

Republic of North Macedonia

February 2022

The UNHCR office in North Macedonia was established in 1993 and works closely with the Government and civil society for the **protection of persons** under its mandate.

UNHCR works with authorities to fulfil the GRF pledge to find a **durable solution** for the more than 200 displaced persons from Kosovo who have remained without legal status for over 20 years.

UNHCR leads awareness campaigns including through high-profile and socially influential persons to mobilize support to **end statelessness** before 2024.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	296
Asylum-seekers	17
Stateless persons	553

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Serbia and Kosovo**	263	Turkey	7
Syrian Arab Republic	17	Morocco	5
Afghanistan	6	Pakistan	5

*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR data finder platform

**References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: Asylum-seekers and stateless persons have been included in the national vaccination scheme following advocacy by UNHCR and its partner to lift impediments to the inclusion of all persons of concern.

Inclusion: COVID-19 positive asylum-seekers receive treatment on par with North Macedonian citizens

Communication with Communities: UNHCR operates a 24/7 helpline to maintain direct contact with refugees, asylum-seekers, and persons at risk of statelessness. To address protection and COVID-19 concerns, UNHCR has a dedicated email address, as well as a special section of the UNHCR HELP [website](#).

Health: Through the regional EU-funded project “Addressing COVID-19 Challenges within the Migrant and Refugee Response in the Western Balkans”, UNHCR assisted Government efforts to provide better conditions in reception and transit centres.

HIGHLIGHTS

Migration Policy and Planning

Parliament adopted the “Resolution on Migration Policy and the Action Plan for 2021-2025” to achieve a more favourable protection environment, supported by the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund project “Evidence-based migration policy planning and discourse”.

Enhancing the Judiciary System

UNHCR, OSCE and GIZ in North Macedonia supported the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors in organizing a [regional conference](#) to “Further Educational Priorities, Goals and Challenges of the Judicial Academies” in December

Complementary Pathways

As a conclusion to the [Advanced Thematic Forum on International Refugee Protection](#) co-organized by UNHCR, recommendations to introduce Complementary Pathways on Education in North Macedonia were developed by the 22 distinguished experts

UNHCR STAFF TELLS HER REFUGEE STORY



Elvedina Maric Percuklievska, UNHCR Senior Programme Associate and a refugee herself, [talks](#) about her experience and how people can help.

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** 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.
- **Asylum procedure:** Prioritize decision-making on manifestly well-founded applications and granting of international protection based on the merit of the case, conduct judicial review of administrative decisions to take in-merit decisions to increase the efficiency of the asylum procedure, support State-financed provision of quality interpretation services and free legal aid at all stages of the asylum procedure.
- **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.
- **Preparedness:** 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.
- **Governance:** Support capacities and systems for strategic and anticipatory migration governance to enable the transition to long-term, participatory planning and policymaking, and generate a more conducive protection and integration environment.
- **Awareness-raising:** Improve the public narrative about refugees by fostering new attitudes and

behaviours in host communities leading to a more conducive protection environment, and broaden the platform of stakeholders to combat misinformation.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR engages 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.
- UNHCR's partner Youth Educational Forum conducted an opinion poll for youth about refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons. These findings as well as the achievements in the December campaign "**Not fear, create an opinion**", targeting youth, are part of the implementation of the UNHCR Communication Strategy for Social Change.
- As part of the external engagement strategy and in addition to the partnerships with Iustinianus Primus Law Faculty, University Ss. Cyril, Skopje, and Methodius and the IIHL in Sanremo, UNHCR signed MoUs with the University Goce Delchev-Shtip, University American College Skopje and NOVA International Schools.

Statelessness

- North Macedonia is 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 identified.

UNHCR Presence in North Macedonia

Personnel:

24 National Staff
 2 International Staff

Offices:

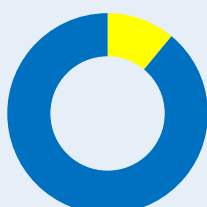
1 Representation Office in Skopje
 1 Field Unit in Gevgelija

Financial information (22 February 2022)

Financial requirements

USD 3.5 M

Funding gap
 89%
 3.1 M



Funded
 11%
 0.4 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:

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UNHCR North Macedonia is grateful to the donors to its 2022 programme:

Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund | Austria