

People under UNHCR mandate keep benefiting from non-discriminatory access to services and are prioritized for COVID-19 testing following medical assessment.

In July and August no virus spread was detected among the UNHCR persons of concern in Croatia. Restrictions to essential entries in place in the reception centers for asylum seekers remain.

UNHCR and partners continued delivering services and support to refugees and asylum seekers in line with recommendations from the health authorities.

### General overview

In the first eight months of 2020, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) registered **1,190** asylum seekers (top three countries of origin: Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria). In the same period, **28** people were granted international protection status (top three countries of origin: Iraq, Syria and Iran). As at 31 August, **314** asylum seekers were accommodated in the two Reception Centers for Asylum Seekers (RCAS) in Zagreb and Kutina. Of those, 43 percent were children, 34 percent men and 22 percent women. Situation in the RCAS remains safe and calm, with adequate epidemiological measures in place.

So far in 2020, **27** families (51 people) were provided with housing solutions under the Regional Housing Programme-RHP. Total number of beneficiaries of RHP assistance by 31 August in Croatia stands at **354** families (789 people).

### Reception Conditions

Reception capacity for asylum seekers stands at 700 in Zagreb (Porin) and Kutina reception centers. New arrivals are placed in two-week self-isolation and tested for COVID-19 based on medical assessment. After several months of observed stretching of existing capacities, at end August, MoI registered a decline in the number of people accommodated (42 per cent less when compared to July).

### Asylum System

On 21 August, UNHCR partner, the Croatian Law Centre (CLC) published its 2019 report on the system of asylum in Croatia, available [here](#). The report, prepared under project with UNHCR, gives insight into to asylum system analyzing different aspects of policy, legislation and its implementation, including access to rights.

### Communications

In August, the “They” [photo exhibition](#) on four refugees integrating in Croatia (produced by UNHCR and its partner, the Festival of Tolerance) was on display in Karlovac Municipal Museum.

The [RED posters exhibition](#) done by UNHCR and its partner, the Festival of Tolerance was extended in July in public transport in Zagreb after the initial three weeks’ period marking the World Refugee Day in June. The same exhibition was also staged in Zagreb city library throughout August.

UNHCR partner, the Association “Mi” edited and provided regular updates to the central resource web platform for refugee integration in Croatia ([www.irh.hr](http://www.irh.hr)).



One of the refugee portraits as part of the “They” exhibition. @UNHCR/ September 2020

### CONTACTS

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