

Croatia

February 2022

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**. UNHCR monitors access to territory and advocates for the effective functioning of the **national independent border monitoring mechanism**.

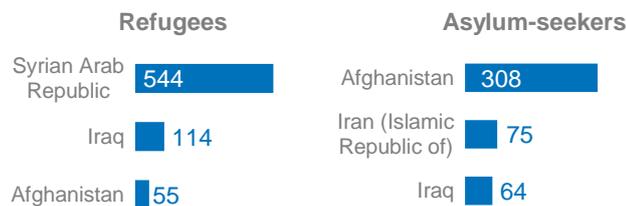
UNHCR supports the Government in finding solutions for **stateless persons**, those **at risk of statelessness** and beneficiaries of the **Regional Housing Programme**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	965
Asylum-seekers	583
Stateless persons	2,910
Others of concern**	1,231
Total population of concern	5,689

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

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*



*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Inclusion: Asylum-seekers, refugees, stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness are included in all public health programmes and COVID-19 response measures on an equal basis to nationals.

Communication with Communities: Information on prevention measures is available in relevant languages to all persons of concern. UNHCR has also created a dedicated section on COVID-19 its Croatia's **HELP** webpage. Following the recent Government decision to include stateless people in the national vaccination programme following UNHCR's advocacy, UNHCR and partners are disseminating related information to the stateless population and monitoring implementation of the decision.

HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19 vaccination coverage

While asylum-seekers and refugees were included in the national COVID-19 vaccination plan from the outset, access to vaccinations was extended to stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness in December 2021.

Statelessness conference

In November 2021, UNHCR organized a high-level Conference marking the 60th anniversary of the 1961 Statelessness Convention and ten years of Croatia's accession to the Convention. Speakers underlined the importance of establishing a stateless determination procedure and strengthening the multi-sectoral approach to addressing statelessness.

Economic empowerment of refugees

In December 2021, UNHCR and the Croatian Red Cross organized a round table where private sector companies, including IKEA, Lush and Yellow Submarine, together with refugees discussed the benefits of refugee employment.

RE-BUILDING A LIFE IN CROATIA



After crossing over 6,000 km on their own, Sajid and Mustafa have rebuilt their lives in Croatia where they have been granted asylum.

See more stories from UNHCR Croatia [here](#).

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Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** Croatia faces mixed movements of people arriving irregularly, mostly from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. UNHCR welcomed the establishment in June 2021 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.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR monitors the asylum system and supports the government in ensuring a fair and effective 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's Working Group on Integration that is in charge of establishing Integration action plans. UNHCR also 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. Additionally, two hotlines serve asylum-seekers, stateless people, those at risk of statelessness and beneficiaries of the Regional Housing Programme. UNHCR manages a Viber community to share integration information in a timely manner.
- **Child protection:** UNHCR advocates for improved reception conditions for children, including through the establishment of a dedicated facility with specialised services for unaccompanied children.
- **Durable solutions:** UNHCR monitors beneficiary selection and sustainability measures for the Regional Housing Programme.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with the **Government, civil society, academia, international organizations** and the **private sector** to promote a positive protection environment for asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees and stateless people. This is done through advocacy interventions, support for improving the legislative framework, and engagement efforts that promote 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 refugee and asylum-seeker issues in schools and universities.

Statelessness

- Croatia has acceded to both Statelessness Conventions. In 2020, UNHCR published an analysis of the statelessness legal framework, recommending further strengthening legislative safeguards to prevent statelessness. The report called for the establishment of a national statelessness determination procedure.
- UNHCR provides free legal aid to stateless people 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:

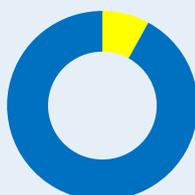
1 Representation in Zagreb

Financial information (22 February 2022)

Financial requirements

USD 1.8 M

Funding gap
92%
1.7 M



Funded
8%
0.1 M

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland

Unearmarked contributions provide UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest need or at the greatest risk.