

The Netherlands

September 2022

Arrivals of over 3,000 Afghan evacuees; 77,000 refugees from Ukraine and 23,000 new arrivals in 2022, coupled with lack of social housing and funding have put a **heavy strain on reception capacity**.

Against the backdrop of more restrictive interpretation of the Refugee Convention, **UNHCR focuses on improving the quality of asylum** and strategic judicial engagement to strengthen the protection space.

To support the Government's response to the reception crisis, UNHCR and the Dutch Council for Refugees, developed a **position paper with recommendations**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022*

Refugees	198,406
Asylum-seekers	21,070
Stateless persons/unknown nationality	4,570

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	67,612	Syrian Arab Rep.	7,271
Syrian Arab Rep.	53,496	Yemen	1,534
Eritrea	19,204	Türkiye	1,455

*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 30 September, 76,660 refugees from Ukraine were registered for temporary protection with 66% women and 31% children.

Reception monitoring

UNHCR regularly visits registration centres and shares findings and recommendations with the relevant authorities.

Communicating with communities: UNHCR maintains close contacts with OPORA, a Ukrainian diaspora organisation, which conducts advocacy and research to improve the Ukrainian refugees' situation in the Netherlands.

Help page: UNHCR has contributed to a help page for Ukrainian refugees and aid workers, an initiative by the Dutch Council for Refugees, the Red Cross Society, and other organizations.

Employment: 35,350 persons were registered as officially employed as of 5 September.

Education, 12,070 children were enrolled in primary education and 7,790 in secondary education.

HIGHLIGHTS

Statelessness

The draft law establishing a statelessness determination procedure (SDP) was adopted on 31 May 2022. UNHCR will be involved in its implementation phase.

Amsterdam Pride

On 6 August, UNHCR participated for the first time in the Canal Parade in Amsterdam with more than 60 refugees and UNHCR's high profile supporter and dancer Ahmad Joudeh, a former stateless refugee. The theme of the Pride was "My Gender My Pride". By participating, UNHCR advocated for the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons all over the world.

Visit Anna Drijver to Poland

An actress Anna Drijver visited UNHCR's operation in Poland where she met with Ukrainian refugee women and spoke about their situation and needs, including cash assistance and psychological support.

PRIDE #WITHREFUGEES



Jump on board UNHCR's boat in the Amsterdam Canal Parade with LGBTIQ+ refugees and our high-profile supporter Ahmad Joudeh. [Click to watch the after movie.](#)

Key Priorities

- **Protection (monitoring):** Considering the current reception crisis, UNHCR has ramped up its monitoring activities in the Netherlands. Many emergency reception facilities are offering substandard reception conditions, with lack of access to education, health care and psychosocial assistance.
- **Asylum procedures:** In recent years UNHCR has witnessed a more restrictive interpretation in the application of the Refugee Convention. As such, UNHCR's activities focus on improving the quality of asylum ensuring access to international protection. UNHCR is currently engaged in ad hoc quality initiatives with the asylum authorities, of which results are being discussed with the authorities. UNHCR also engages with the judicial system to ensure access to international protection.
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** The Netherlands resettles 500 persons annually from priority areas such as the Middle East and North Africa. UNHCR successfully advocated with the Dutch authorities to also allocate sufficient places for emergency cases on case-by-case basis.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR has concluded a mapping of Refugee-led Organisations (RLO's) in the Netherlands and is in the process of organising roundtables to discuss with the RLO's how to strengthen refugee's voices in policy making and the public debate.
- **Advocacy:** Considering the current problems with reception and asylum in the Netherlands UNHCR continues to advocate with Ministries and national authorities involved in the asylum process for a less restrictive interpretation of the Refugee Convention and adequate reception standards.

Working with Partners

- In addition to regular contacts with ministerial counterparts, UNHCR works closely with the Dutch Council for Refugees, UNICEF, Defence for Children, Nidos, the Institute for Statelessness, ASKV, LGBT Asylum Support and lawyers, among others, and increasingly with RLOs to push for policy change, including legislative reforms and enhanced participation of persons of concern in policy-making and implementation.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR extended its series of podcasts in cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Stichting Vluchteling. In the podcasts, refugees talk about their homeland, their flight and arrival in the Netherlands and the important role music plays in their lives. UNHCR keeps on engaging with its high-profile supporters Anna Drijver and Ahmad Joudeh, who help to change the narrative and spread UNHCR's message.

Statelessness

- The Netherlands acceded to both the 1954 and the 1961 Statelessness Conventions and the Parliament recently adopted a law establishing the SDP, which however, does not attach residency rights to a determination of statelessness. UNHCR will continue to monitor and advocate for an effective access to a residence permit for persons determined to be stateless in the new procedure.

UNHCR Presence in The Netherlands

Staff:

7 National Staff

Offices:

1 National Office in The Hague

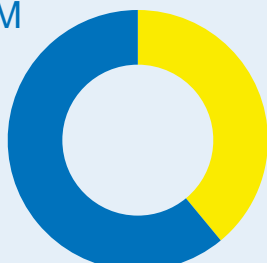
Financial information* (September 2022)

*Information relates to the Representation for EU Affairs, Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, and the Liaison Offices to EUAA and Frontex.

Financial requirements

USD 11.4 M

Funding gap 61%
7 M



Funded 39%
4.4M

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