

Croatia

September 2021

Croatia's **asylum system** is in line with international and EU standards. Asylum seekers benefit from adequate **reception conditions** and refugees enjoy integration support.

Croatia is facing allegations of **pushbacks at borders**. UNHCR monitors access to territory and advocates for the effective functioning of the **independent national monitoring mechanism**.

UNHCR supports authorities in finding solutions for **stateless persons**, those **at risk of statelessness** and beneficiaries of the **Regional Housing Programme**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	966
Asylum-seekers	567
Others of concern**	2,250
Stateless persons	2,898
Total population of concern	6,951

**Beneficiaries of reconstruction and housing care and persons who expressed an intention to seek international protection

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Rep.	539	Afghanistan	351
Iraq	113	Iraq	49
Afghanistan	54	Turkey	36

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Inclusion: Asylum-seekers and refugees have been included in all public health programmes from the onset of the pandemic. However, stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness do not benefit from access to free COVID-19 vaccinations. UNHCR continues to advocate for the inclusion of this group in the national vaccination plan.

Communication with Communities: Information on prevention measures is available in relevant languages to all persons of concern. UNHCR has also created an online section on COVID-19 on Croatia's [HELP](#) page.

HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19 vaccination plan

As of July 2021, the government has been providing free vaccinations to all asylum-seekers in reception centres.

IKEA internship programme

In 2021, for the first time, 15 refugees supported by UNHCR participated in a three-month internship programme designed to develop their skills and increase their chances of finding longer-term employment. Nine have been offered permanent employment with IKEA. The next internship programme is scheduled to start in spring of 2022.

Workshops for border police

In September 2021, UNHCR organized three workshops for border police on access to territory and asylum, including protection-sensitive border management, with support from the Ministry of the Interior.

A REFUGEE WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR IN ZAGREB



Layal's story highlights the importance of technology in refugees' lives by keeping them in touch with their loved ones, and also in facilitating local integration. Read the full story [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** Croatia faces mixed movements of people arriving irregularly, mostly from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. UNHCR welcomes the recent establishment of an independent national monitoring mechanism to address allegations of denial of access to territory, and advocates for the effective and independent functioning of this monitoring mechanism, including through the participation in the Advisory Board.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR monitors the asylum system and supports the government in strengthening a fair and efficient system, including through capacity building, commenting on asylum legislation and sharing country of origin information and guidelines.
- **Integration:** UNHCR works with the government to enhance the integration system, participating in the government Working Group on Integration that drafts Action Plans on Integration. UNHCR supports refugees in accessing housing, employment and free language learning.
- **Communicating with Communities:** UNHCR provides important information to refugees through its [HELP webpage](#) and social media. Two hotlines serve asylum-seekers, stateless persons, those at risk of statelessness and beneficiaries of the Regional Housing Programme. UNHCR manages a Viber community to timely share integration information.
- **Child protection:** UNHCR advocates for improved reception conditions for children, including through the establishment of a dedicated facility for unaccompanied children with specialised services.
- **Durable Solutions:** UNHCR provides legal aid and advocates for solutions for people displaced following the 1990s conflict. UNHCR monitors beneficiary selection and sustainability measures for the Regional Housing Programme. UNHCR advocates for improvements in the state- funded [free](#)

[legal aid programme](#) and for the acceleration of the national housing programme.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with the government, civil society, academia, international organizations and the private sector in order to promote a positive protection environment for asylum seekers, refugees, returnees and stateless people. This is done through advocacy interventions, efforts to improve the legislative framework, as well as through promotion of positive attitudes towards persons of concern.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR promotes tolerance, inclusion, public awareness of refugee protection and understanding of UNHCR's mandate. UNHCR seeks to engage local communities and the public through the creative use of arts, including by organizing exhibitions, film screenings and other public events. UNHCR also works with academia, producing research papers, updating tertiary curricula and promoting interest in refugees and asylum seekers in schools and universities.

Statelessness

- Croatia has acceded to both Statelessness Conventions. In 2020, [UNHCR published an analysis](#) of the statelessness legal framework, recommending to further strengthen legislative safeguards to prevent statelessness. The report called for the establishment of a national statelessness determination procedure.
- UNHCR provides free legal aid to stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness who want to regulate their stay, obtain documentation and access basic services. UNHCR trains government officials on issues related to statelessness.

UNHCR Presence in Croatia

Staff:

12 National Staff
2 International Staff

Offices:

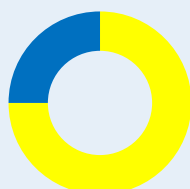
1 Representation in [Zagreb](#)

Financial information (28 September 2021)

Financial requirements

USD 1.9 M

Funding gap
34%
0.7 M



Funded
66%
1.2 M

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2021 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

[Norway](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Private donors Spain](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Private donors Korea](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [Germany](#) | [Private donors Japan](#) | [Japan](#) | [France](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [Private donors Italy](#) | [Private donors Sweden](#) | [Ireland](#) | [Belgium](#) | [Italy](#) | [United States of America](#)