UNHCR survey on situation of refugees in Calais and Dunkerque

UNHCR published a survey regarding the situation of refugees and migrants in Calais and Dunkerque. The survey conclusions reveal significant needs in terms of protection and access to services.

For example, the survey found a limited level of information about the asylum procedure as well as restricted access to legal and administrative support services. More than half of those surveyed expressed their intention to travel to the United Kingdom, in particular to seek international protection. They cited mainly the perception of better handling of asylum procedures, but also the existence of employment prospects, language skills and the presence of family members.

UNHCR also observed an increased presence of single women, women with children and families, although only a very few were willing to respond to the survey.

UNHCR recommends improved access to clear and adequate information on the asylum procedure through various communication channels and intercultural mediators. Legal and administrative support must also be made more accessible, particularly for people who may be eligible for asylum or family reunification.

The survey was carried out in summer 2025 in partnership with several CSOs who are working on the field: la Vie Active, Audasse, France Terre d'Asile, Croix Rouge Française, Médecins du Monde. The interviews, conducted on a voluntary, confidential and anonymous basis, collected information on 106 adults and unaccompanied minors.

Source(s)

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (23 December, 2025), Calais et Dunkerque : le HCR alerte sur les besoins de protection des réfugiés et migrants [Calais et Dunkerque : UNHCR highlights needs of protection of refugees and migrants], https://www.unhcr.org/fr-fr/actualites/communiques-de-presse/calais-et-dunkerque-le-hcr-alerte-sur-les-besoins-de-protection

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