

Serbia

September 2022

UNHCR Serbia **works with the Government** on the **mixed movement of refugees** and migrants, while also supporting solutions for displaced people and **reducing the risk of statelessness**.

UNHCR supports the Government in **strengthening the national asylum system** to provide protection. Those in need of international protection receive inclusion and local integration support.

Most of the displaced people from the former Yugoslavia **have found a durable solution**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022*

Refugees	26,318
Asylum-seekers	235
Internally displaced persons	196,066
Stateless persons	2,037
Others of concern	4,830

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Croatia	17,334	Burundi	115
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7,997	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	20
Ukraine	767	Cuba	16

*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 30 September, an estimated **19,710** refugees from Ukraine are currently present in and **971** were registered for temporary protection in Serbia.

UNHCR leads the UN inter-agency coordination group and provides support directly and through its implementing partners to include refugees from Ukraine in ongoing activities, such as:

- Serbian language classes for children preparing for school as well as for adults;
- Legal counselling, information sharing and legal representation;
- Further support in improving living conditions;
- Psycho-social, psychological, and psychiatric assistance;
- Support to employment.

Official accommodation: UNHCR contributed to the renovation of the Vranje Asylum Centre, currently accommodating 70 refugees from Ukraine, and equipped its rooms with furnishing in cooperation with IKEA Serbia.

HIGHLIGHTS

Socio-economic inclusion

Fifteen refugees are now receiving a regular income through employment by IKEA Serbia, because of UNHCR and IKEA cooperation on integration of refugees in the labour market.

Engaging students and youth

The “In their sneakers” project targets pupils and teachers in 13 secondary schools across Serbia. It aims to spark pupils’ interest in the refugee cause and to build empathy and support them in developing small-scale projects for refugee protection locally.

65,167 new arrivals registered

in government-run centers in Jan-Aug 2022, compared to 33,854 arrivals in the same period in 2021.

17 refugee status recognitions

Serbia granted international protection to 17 persons during Jan-Aug 2022 (14 in 2021), totaling to 225 persons who have received protection since 2008.

UNHCR INAGURATES EXHIBITION “WHAT THEY TOOK WITH THEM” IN BELGRADE



At the occasion of World Refugee Day on 20 June 2022, UNHCR opened an exhibition at the Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade. It displays items which fifteen refugees in Serbia took with them when fleeing their country of origin: Afghanistan, Burundi, Iran, Syria and Ukraine. The participants included the 2021 Regional Nansen Award Winner for Europe.

Key Priorities in the 2021-2024 UNHCR Serbia Strategy

1. Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and persons at risk of statelessness benefit from an improved and more systematically implemented legal framework and can thus access rights in line with international standards:

- Persons of concern have improved access to territory, registration, personal documents and services.
- Refugees are benefitting from fair and fast asylum procedures.
- The National Child Protection System is scaled up to provide care, protection and solutions in line with the best interest of the child.

2. Refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and persons who are no longer at risk of statelessness are a meaningful part of the Serbian society, and are welcome to contribute with their human capital to the local community:

- Durable solutions for persons of concern are enhanced and opportunities for education and employment are promoted.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers are involved in community initiatives at local and national level.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR Serbia enjoys close cooperation with the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, of Internal Affairs, of Public Administration and Local Self-Government (MPALSG), as well as with local authorities. Partnership agreements are in place with 11 NGO partners (A11 Initiative, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Crisis Response and Policy Centre,

Danish Refugee Council, Humanitarian Centre for Integration and Tolerance, IDEAS, INDIGO, International Aid Network, Praxis, Sigma Plus and UNDP) and several academic institutions.

- **External engagement:** UNHCR acts as a catalyst for change and advancement of the asylum system, supporting national authorities, and working with civil society partners, donors, stakeholders, the private sector, and refugees themselves.

Closure of the last collective centre for IDPs in Serbia

- With technical support from UNHCR, Bujanovac municipality secured funds from the European Union Support to Social Housing and Active Inclusion Programme (EU SHAI) that, together with additional support provided by the Swiss government, **will enable the closure of Salvatore Collective Centre for IDPs in Bujanovac** - the last collective centre in Serbia.

Statelessness

- As part of the renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness in Serbia, signed among MPALSG, the Office of the Ombudsman and UNHCR, linked to the [#IBelong Campaign](#), the parties to the MoU made progress on the organisation of joint trainings for civil servants on birth registration and personal documents, followed by a campaign on same topics aimed at the Roma community.
- Forty-eight persons had their nationality confirmed/granted in 2022 thus far, with legal assistance from UNHCR's partner Praxis.

UNHCR Presence in Serbia

Staff:

33 National Staff
 3 International Staff
 10 Affiliate Workforce

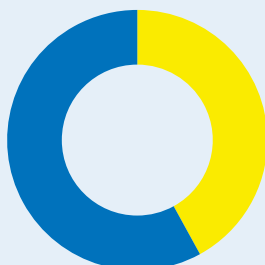
Offices:

1 Country Office in Belgrade
 1 Field Unit in Preševo

Financial information (September 2022)

Financial requirements USD 9.6 M

Funding gap
 58%
 5.5 M



Funded
 42%
 4.1 M

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As well as for the generous contributions from private individuals and the private sector.