

## North Macedonia

September 2022

In-line with the [Strategy](#) for Engagement in mixed movement in the Western Balkans, UNHCR works with the authorities and other stakeholders in North Macedonia to advocate for asylum system-building.

UNHCR is encouraging and assisting North Macedonia to eradicate statelessness within the timespan of the iBelong campaign (2024).

UNHCR and partners are working together to improve access to socio-economic rights and integration-related services for refugees and stateless people.

### POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022\*

Refugees	<b>1,430</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>15</b>
Stateless persons	<b>521</b>
Others of concern	<b>57</b>

### TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	<b>1,174</b>	Iraq	<b>5</b>
Serbia and Kosovo**	<b>251</b>	Türkiye	<b>5</b>
Congo, Republic of	<b>5</b>	Morocco	<b>5</b>

\*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data  
\*\*References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

### UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

**As of 30 September, 5,817** refugees from Ukraine are currently present in North Macedonia.

**Protection Profiling:** UNHCR has partnered with IOM and the Faculty of Philosophy, together with UNFPA and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, to conduct a Protection Profiling/Needs Assessment of Ukrainians in North Macedonia and coordinated the response to identified needs.

**Communicating with Communities:** To improve access to information for persons fleeing Ukraine, UNHCR has updated its [Help Page](#), with relevant information on protection and assistance in North Macedonia. UNHCR's legal aid partner has also finalized an Information Brief on access to rights.

**Coordination:** UNHCR has launched a Protection Working Group to support coordination and information sharing related to the response for Ukrainian refugees in the country. The group comprises UNHCR, UNFPA, IOM, UN RCO, UN WOMEN, CRC, Legis, and MK Caritas.

### HIGHLIGHTS

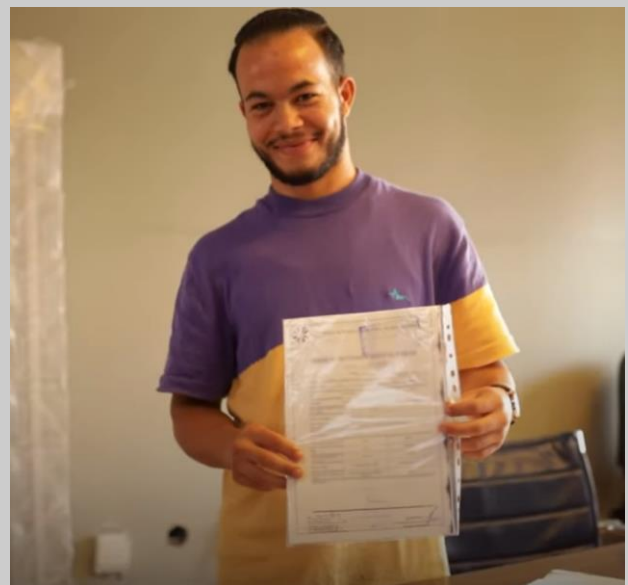
#### Statelessness

The implementation of the amendments to the Law on Citizenship has led to an increased number of stateless persons being granted citizenship in North Macedonia, paving the way for ending statelessness before 2024, in line with the #IBelong Campaign and the Global Action Plan.

#### Capacity-Building

The 3rd Summer School on Refugee Rights and Migration titled '*Conflicts as a Cause of Displacement*' was organized by UNHCR and the Refugee Law and Migration Center at the Justinianus Primus Law Faculty of University Ss. Cyril and Methodius-Skopje, in cooperation with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo; 82 international participants from 42 countries joined.

### AFTER 20 YEARS VALENTIN BECAME A CITIZEN



Valentin Rakip, the boy who became the face of stateless children in the country, as a street salesman of newspapers LiceVLice, has finally become a citizen. Watch his story [here](#).

## Key Priorities

- Establish protection-sensitive migration management:** Establish protection-sensitive entry systems, including improved registration and referral of persons on the move seeking international protection and return of persons not in need of international protection in safety, dignity, and full respect of international, regional, and national legislation.
- Improve the quality of the asylum procedure:** for example, in conjunction with the authorities, support the provision of quality interpretation services and free legal aid at all stages of the asylum procedure.
- Foster solutions:** Foster sustainable legal solutions for the remaining Kosovo refugees, in line with the country's 2019 Global Refugee Forum pledge, support for State-provided integration services for persons with international protection status, and promote socioeconomic inclusion of asylum-seekers and simplified naturalization procedures for refugees
- Support preparedness for potential response needs:** Improve preparedness for potential humanitarian and protection response needs in the event of a refugee influx by supporting national authorities and other partners; conducting regular risk analysis and monitoring; and developing contingency plans, as needed.
- Communicate for social change:** Improve the public narrative about refugees by promoting positive attitudes and behaviours in host communities, while broadening the platform of stakeholders to combat misinformation.
- Strategically engage:** Engage a wide range of stakeholders (from civil society, private sector, academia, non-traditional partners, international organizations, and others) to build new partnerships and mobilize a broader coalition to advocate for the rights of people under UNHCR's mandate.

## Working with Partners

- World Refugee Day** was marked with a bicycle tour in Skopje. The joint effort of UNHCR, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Migration, Asylum, Refugee Regional Initiative (MARRI), Ombudsman, IOM, Skopje City Red Cross, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, Youth Education Forum, and the Centre for Refugee Law and Migration at the Law Faculty sent the message that everyone has the right to seek safety.
- Stakeholder engagement:** As part of the external engagement strategy to diversify and expand partnerships, UNHCR has signed MOUs with the Bar Association, the Commission for Prevention and Protection Against Discrimination, as well as the Faculty of Philology.

## Statelessness

- North Macedonia** is a signatory to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on Reduction of Statelessness. However, a systemic solution for ending statelessness is still to be adopted.

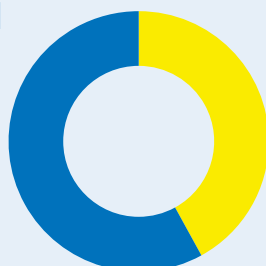
## UNHCR Presence in North Macedonia

Staff:	Offices:
24 National Staff	1 Representation Office in Skopje
2 International Staff	1 Field Unit in Gevgelija

## Financial information (September 2022)

### Financial requirements USD 3.5 M

**Funding gap**  
58%  
2 M



**Funded**  
42%  
1.5M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked and earmarked funding:

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