

Austria

September 2022

Austria continues to be an important host country, with some **269,300 people of concern**. In 2022, Austria **experienced an increase in arrivals**.

As in previous years, main nationalities of asylum-seekers and refugees are **Syrian and Afghans**. Some **82,446 refugees from Ukraine** received temporary protection in 2022.

UNHCR's focus in Austria continues to be on supporting a quality asylum system, improving protection and raising awareness on refugee issues.

POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022*

Refugees	233,524
Asylum-seekers	34,457
Stateless persons	3,219

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	74,689	Syrian Arab Rep.	11,589
Syrian Arab Rep.	67,588	Afghanistan	5,499
Afghanistan	43,725	Pakistan	2,599

*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 30 September, **82,446** refugees from Ukraine are currently present in Austria and registered for temporary protection.

Protection: The office conducts monitoring and has been present at border points, train stations, arrival centres and reception facilities.

UNHCR participates in emergency coordination meetings and maintains close contact with authorities, NGOs and the refugee community. A local [Help site](#) for refugees from Ukraine was launched, info posters and leaflets distributed.

Advocacy is ongoing to grant temporary protection holders similar social rights as refugees. As a first step, refugees from Ukraine now receive family allowances. A more flexible application of temporary protection as well as addressing the reception situation are in the focus of the office's advocacy.

Supporting the most vulnerable: UNHCR supports the transfer programme from Moldova for vulnerable refugees from Ukraine in coordination with authorities and IOM.

HIGHLIGHTS

Austria as an important donor

After a record USD 30 million in 2021, Austria contributed some **USD 15 million** by September, with further contributions announced, e.g. for the emergency response in Pakistan.

UNHCR missions to Austria

The High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner during their respective missions to Austria met i.e., with the Federal President, senior Government officials and refugees to discuss further cooperation, priorities, and strategies.

Video game "Path Out" for young people

UNHCR adapted the autobiographic video game [Path Out](#) by a Syrian game designer for German-speaking school children, and promoted it with videos and stories

Training of over 800 stakeholders

Over 220 judges, decision-makers and legal counsellors, as well as 600 teachers and students were trained on refugee protection and UNHCR's mandate.

UNHCR AUSTRIA CUP AND UNITY EURO CUP 2022



For World Refugee Day, the office organized the 11th "UNHCR Football Cup" with 10 diverse and mixed teams. One of the teams subsequently represented Austria at the [Unity Euro Cup 2022](#) in Nyon/Switzerland.

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** Monitoring of developments in asylum law and practice, with a special focus on quality of the asylum procedure and reception system.
- Implementation of the quality assurance project (“Bridge”), co-funded by the Austrian Ministry of Interior and the EU’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, aimed at supporting asylum decisions makers through training activities, events, evaluation of decision, etc. Visits to reception and detention centres with a focus on vulnerable asylum-seekers, unaccompanied and separated children as well as refugees from Ukraine.
- **Access to territory:** Monitoring developments, including judicial processes, regarding alleged pushback cases at the border to Slovenia.
- **Advocacy:** Continued focus on child protection using the Office’s recommendations for child-friendly asylum procedures, a child rights-based application of the 1951 Refugee Convention and best interests assessments by a child protection authority in situations ahead of decisions by the asylum authority to improve protection of children. Advocacy for more inclusive rights for subsidiary protection holders, refugees from Ukraine, reception capacity in Provinces and increased funding for UNHCR.
- **Reception conditions monitoring:** Focus on visits to reception facilities, amid increasing arrivals, with an emphasis on identification of special needs, gender-based violence prevention, child-friendly reception arrangements of both unaccompanied and accompanied children, complaint mechanisms and access to information. Follow up with the Ministry of Interior and Provinces to improve protection and care for unaccompanied children.

- **Integration and capacity building:** Regular meetings with the local UNHCR Refugee Team to better institutionalize exchange with communities.

Working with Partners

- The Office cooperates, i.e., with State interlocutors as well as Ministries, the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum, judges of relevant courts, the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services, Members of Parliament, and senior officials in the Provinces. Regular NGO interlocutors include representatives of all main organizations active in the field of asylum and Asylum Lawyers’ Network, which engages in litigation. Journalists, academia, actors in the field of education as well as IOM and UNICEF are also important partners
- **External engagement:** Around World Refugee Day, UNHCR hosted an inclusive football tournament. To foster understanding for refugee topics, the video game “Path Out”, including local teaching materials for schools was produced. For teachers, the office re-launched its [handbook on trauma](#), including information on refugees from Ukraine.

Statelessness

- Austria acceded to both Statelessness Conventions but lacks a statelessness determination procedure.
- UNHCR advocates for the establishment of a stateless determination procedure and a residence permit for stateless persons as well as the right to nationality at birth for children born stateless.

UNHCR Presence in Austria

Staff:

9 National Staff
1 International Staff

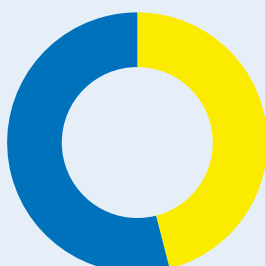
Offices:

1 Country Office in Vienna

Financial information* (September 2022)

Financial requirements USD 5.3 M

Funding gap
54%
2.9 M



Funded
46%
2.4 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked and earmarked funding:

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

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