

# Montenegro

September 2022

At the first GRF in 2019, Montenegro pledged to harmonize its asylum system with EU standards, increase reception capacities, foster refugee integration, and [support regional reinforcement of asylum](#).

In October 2019, at a High-Level Segment on Statelessness, Montenegro pledged to [end statelessness by 2024](#) and resolve status of all refugees with unresolved legal status from former Yugoslavia.

Montenegro remains a [front-runner for EU accession](#), albeit with pending comprehensive reforms in key areas, including those affecting UNHCR persons of concern.

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

Refugees	<b>9,236</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>121</b>
Stateless persons	<b>468</b>
Others of concern	<b>2,602</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	<b>9,133</b>	Russian Federation	<b>38</b>
Serbia	<b>54</b>	Cuba	<b>33</b>
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	<b>13</b>	Pakistan	<b>10</b>

\*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 30 September, **26,745** refugees from Ukraine are currently present in Montenegro.

**6,486** refugees from Ukraine were registered for temporary protection in Montenegro.

**Coordination:** UNHCR coordinates closely with the Government of Montenegro and other partners in responding to the needs of Ukrainian refugees in the country. UNHCR and the Government jointly oversee the implementation of Temporary Protection (TP) through the Coordination Body.

**Protection monitoring and CwC:** Protection monitoring is conducted through continual field presence, including at two partners' field offices in coastal cities where most refugees reside, ensuring continual provision of legal assistance and psychosocial support. Up to date information on protection, rights and services is provided through CwC information materials and the UNHCR [HELP page](#).

**Support to the most vulnerable:** UNHCR scaled up its technical support to the Government for TP registration, accommodation, and access to services. Targeted advocacy with the authorities is conducted to ensure unimpeded access to employment and healthcare for refugees.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Asylum

UNHCR activities and advocacy in asylum aim to strengthen national asylum systems and related processes to provide protection and viable solutions to refugees and asylum-seekers.

### Statelessness

Montenegro is progressing towards fulfilling the #iBelong goal to end statelessness by 2024 and all four High-Level Segment on Statelessness (HLS) pledges, by further strengthening the birth registration and the statelessness determination procedures (SDP).

### Ex-Yugoslav refugees

The number of refugees from former Yugoslavia with unresolved legal status decreased from 868 to 319 in 2020-2022, due to cooperation between UNHCR and the Ministry of the Interior. To date, some 12,000 ex-Yugoslav refugees regulated their legal status in the country.

## A NEW BEGINNING: THREE REFUGEES MAKE A NEW LIFE FOR THEMSELVES IN MONTENEGRO



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Read the stories and see the videos about three refugees with different backgrounds and one thing in common – Montenegro is their new home. <https://bit.ly/3emEWSH>

## Key Priorities

- **Access to territory and procedures** Work towards establishment of protection-sensitive identification and referral procedures in line with the Strategy for UNHCR Engagement in Mixed-Movements in the Western Balkans. Monitor access to territory, document and report pushbacks and protection incidents and propose interventions with authorities.
- Maintain protection presence at asylum intention registration points and advocate for the identification of specific protection needs and referral to relevant bodies.
- **Asylum procedures:** In cooperation with authorities, monitor and secure access to the registration of asylum intentions and improve quality of the refugee status determination procedure, at first instance and appeal. Strengthen case management to ensure expedient processing of asylum claims. Strengthen national legal aid system, civil-society capacities, and cross-sectorial networks.
- **Reception:** Advocate for access to adequate and protection-sensitive reception and accommodation and support contingency planning. Ensure adequate timely health care for persons with specific needs.
- **Integration:** Help develop a friendly socioeconomic environment for refugees by identifying gaps and solutions for effective access to rights/services (employment, financial inclusion, equitable education, social care, and psychosocial support, including in GBV cases); mainstreaming refugees in strategic documents, laws, and by-laws; playing a catalytic role in supporting the Government to fulfil its role in supporting refugee integration.
- **Self-reliance:** Advocate for access to legal employment of refugees and asylum-seekers, including through timely issuance of documentation.

Facilitate refugees' access to state-provided grants for self-employment and job fairs.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Government and within the UN system to ensure inclusion of persons of concern in all relevant strategic and legislative documents. UNHCR also leverages networks with the EU Delegation, European Union Agency for Asylum, Frontex, IOM, Ombudsman, private sector, financial actors, and civil society to foster comprehensive approaches to protection and solutions.

## Statelessness

- Montenegro has had an SDP since 2018, through which nine people have been recognized as stateless to date. UNHCR is working with the Ministry of the Interior to further strengthen the SDP.
- In September 2020, the Embassy of Serbia, with UNHCR, introduced a tailor-made procedure for the issuance of identity documents to citizens of Serbia who are residing in Montenegro without identity documents and predictable legal status.
- The new birth registration practice for children abandoned by their mothers removed the last legal obstacle for comprehensive birth registration of persons born in Montenegro. UNHCR is capacitating the Ministry of the Interior to secure smooth implementation of the new practice at the local level.

## UNHCR Presence in (country name)

### Staff:

11 National Staff  
 1 International Staff  
 3 UNOPS Staff

### Offices:

1 Branch Office in Podgorica

## Financial information\* (September 2022)

### Financial requirements USD 2.6 M

Funding gap  
 66%  
 1.7 M



Funded  
 34%  
 0.9 M

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