

Portugal

September 2022

Portugal offers a largely **welcoming environment** for refugees and engages in various solidarity and responsibility-sharing measures, in the context of growing asylum applications.

Over **50,000 refugees fleeing** Ukraine were granted **temporary protection**, which marked a significant shift in refugee population trends, with Ukrainians being the dominant nationality.

UNHCR works with partners to promote refugee participation, improved coordination, and effective identification and referral of persons with special needs.

POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022*

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Refugees | 48,670 |
| Asylum-seekers | 2,858 |
| Stateless persons | 55 |

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

| Refugees | | Asylum-seekers | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|------------|
| Ukraine | 38,272 | Afghanistan | 771 |
| Nigeria | 3,459 | Angola | 225 |
| Syrian Arab Rep. | 906 | Ukraine | 195 |

*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 30 September, 52,819 refugees from Ukraine are currently present in Portugal.

52,724 refugees from Ukraine were registered for temporary protection in Portugal.

Capacity building: UNHCR provided capacity building to some 90 officials from municipalities across the country to discuss topics such as: reception conditions; protection standards; trafficking; identification and referral of persons with specific needs; intercultural communication; work with interpreters.

Coordination: The Government established a Task Force aiming to provide a coordinated response to the influx of refugees fleeing Ukraine.

HIGHLIGHTS

Municipalities take central stage in welcoming refugees fleeing Ukraine

Municipalities throughout Portugal emerged as a key actor in providing reception and support to refugees fleeing Ukraine, with citizens offering their homes and support to individual families, as over 50 thousand persons fled Ukraine to Portugal since 24 February.

Unprecedented measures facilitating access to services

The temporary protection bill directed at refugees fleeing Ukraine included unprecedented measures facilitating access to services such as automatic issuance of national health system number, taxpayer number and social security number, as well as facilitated access to validation of qualifications obtained outside Portugal.

Information, legal support

Through UNHCR's partner, the Portuguese Refugee Council, in the first semester of 2022, 6,623 legal consultations were provided to citizens of 66 nationalities and stateless people on asylum and integration-related issues.

GENDER-BASED AWARENESS-RAISING WORKSHOP WITH REFUGEE WOMEN



During the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, UNHCR Portugal held a GBV workshop raising awareness on GBV and holding participatory discussions on challenges in this area through artistic expression.

Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** Through its implementing partner, CPR, UNHCR 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.
- **Protection:** UNHCR supports the Government in strengthening identification and referral of asylum-seekers with specific needs within the asylum procedure, in cooperation with the asylum and reception institutions. In the field of child protection, UNHCR provides technical advice and trainings to public and on the ground entities to strengthen procedures, day-to-day care, and integration of children in the community.
- **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, missions, integration/social inclusion, and monitoring and evaluation components.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR promotes community-based and participatory approaches with Government and NGO partners aiming at strengthening engagement with persons of concern in decision and policy-making processes in Portugal, including with the existing refugee-led organizations.
- **Capacity-building:** UNHCR conducts training and capacity building in response to arising needs, in areas such as child protection, international protection, resettlement.

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 Equality 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 Portugal also closely coordinates with the recently established National Association **Portugal com ACNUR**.
- UNHCR works closely with its implementing partner in Portugal, the **Portuguese Refugee Council** (CPR).

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 to modify relevant legal acts to establish the procedure.

UNHCR Presence in Portugal

- UNHCR closed its office in Portugal in 1998. Since 2018 UNHCR established its presence, currently with three UNHCR staff and personnel on the ground.

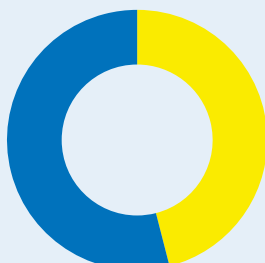
Financial information* (September 2022)

* Information relates to the Representations for Austria and to the European Institutions in Strasbourg, to the Office for Switzerland and Liechtenstein (OSL), the Liaison Office in Vienna and the presence in Portugal.

Financial requirements

USD 5.3 M

Funding gap
54%
3 M



Funded
46%
2.3 M

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