

Ireland

February 2023

Ukraine: The government granted **70,493** Temporary Protection permissions in 2022 to people who fled the war in Ukraine, 1.4% of the total with similar permissions across Europe.

Asylum: UNHCR trained authorities on access to asylum procedures, including at Dublin airport, where the majority of the 13,651 asylum-seekers entered in 2022, a 415% increase compared to 2021.

Reception: UNHCR has called for urgent action to avoid homelessness and destitution among asylum-seekers, and warned from over-reliance on the private sector that makes shortages more acute.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022 *

Refugees	51,647
Asylum-seekers	9,774
Stateless persons	7

Top three countries of origin*

	Asylum-seekers		Refugees
Georgia	1,681	Ukraine	41,035
Nigeria	1,132	Syria	2,954
Somalia	634	Zimbabwe	797

*Source: UNHCR's [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of mid-February, some **74,800 refugees from Ukraine** had been registered for temporary protection in Ireland and some 48,000 are in state-provided accommodation.

Visiting refugees: UNHCR regularly visits centres hosting refugees from Ukraine as part of its reception monitoring work. The fortnightly visits include a presentation by UNHCR of essential services, facts, rights and obligations for people, as well as points on safeguarding and protection from exploitation and abuse, with interpretation into relevant languages. UNHCR printed posters and leaflets in line with the Stay Safe campaign, in English, Ukrainian and Russian, for distribution in accommodation and information centres nationwide. Information is also available in Ukrainian and Russian on the [Ireland Help Page](#).

Protection assistance: A [helpline and message service](#) for people fleeing Ukraine was established in April 2022 in partnership with the law firm Arthur Cox. Ukrainian and Russian speaking lawyers attend the phoneline, which received calls and messages via Whatsapp and Telegram.

Help page: The UNHCR Ireland help page has received over 470,000 visits since the beginning of the war in Ukraine.

HIGHLIGHTS

Resettlement

201 Syrian refugees were resettled in 2022, and a further group of refugees living in Lebanon was interviewed, as Ireland seeks to progress on its pledge of welcoming 2,900 refugees between 2019 and 2023, when it will chair the [Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement \(ATCR\)](#).

New asylum applications

13,651 people applied for asylum in Ireland in 2022. The highest number of applications were from Georgian nationals, followed by applicants from Algeria and Somalia.

Recognition rate in mid-2022

2,529 decisions were issued at the IPO in the first six months of 2022. 798 people were granted international protection, a recognition rate of 31.6%.



THE UNITED NATIONS BOOK OF COOKIES

UNHCR high profile-supporter Jess Murphy and Eoin Cluskey from "Bread 41" published the [United Nations of Cookies](#) featuring recipes by refugees who have made Ireland their home. Among the contributors was Khatira Hassanpour and her husband Majid (pictured on left). She shared a recipe for Afghani Shortbread *Nankhatai*. Majid also participated in one of four films produced by UNHCR of people making food from home using ingredients by Irish producers. The film that shows him making an aubergine curry in Tribal Foods, Athenry, premiered at the Galway Film Fleadh.

All proceeds of the recipe book go to UNHCR.

Key Priorities

- **Reception:** UNHCR made a number of calls on the government to act swiftly to ensure that refugees arriving from Ukraine and people seeking international protection in Ireland can be provided with accommodation that affords adequate levels of safety and dignity. Meanwhile, UNHCR continued to work on the Programme Board overseeing the end of Direct Provision, Ireland's reception system.
- **Asylum procedures:** 798 decisions on refugee status or subsidiary protection were successful at first instance at the International Protection Office (IPO) in the first six months of 2022. In line with UNHCR's advisory role as set out in Article 35 of the 1951 Refugee Convention, UNHCR continued to work with the office and the International Protection Appeals Tribunal (IPAT) on quality assurance activities, as well as the Border Management Unit and the Legal Aid Board.
- **Safe pathways for university students:** The University of Galway has partnered with UNHCR and Nasc, the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre, on a pioneering initiative to create opportunities for refugee students to come to Ireland to study. The University is taking part in the EU-Passworld project, with a specific focus on developing a roadmap to create new, safe and legal routes for displaced people to secure education scholarships in Ireland.
- **Advocacy:** While in Ireland in October 2022, Kelly Clements, the Deputy High Commissioner to house more refugees as prolonged war and winter will force millions more to flee Ukraine. The Assistant High Commissioner Gillian Triggs met with the Minister for Integration Roderic O'Gorman to discuss Ireland's response to the arrival of refugees from Ukraine and addressed a legal Forum on the importance of pro-bono legal representation.

Working with Partners

- **External engagement:** With the rise in arrival numbers in 2022, UNHCR responded to the increased media attention by sharing guidelines for journalists. *Reporting on Refugees* is a collaboration with the National Union of Journalists.
- **Events with partners:** To mark World Refugee Day, UNHCR organised the Fair Play Football Cup in partnership with Sport Against Racism Ireland. The annual tournament is kindly hosted by the Law Society. Over 200 libraries and bookshops also took part in the annual Book Reading Campaign, which was organised with our partner Children's Books Ireland.

Statelessness

- Ireland has acceded to both the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- Ireland does not have a statelessness determination procedure in place. The office continues to advocate for the establishment of one in line with Action 6 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness. In October, a government official joined UNHCR for a regional consultation on the subject in Madrid.

UNHCR Presence in (country name)

Staff:

8 National Staff
2 Affiliated Staff

Offices:

1 National Office in Dublin

Financial information* (February 2023)

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

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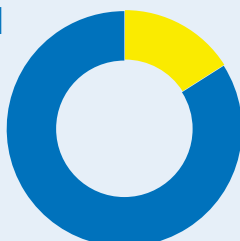
Belgium | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

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

Financial requirements

USD 12 M

Funding gap
82%
9.9 M



Funded
18%
2.1 M