

# Portugal

February 2022

Portugal maintains a largely **welcoming environment** for refugees and consistently engages in various solidarity and responsibility-sharing measures.

In 2021, there were 299 **resettlement** arrivals. Another 46 persons were **relocated** from Italy and Malta, while 127 **unaccompanied children** (UAC) and 84 persons were relocated from Greece.

**UNHCR** works with partners to promote refugee participation, improved coordination, and effective identification and referral of vulnerable persons within the asylum system.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN\*

Refugees	<b>2,650</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>303</b>
Stateless persons	<b>45</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Republic	<b>932</b>	Angola	<b>34</b>
Ukraine	<b>443</b>	Gambia	<b>31</b>
Iraq	<b>221</b>	Guinea-Bissau	<b>26</b>

\*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

## COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

**Advocacy:** Advocacy efforts throughout the pandemic focused on sharing good practices related to the COVID-19 response in the context of reception and communication.

**Inclusion of persons of concern (PoC):** The Government took concrete measures to ensure full inclusion of refugees and migrants in the vaccination campaign by creating a dedicated registration channel for those who have not yet obtained their National Health Service number.

**Communication with Communities:** UNHCR's partner adapted its intervention to the limitations imposed by the pandemic, implementing a remote service, via telephone, WhatsApp and video call. Several information sessions on the different COVID-19 measures in force were held.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### New coordination mechanism

Created in 2020 and led by the Government's High Commissioner for Migration, the single coordination mechanism on refugee issues was consolidated in 2021 with several thematic subgroups established, including in the fields of resettlement, relocation and child protection.

### Relocation of UAC from Greece and evacuations from Afghanistan

By December 2021, Portugal had received 199 UAC from Greece since the relocation scheme began in 2020, and 768 evacuated Afghans, which marked a shift toward Afghanistan becoming a top country of origin of PoC.

### Information, legal support

Through the refugee status determination (RSD) appeals procedure of UNHCR's partner the Portuguese Refugee Council, 817 asylum-seekers received information and 1,196 interventions were made in 2021.

### UNHCR's Grandi concludes visit to Lisbon



High Commissioner Grandi visited Lisbon as Portugal was taking over the EU Presidency in January 2021.

[Link to the story](#)

## Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** Through its implementing partner, UNHCR promotes quality RSD procedures; 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.
- **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, selection 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 Portugal, including with the existing refugee-led organizations.
- **Protection:** UNHCR supports the Government in strengthening identification and referral of vulnerable asylum-seekers within the asylum procedure, in cooperation with the asylum and reception institutions.

## 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 Integration 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 also 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 on modification of relevant legal acts in order to establish the procedure.

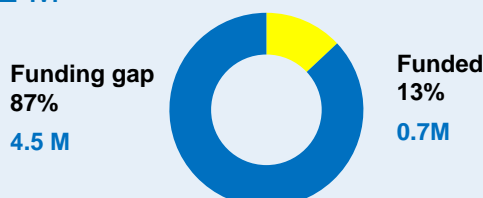
## UNHCR Presence in Portugal

- UNHCR closed its office in Portugal in 1998. UNHCR is present in Portugal with two UNHCR personnel, an Associate Resettlement Officer and a Senior Protection Assistant reporting directly to the Regional Bureau for Europe.

## Financial information (22 February 2022)

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

**Financial requirements**  
**USD 5.2 M**



UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

**Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland**

Unearmarked contributions provide UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest need or at the greatest risk.