

France

February 2022

With a focus on **facilitating solutions**, UNHCR works closely with refugees, the authorities, civil society and the private sector to support protection and foster social inclusion.

UNHCR emphasizes **participation of refugees** through direct collaboration, a refugee volunteer network and creation of an Academy for participation of refugees in decisions affecting their lives.

UNHCR mobilizes support for refugees by **raising awareness** about protection challenges and humanitarian crises and promoting solidarity in the spirit of the GCR.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	457,153
Asylum-seekers	82,031
Stateless persons	2,094
Total population of concern	542,960

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers
Afghanistan	37,744	Afghanistan	9,704
Sri Lanka	23,980	Bangladesh	5,791
Syrian Arab Republic	23,510	Nigeria	5,300

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

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR advocacy centered on the impact of the pandemic on forcibly displaced people and highlighted the contribution of refugees in the COVID-19 response.

Coordination: UNHCR and the Inter-Ministerial Delegation for the Reception and Integration of Refugees (Diair) co-chair a coordination platform with 68 NGOs, the City of Paris and refugees to discuss major topics, such as vaccinations, access to information and legal pathways, and find solutions.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR collaborated with Diair to share information on the website [refugiés.info](#) on relevant services and initiatives for persons of concern.

Inclusion: UNHCR, in collaboration with governmental partners, advocated for the recognition of refugees' qualifications and the inclusion of refugee health workers

HIGHLIGHTS

9,000

Students from middle and high schools in France have taken part in the INTER'ACT project since 2017.

More than 3,000

Refugees were resettled in France in 2020 and 2021, in the context of the pandemic.

500

Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) have been relocated from Greece to France since August 2020, as of mid-February 2022. UNHCR cooperated closely with the authorities on the relocations.

French Presidency of the EU

From 1 January to 30 June 2022, France chairs the EU Council. UNHCR shared [recommendations](#) and is jointly advocating with partners for better protection of refugees.

UNIVERSITY CORRIDOR IN AUVERGNE



Two Central African students, refugees in Cameroon and Niger, have joined a master's programme at Clermont Auvergne University. Their future plans? Assist refugees and help develop their country. A collaboration between the University, UNHCR and Forum Réfugiés-Cosi paved the way for their studies through development of the multi-stakeholder UNIV'R project of a university corridor.

Key Priorities

- **Advocacy:** UNHCR engages with a range of stakeholders in government and the private sector to mobilize support for refugees. UNHCR supports missions from the field and engages with social media and journalists to inform the general public.
- **Global Compact on Refugees (GCR):** UNHCR supports France's participation in the Asylum Capacity Support Group and related collaboration with Niger and Chad.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR monitors asylum trends at the borders, notably with the UK, Italy and Spain. Observations and recommendations are regularly shared with state interlocutors and particular attention is paid to UASCs.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR provides advice to the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) and the National Court of Asylum (CNDA). At the CNDA, UNHCR is involved in the selection, training and participation of some 165 judges in collegial adjudication cases.
- **Reception conditions:** Monitoring visits are conducted regularly, including in the context of the roll-out of a National Scheme for the reception of asylum-seekers and integration of refugees, as well as a Ministry of Interior plan to address vulnerability.
- **Complementary pathways:** In coordination with the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) and the MEnS network, UNHCR is developing the UNIV'R multi-stakeholder project of a university corridor to enable refugees to attend master's degree programmes in France from September 2022.
- **Family reunification:** UNHCR will continue to advocate more flexibility in family reunification cases and support the resolution of individuals cases.
- **UASC:** UNHCR signed an agreement with the Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l'Homme

(AADH) to conduct joint research on UASC access to the asylum procedure.

- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR worked with Diar and the IFRI to develop an Academy for refugee participation. UNHCR is also working with the NGO France Bénévolat to grant refugee volunteers a certificate recognizing volunteer work, with 14 issued to date.
- **Access to employment:** UNHCR co-facilitates webinars with the Tent Partnership for Refugees and major companies in France (such as Ikea, Sodexo, Adecco) to share good practices and promote better access to employment for refugees.
- **Youth engagement:** UNHCR will continue its awareness-raising about refugees with local authorities and youth activities, such as the **INTER'ACT** project that mobilized about 20 refugee volunteers and reached more than 4,000 middle and high students in 2021. UNHCR also participates in conferences with university students.
- **Innovation:** UNHCR supports a project to facilitate the mapping and digital inclusion of refugee influencers with the aim of improving two-way communication with persons of concern and fostering a favourable environment for refugees.

Statelessness

- France ratified the 1954 Convention in 1960 and signed the 1961 Convention in 1962. UNHCR facilitates sharing of practices on Statelessness Determination Procedures and advocates that France ratify the 1961 Convention.

UNHCR Presence in France

Staff:

13 National Staff
 5 International Staff
 15 PSP Staff

Offices:

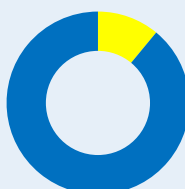
1 Branch Office in Paris

Financial information (22 February 2022)

Financial requirements

USD 3.9 M

Funding gap
 89%
 3.5 M



Funded
 11%
 0.4 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 | 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.