

# United Kingdom

September 2022

**150,500 people** have arrived to the UK through the three UK schemes for Ukrainians, namely Ukrainian family visa scheme and sponsorship schemes since they were launched in March 2022.

**1,000+** events took place across the UK during "Refugee Week 2022". Events ranged from exhibitions at Parliament and leading national arts venues to smaller activities at schools and village groups.

**15,684 people** were granted protection in the year to June 2022, 24% fewer than in the year to June 2019 (pre-pandemic) but similar to levels seen from 2015 to 2018.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022\*

Refugees	<b>231,597</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>127,421</b>
Stateless persons	<b>5,483</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	<b>91,223</b>	Albania	<b>15,893</b>
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	<b>21,904</b>	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	<b>15,395</b>
Eritrea	<b>15,615</b>	Iraq	<b>14,033</b>

\*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

**As of 30 September, 150,500** individuals from Ukraine are now in the United Kingdom, having been granted permission to enter (131,700) and (18,800) remain under the three UK schemes for Ukrainians: the Ukraine Family Scheme, Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, and Ukraine Extension Scheme. [See here](#) for a more detailed breakdown of the three schemes.

**Information sharing and signposting:** UNHCR has responded to individual queries from Ukrainians and/or their sponsors, providing information on the schemes, and referring to organisations and sources of information.

**Snapshot Assessment:** UNHCR led an inter-agency assessment on the experiences of Ukrainians, sponsors, local authorities and NGOs under the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme. The findings highlighted positive aspects of the schemes, as well as challenges the schemes faced, and gives concrete recommendations to help strengthen the UK Government's response.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Report on exploitation and the asylum system

[A UNHCR and Red Cross report found](#) that people seeking asylum in the UK are at risk of exploitation and have been exploited in the UK. Opportunities to identify and address risks are frequently missed throughout the asylum system, and government policies and practices may unintentionally be contributing to risks of exploitation.

### Analysis of legality and appropriateness of the UK-Rwanda MEDP

In a legal analysis [published in June 2022](#), UNHCR found that the arrangement is incompatible with the letter and spirit of the 1951 Convention. Amongst other concerns, UNHCR noted that the agreement lacks adequate safeguards to guarantee international protection and seeks to shift responsibility for identifying or meeting international protection needs to another State or leaving such needs unmet, making such measures unlawful.

## "THESE WOMEN WERE, AND ARE, SURVIVORS."



To mark World Refugee Day, UNHCR co-sponsored the launch of [Tears of Gold](#), an exhibition in the UK Houses of Parliament featuring a powerful series of portraits of displaced women from around the world. Attending the event were Maria and her mother Nadia (left above, with artist Hannah Thomas) who had recently arrived in the UK from Ukraine.

## Key Priorities

- **Legal Interventions:** UNHCR intervened in two judicial review cases before the UK High Court in order to assist the courts to advance the development and consistent interpretation and application of international refugee law. The first case related to a challenge to the lack of a clear legal pathway for refugee children in the UK to sponsor family members to join them. The second case related to the legality of the Rwanda-UK Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP).
- **Guidance on Law and Policy:** UNHCR regularly provides comments to the Government on legislative and policy changes in order to ensure the UK's application of refugee and statelessness law is in line with international standards and is implemented in a practical yet protection-sensitive fashion.
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** Separate from the Ukraine schemes mentioned above, [1,622 people arrived](#) in the UK through resettlement schemes in the year ending June 2022. 85% were resettled through the UK Resettlement scheme, the remainder through the Mandate and Community Sponsorship routes. In June, UNHCR began resettlement referrals to the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR, together with Refugee Women Connect, [issued guidance](#) for refugees, asylum-seekers, or survivors of trafficking on creating safe spaces for women in their communities.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR submitted evidence to two parliamentary inquiries, an [International Agreements Committee](#) inquiry into the UK-Rwanda MEDP and an [International Development Committee](#) inquiry into support for refugee-hosting states. On World Refugee Day, UNHCR hosted a [launch event](#) for the

'Tears of Gold' portrait exhibition in Parliament. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June UNHCR spoke at a [World Refugee Day meeting](#) of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Refugees. UNHCR briefed members of the APPG on Immigration Detention on the evaluation of Action Access' 'Alternative to Detention' pilot, [published](#) in January 2022.

- **Capacity-building:** As part of the Quality Protection Partnership, UNHCR works with the Home Office to improve the functioning, quality, fairness, efficiency and integrity of the UK asylum system and other systems which affect persons falling under UNHCR's mandate.

## Working with Partners

- The office has supported 'Refugee Week', a festival of arts and community activities since UNHCR co-founded the initiative 1998. In 2022 over 1,000 events were held across the UK. UNHCR spoke at the launch event of the Scottish festival, sponsored a portrait series in Parliament and co-hosted two related parliament events, [hosted a film screening and reception](#) at the Barbican Arts Centre, and spoke at a [Refugee Week festival](#) in Hastings.

## Statelessness

- The UK ratified the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons in 1959 and the 1961 Convention in 1966. A [Statelessness Determination Procedure](#) (SDP) was established in 2013.

## UNHCR Presence in United Kingdom

### Staff:

15 National Staff  
5 International Staff

### Offices:

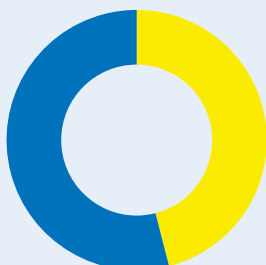
1 Branch Office in London

## Financial information (30 September 2022)

### Financial requirements

USD 2.6M

Funding gap  
54%  
1.4 M



Funded  
46%  
1.2 M

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