

## Greece

September 2025

UNHCR works with authorities to promote a favourable **protection space** and to develop **sustainable responses and solutions** for refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people in Greece.

UNHCR supports asylum-seekers and refugees with **provision of information** on rights and responsibilities, **counselling, legal aid, referrals to services** and **livelihoods programmes**.

UNHCR offers legal expertise and technical guidance to the Government on **asylum, reception** and **durable solutions**, including on the implementation of the EU Pact.

### POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2025)\*

Refugees*	<b>126,401</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>30,171</b>
Stateless	<b>3,743</b>

#### Top three countries of origin

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	<b>36,268</b>	Syrian Arab Rep.	<b>6,134</b>
Afghanistan	<b>28,602</b>	Egypt	<b>5,768</b>
Syrian Arab Rep.	<b>18,017</b>	Afghanistan	<b>3,834</b>

\*Source: *UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report 2025* and *UNHCR data finder*. This number refers to all people recognized as refugees by Greece, including those under temporary protection, while the actual number currently present in Greece is estimated to be lower. The figure on stateless persons is based on the 2021 census results.

### Funding cuts threaten refugee support

The ongoing funding crisis has forced UNHCR to scale back its entire programme including livelihoods. Since mid-2025, employability services, such as CV support and job matching, is provided with a reduced scope and limited reach. Additionally, language classes for adults were also gradually discontinued in most locations.

### Supporting refugees with their path to inclusion: partnerships with the private sector

The **Refugee Women's Academy**, UNHCR's collaboration with the Bank of Piraeus and the NGO Odyssey, entered its third year, having already provided trainings to 121 refugee women in tourism related professions. A new initiative started in March 2025, whereby UNHCR with the NGO METAdrasi and the company Management Force Group provide **health and safety training and certifications** to asylum-seekers and refugees in state facilities. In an innovative development, in July 2025, UNHCR and the Council on Competitiveness of Greece signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation** to promote refugee inclusion in the labour market.

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Legal assistance

As of June 2025, UNHCR supported **1,492** refugees and asylum-seekers with **legal assistance** on asylum procedures and access to rights.

#### Communication with Communities and Outreach

By June 2025, UNHCR's Protection Helpdesk provided **information and counselling** to **1,460** individuals on legal issues, shelter, employment access, social rights, medical assistance and support for detainees. In urban Athens, UNHCR reached over **800** refugees and asylum-seekers who reported **challenges** including limited accommodation, barriers to employment and insufficient support with documentation, legal aid or social welfare.

#### Employability support

Between January - June 2025, **3,170** refugees and asylum-seekers received **employability services**, of whom **677** were **hired** through UNHCR programmes.



Mahmoud Suji, a Rohingya refugee, pictured with his wife Maryam and their two sons, Maher (right) and Mahdi (left), at a friend's house in Athens.  
© UNHCR/Achilleas Zavallis

### "WE CAN BUILD OUR FUTURE NOW"

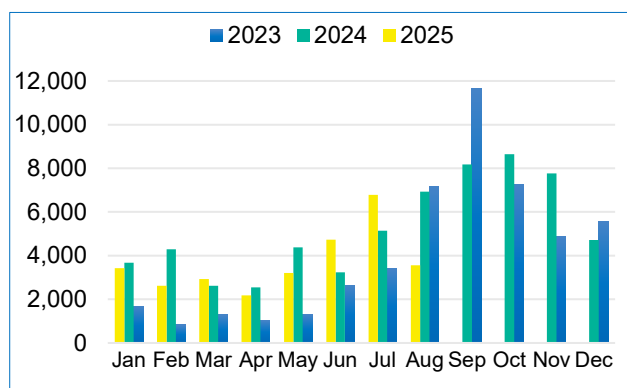
In November 2024, the Suji family, members of the stateless Rohingya minority, were reunited in Greece after nearly a decade of separation, with support from UNHCR's partner, the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR). Between 2021 - 2024, UNHCR and GCR supported 290 family reunification cases. However, this vital work is now at risk.

Read their [story](#).

## Key Priorities

- **Access to territory and asylum:** UNHCR supports asylum-seekers at arrival points and offers its recommendations to the authorities on procedural safeguards and on rights-based border management systems. In July 2025, UNHCR **raised concerns** over the Government's legislative amendment suspending asylum registration for three months for arrivals from North Africa.
- **Information, counselling and referrals:** UNHCR provides information, protection counselling and referrals to specialized services. Up-to-date information is available on UNHCR's **HELP website** for Greece.
- **People with specific needs:** UNHCR connects vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees to specialized services and the national social protection system. Due to funding cuts, services by UNHCR-funded partners, such as psychosocial support and protection from violence against women and children, have ceased.
- **Legal assistance:** Through NGO partners, UNHCR provides legal aid to offer unhindered access to rights. Budget constraints have reduced legal aid services resulting in limited options to appeal asylum decisions and support family reunification for refugees in Greece.
- **Inclusion:** UNHCR offers advice on refugee inclusion and mobilizes partners to promote self-reliance through employment, education and training. However, most youth self-reliance activities provided by UNHCR's partner had to be discontinued due to funding shortages.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR engages with the authorities and stakeholders to address barriers to refugee and asylum-seeker rights to catalyse legal and policy reforms.
- **Institutional strengthening:** UNHCR provides its expertise to strengthen Greek asylum, reception and inclusion systems. UNHCR implements a technical support project for the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, focusing on legal reforms for the reception and integration of unaccompanied children and youth.

## MONTHLY ARRIVALS TO GREECE



Source: *Mediterranean Situation Data Portal*

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with central and local authorities, NGOs, the private sector and refugee communities to identify protection needs, advance inclusion and deliver services. UNHCR raises public awareness, for example through **World Refugee Day** commemoration events, to foster solidarity with refugees within the host community. In April 2025, UNHCR formalized its collaboration with Greek artist **Marina Satti**, welcoming her as a **High Profile Supporter**.

## Statelessness

- While Greece has acceded to the 1954 UN Statelessness Convention, it has yet to join the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. UNHCR advises the Government on stateless determination procedures, citizenship legislation and data collection, and supports municipalities in preparing candidates for Greek citizenship exams.

## UNHCR Presence in Greece

### Staff:

72 National Staff  
 (including affiliates)  
 5 International Staff

### Offices:

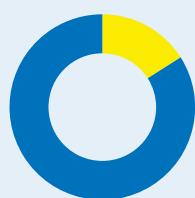
1 Country Office in Athens  
 Field Presence in the islands of Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Kos, Leros and in the mainland in Evros, Athens and Thessaloniki

## Financial Information\* (31 August 2025)

### Financial requirements

**\$39.0 M**

Funding gap 92%  
**\$35.8 M**



Funded 8%  
**\$3.2 M**

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors in 2025:

**Australia | Belgium | Denmark | Europe Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Republic of Korea | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sweden | Switzerland**

UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.