

Albania

September 2022

Over the past few years, the number of **refugees and migrants arriving in mixed movements** to Albania has remained relatively **stable** at around 10-12,000 individuals per year.

Albania has strengthened its legal framework through **new laws on asylum and on foreigners**, further aligning with international and European law and standards.

UNHCR advocates for a strengthened national asylum system and integration in line with the **Strategy for Engagement in mixed movement in the Western Balkans**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022*

Refugees	2,306
Asylum-seekers	6
Others of concern	2,033
Stateless persons	1,948

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees	Asylum-seekers
Ukraine 2,192	Syrian Arab Rep. 6
Kosovo** 57	
Syrian Arab Rep. 20	

*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

**All designations of Kosovo are without prejudice to positions on status and are in line with the UN Security Council Resolution

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 30 September, 2,780 refugees from Ukraine are currently present in Albania.

Policy/legal development: A March 2022 Government's decision grants Ukrainian nationals the right to enter and stay in Albania for a period of up to one year without a residence permit. This decision builds on the existing 90-day visa-free period for Ukrainian travelers to Albania.

A second March 2022 Government's decision grants temporary protection for one year to refugees fleeing Ukraine arriving in Albania.

Coordination: UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior (Mol), led an Inter-Agency mapping exercise of services available for potential Ukrainian refugees arriving in the country. UNHCR also supported Mol in the preparation of an information leaflet dedicated to Ukrainian refugees.

HIGHLIGHTS

Arrivals January – August 2022

UNHCR and its partners recorded 4,713 refugees and migrants arriving in Albania as part of mixed movements from January to August 2022, of which 11 per cent were women and children. 45 per cent declared to be from countries with high protection recognition rates, including Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Only 1 per cent were referred by responsible authorities to the asylum procedure.

Access to territory and asylum

UNHCR advocates for access to territory and to the asylum procedure in Albania, and for the identification and referral of persons with specific needs to adequate processes.

World Refugee Day 2022

Traveling photography exhibition "Dreams We Carry" reached Gjirokastra.



On World Refugee Day, the traveling photography exhibition, "Dreams We Carry", organized by Caritas Albania, Caritas Austria, and UNHCR Albania, reached Gjirokastra, a municipality in the south of Albania. Showing the portraits of refugees and migrants arriving in Albania, the exhibition was organized thanks to Gjirokaster Municipality and Prefecture.

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Key Priorities

- **Mixed movements:** UNHCR and IOM promote differentiated, higher-quality pathways and procedures to address mixed movements of refugees and migrants. Such an approach requires increased reception capacity and services at borders as well as the streamlining of pathways based on expressed protection needs or migration profile, vulnerability, and intention to remain in the country, with a focus on the integration of refugees and migrants.
- **Access to territory and asylum:** UNHCR and its partners conduct protection monitoring at the borders, including at the pre-screening procedure. UNHCR is coordinating with FRONTEX through regular briefings of newly deployed border staff. UNHCR advocates for the Law on Asylum to be implemented so that refugees and asylum-seekers are protected and can find a durable solution.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR provides support to the Government in fulfilling its commitment made at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum to strengthen the quality of asylum decision-making. Coordination with EUAA is reinforced in the context of UNHCR's Quality Assurance Initiative and the EUAA-Albania Roadmap on cooperation.
- **Documentation:** UNHCR is supporting the Government in issuing biometric ID cards for refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection in Albania to facilitate their access to e-services.
- **Integration:** As part of its integration strategy for refugees, UNHCR is strengthening its partnerships with other actors to promote the economic inclusion of refugees and persons granted other forms of international protection in Albania. Awareness-raising on integration and inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers is conducted with the authorities and the

private sector. Technical assistance is provided to local partners in [Livelihood](#) processes.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR's main government counterpart is the MoI, specifically the Directorate for Asylum, Foreigners and Citizenship, the Border and Migration Police and the Reception Centre for Asylum. UNHCR cooperates with other line ministries to improve inclusion of persons of concern to UNHCR in national systems.
- **External engagement:** Other key external partners include the EU Delegation, Diplomatic Missions, UN agencies and civil society organisations.

Statelessness

- Albania is a party to both UN Statelessness Conventions and has taken significant steps towards reducing the risk of statelessness. Fulfilling a pledge made at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness, the 2020 Law on Citizenship provides an unrestricted safeguard to citizenship of all children born in Albania. The 2021 Law on Foreigners also sets the basis for a statelessness determination procedure. UNHCR is working with the National Statistics Institute to enhance the identification of persons at risk of statelessness in the upcoming 2023 census.

UNHCR Presence in Albania

Staff:

16 National Staff
 2 International Staff

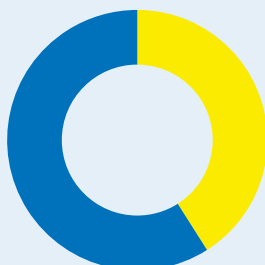
Offices:

1 Country in Tirana
 1 Field Unit in Gjirokastra
 1 Field Unit in Korça

Financial information (September 2022)

Financial requirements USD 3.5 M

Funding gap
 59%
 2.1 M



Funded
 41%
 1.4 M

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