

## Cyprus Country Profile

### 1. Key Statistics

	2015	2016	2017
<b>Asylum Seekers</b>	2,253	3,055	4,582
<b>Refugees and subsidiary protection status</b>	6,108 / 1,584*	7,036** / 869*	822*
<b>Third Country Nationals with valid residence permits – including refugees</b>	57,672	63,203**	
<b>Irregular migrants</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Relevant link</b>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2HFAb6s">https://bit.ly/2HFAb6s</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/1m3ktTB">https://bit.ly/1m3ktTB</a>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2HexeGi">https://bit.ly/2HexeGi</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/2mEU8zB">https://bit.ly/2mEU8zB</a>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2CPFFVt">https://bit.ly/2CPFFVt</a>

\* Number of Persons who acquired refugee and subsidiary protection status within the year

\*\* Statistical data as of 31 July 2016.

Latest statistical information can be found at the:

- Website of the Civil Registry and Migration Department, Ministry of Interior, [http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/CRMD/crmd.nsf/page13\\_en/page13\\_en?OpenDocument](http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/CRMD/crmd.nsf/page13_en/page13_en?OpenDocument)
- Asylum Information Database, Cyprus Country Report, <http://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/cyprus>
- Website of the UNHCR Office in Cyprus, [www.unhcr.org.cy](http://www.unhcr.org.cy)

## The most prominent nationalities among migrants/refugees in Cyprus:

In 2016, the main countries of origin of migrants who applied to enter and reside in Cyprus were: Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, Philippines, Russia and Sri Lanka.

The top ten nationalities of asylum seekers in 2017 were: Syria, India, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Egypt, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Cameroon and Philippines<sup>1</sup>.

## 2. Priority Health Conditions

### Main challenges in terms of healthcare access and/or health issues of migrants/refugees identified:

#### Challenges in accessing healthcare

- Difficulties and delays with acquiring the medical card for free medical care for asylum seekers. This challenge is significant when a newly arrived person is in need for immediate medical care.
- Great difficulties in communication with doctors in a language they understand when the refugee or asylum seeker does not speak Greek or English.
- In the case of refugees, complying with the provision of having contributed for 3 years at the social insurance fund in order to be eligible for free medical care poses challenges in certain cases.
- Access to healthcare services for migrant workers, especially prevention services and annual tests. Migrant workers have a very limited insurance coverage for healthcare treatment, which does not cover issues such as annual health tests and preventive services. The costs for private healthcare services are very high and preventive for migrant workers who receive very low salaries, while visiting public hospitals is not always possible – and is also restricted by the working hours of migrants.
- Transportation costs for asylum seekers to reach the medical centres.

#### Key priority areas in relation to addressing health issues

- Women health issues, especially for pregnant women and toddlers / children.
- Psychological support for refugees and asylum seekers

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.unhcr.org.cy/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Images/CyprusFactSheetSeptember2017.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org.cy/fileadmin/user_upload/Images/CyprusFactSheetSeptember2017.pdf) accessed online on 2 April 2018.

### 3. Legislation Description

#### Brief Description of the legislation concerning access to health care for migrants/refugees

##### Asylum Seekers

Asylum seekers without adequate financial resources are allowed to free medical care at public hospitals. This applies directly to those that reside in the refugee reception centre and welfare beneficiaries. For the rest, they have to apply for a medical card in order to access free medical care. The procedure for the medical card sometimes creates challenges, especially when asylum seekers are not aware of the exact procedure and when they need immediate medical assistance. However, the majority of asylum seekers do get the medical card. The healthcare is not entirely free – there is a small fee € 3–6 to visit the doctor, €0.50 for each medicine and €10 to visit the emergency room<sup>2</sup>.

##### Refugees

Refugees and persons with subsidiary protection have the same rights to access the Cypriot public healthcare system as nationals and EU citizens. This includes the responsibility to have contributed to the social insurance fund for at least 3 years<sup>3</sup>. However, this does not include the scheme with which a Cypriot national is allowed to state support for healthcare outside Cyprus in the situations where such healthcare services do not exist in Cyprus. For emergency care, everyone is required to pay a registration fee of €10.

##### Migrants / Third Country Nationals

Beyond asylum seekers and refugees, other third country nationals legally residing in Cyprus mainly fall under two categories: foreign workers and students. In order for them to receive a visa, migrants falling within any of these categories need to have a private insurance, with which they can visit mainly private hospitals and doctors. For migrant workers, the cost for the insurance is covered half by them and half by their employer. The government has agreed with insurance companies on an insurance package for migrant labour workers, which covers basic medical needs, including inpatient care with a ceiling reimbursement threshold and child birth<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Drousiotou C. and Mathioudakis M. (2018), Asylum Information Database, Country Report: Cyprus, Cyprus Refugee Council and European Council on Refugees and Exiles.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.mihub.eu/en/info/info-by-topic/health>