

Cyprus

February 2024

UNHCR conducts [advocacy](#) and provides [technical and material support](#) to national authorities to ensure a favourable protection space for forcibly displaced and stateless people, despite challenges.

UNHCR assists refugees and asylum-seekers through [community outreach](#), [legal counselling](#) and [psychosocial support](#), as well as [information provision](#) on rights and available services.

UNHCR works to enhance [social inclusion](#) and [employment integration](#) through advocacy and direct assistance, including in reception centres and the larger community.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2023)*

Refugees	33,872
Asylum-seekers	34,268
Stateless people	77
Persons under UNHCR's mandate in the northern part of Cyprus	111

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees	Asylum-seekers
Ukraine 16,488	Syrian Arab Republic 11,035
Syrian Arab Republic 11,059	Dem. Rep. of the Congo 4,649
Palestine 2,322	Nigeria 3,792

*UNHCR mid-2023 Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

[Socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Cyprus](#)

GRF 2023 Pledge for National Integration Plan

UNHCR's continued advocacy contributed to the adoption of a comprehensive National Integration Plan that was pledged by Cyprus at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF).

UNHCR supports transition to self-reliance

UNHCR has established a new presence at the Kofinou Reception Centre in eastern Cyprus to support refugees to gain access to skilled employment and facilitate their transition from the Centre to becoming self-reliant.

Economic Impact and Employment Handbook

UNHCR organized an economic impact workshop in June with the participation of the Ministry of Interior, researchers, NGOs, Refugee-Led Organizations and refugees. An [Employment Handbook for asylum-seekers and refugees](#) was issued in collaboration with the Council of Europe.

HIGHLIGHTS

Global Refugee Forum (GRF) Pledges 2023

As a result of UNHCR advocacy, GRF Pledges included university scholarships; reception and integration strategies and an observatory for hate crime and hate speech.

Protection of Women

UNHCR has established a platform with key stakeholders for joint advocacy and capacity building on the prevention of violence against women.

Public Awareness on Gender-Based Violence

Among other events and actions, UNHCR marked 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence (GBV) with a dedicated [campaign video](#), [statement](#) and [individual stories](#).

Training of police, staff and judges of the court

UNHCR has trained staff and judges of the International Protection Administrative Court (IPAC); the Asylum Service; the Law Service and newly recruited police officers on various aspects of asylum law and refugee rights.



Quman fled from persecution due to her/their sexuality. As an asylum-seeker in Cyprus she/they are hoping to build a new life of safety, dignity and acceptance. © UNHCR Cyprus

Computer Scientist from Somalia Shares Her/Their Story of Persecution and Hope

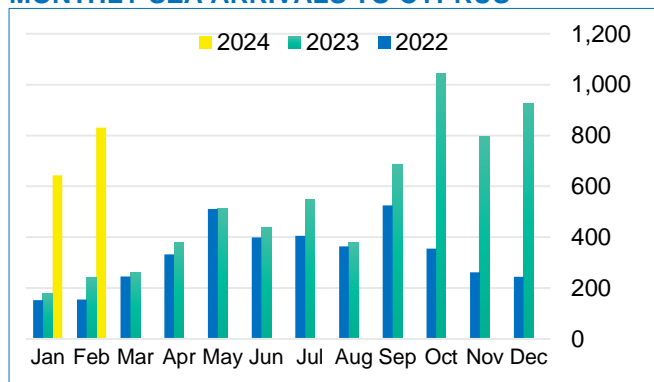
On the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, UNHCR met [Quman*](#) who has experienced homophobia and persecution in her/their home country. With courage, intelligence and dignity, she/they are forging a new life in Cyprus with brighter prospects.

**Name changed for protection reasons.*

Key Priorities

- **Protection monitoring:** UNHCR promotes refugee and asylum-seekers' rights, particularly access to asylum procedures as well as adequate conditions in reception and detention facilities.
- **Promoting legislative amendments:** UNHCR provides recommendations on draft laws to ensure compliance with international and EU standards.
- **Reinforcing RSD procedures:** Through legal recommendations, UNHCR supports authorities to further strengthen refugee status determination procedures and ensure fair and efficient decision-making.
- **UASC Monitoring:** UNHCR advocates with national authorities for timely and accurate identification of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) to secure access to national child protection systems, including documentation and family reunification.
- **Capacity building:** UNHCR facilitates sessions on key protection issues including refugee rights, reception conditions and child protection for the government and civil society stakeholders.
- **Local Integration:** UNHCR advocates with the authorities for social, economic, and cultural integration of refugees, through naturalization, long-term residency, and family reunification.
- **Raising public awareness:** UNHCR engages in raising awareness about refugees and their rights through public information and media engagement, including through World Refugee Day events and other campaigns.
- **Communication with Communities:** UNHCR engages with refugee communities through the Refugee Outreach Volunteers Programme.

MONTHLY SEA ARRIVALS TO CYPRUS



Source: *Mediterranean Situation Data Portal*

Working with Partners

- **UNHCR engages with the Government** to improve the protection space for forcibly displaced people, as well as with Parliamentary committees, the Ombudsman and the Child Commissioner.
- **Civil Society Engagement:** UNHCR works with the Cyprus Refugee Council and the Refugee Rights Association to support refugees' access to rights.

Statelessness

- Cyprus has not acceded to the 1954 or 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness. Provisions in the national refugee law granting humanitarian status for stateless persons in need of protection were abolished in 2014, leaving many without protection. UNHCR promotes Cyprus' accession to existing UN Statelessness Conventions through advocacy and awareness-raising.

UNHCR Presence in Cyprus

Staff:

1 International Staff
16 National Staff

Offices:

1 Office in Nicosia

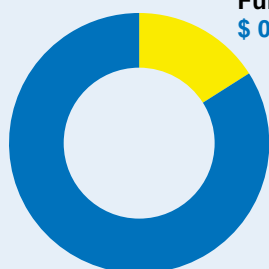
Financial information (31 January 2024)

Financial requirements

\$ 3.2 M

Funded 16%
\$ 0.5 M

Funding gap 84%
\$ 2.7 M



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

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