, for timely and accurate identification of UASC to secure access to national child protection systems and procedures including documentation and family reunification.
- **Capacity building:** UNHCR provides training to government and civil society stakeholders on key protection issues including refugee rights, reception conditions and child protection.
- **Local Integration:** UNHCR advocates for social, economic, and cultural integration of refugees, through processes of naturalisation, long-term residency, and family reunification.
- **Statelessness:** UNHCR promotes accession to the Statelessness Conventions to which Cyprus has not acceded.
- **Raising public awareness:** UNHCR engages in public information and media relations; education activities; World Refugee Day and other events; campaigns and constituency-building.
- **Communication with Communities:** Engaging in communication with refugee communities through the Refugee Outreach Volunteers Programme.

MONTHLY SEA ARRIVALS TO CYPRUS



Source: [Mediterranean Situation Data Portal](#)

Working with Partners

- **The Government of the Republic of Cyprus** is UNHCR's key partner in refugee protection. UNHCR works with Parliamentary committees; the Offices of the Ombudsman and the Child Commissioner; diplomatic missions and the media, among others.
- **Civil Society Engagement** is fundamental to UNHCR's work. UNHCR is partnered with the Cyprus Refugee Council and the Refugee Rights Association.

Statelessness

- Cyprus has not acceded to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. Provisions in the Refugee Law granting humanitarian status for stateless persons in need of protection were abolished in 2014. These persons remain without protection.

UNHCR Presence in Cyprus

Staff:

- 1 International Staff
- 12 National Staff
- 4 Affiliate Staff
- 1 Intern

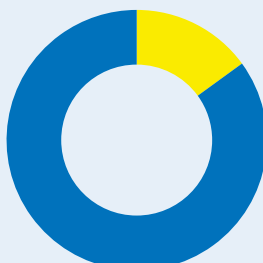
Offices:

- 1 Office in Nicosia

Financial information (February 2023)

Financial requirements USD 3.2 M

Funding gap
85%
2.7 M



Funded
15%
0.5 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked and earmarked funding:

[Belgium](#) | [Denmark](#) | [France](#) | [Germany](#) | [Ireland](#) | [Italy](#) | [Japan](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Norway](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States of America](#)

As well as for the generous contributions from private individuals and the private sector.