

# Croatia

February 2026

Croatia's asylum legislation is aligned with international standards, providing a solid framework for **adequate reception conditions** for asylum-seekers and effective integration opportunities for refugees.

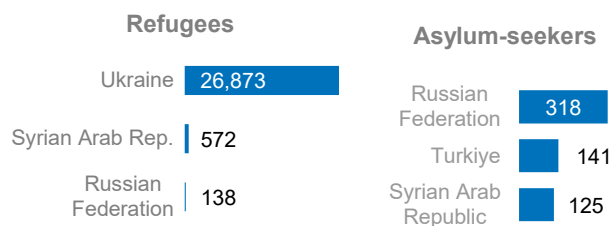
UNHCR monitors **access to territory and asylum** and advocates for the effective functioning of the Independent National Monitoring Mechanism, including through participation in its Advisory Board.

Since March 2022, Croatia has offered **temporary protection** to refugees from Ukraine, with UNHCR working alongside partners to expand access to services and strengthen their socio-economic inclusion.

## UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2025)\*

Refugees	<b>28, 218</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>1,123</b>
Stateless people	<b>758**</b>
Others of concern	<b>4,798***</b>

## Top three countries of origin



\*UNHCR Refugee Data Finder

\*\*Figures include both displaced & non-displaced stateless people

\*\*\*People who expressed intention to seek international protection

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

## Protecting forcibly displaced and stateless people in Croatia

### UNHCR trained asylum centre staff on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, trafficking and safeguarding

Between 1-3 December 2025, UNHCR delivered a three-day protection training for 60 staff of the Zagreb and Kutina asylum centres, focusing on GBV prevention and response, trafficking in human beings, safeguarding, and communication with communities. The training strengthened staff capacity to identify protection risks and ensure safe and respectful services for asylum-seekers.

### UNHCR strengthens refugee access to employment in Croatia

UNHCR, together with the Centre for Missing and Exploited Children and the refugee-led organisation Svoja, is supporting refugees in Croatia to build self-reliance and achieve economic inclusion through the project *Empowerment for Employment*. The initiative strengthens access to the labour market through language courses, employability workshops, job fairs and cooperation with the Croatian Employment Service (HZZ). It also promotes entrepreneurship and supports the recognition of professional qualifications. In 2025, a total of 659 refugees benefited from the project.

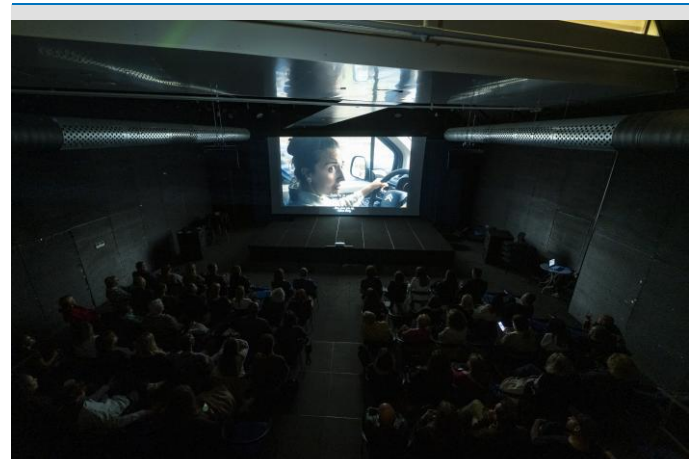
## HIGHLIGHTS

### Capacity-building for judges

On 11 November 2025, UNHCR and the Croatian Law Centre delivered a hands-on training for administrative judges on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. The session emphasized the critical role of judges in safeguarding fundamental rights under compressed timelines, particularly in border procedures and appeals.

### Promoting tolerance through youth storytelling

On 10 December 2025, UNHCR and the Festival of Tolerance marked International Human Rights Day by awarding the best student films created under *the Hope Far From Home* project. The initiative engaged over 100 pupils from 10 primary schools in film workshops and media literacy activities, with students submitting short films based on real refugee stories. Since 2018, the programme has reached more than 10,000 students across Croatia.



Participants attend a screening during the 19th Festival of Tolerance in Zadar. © Festival of Tolerance, October 2025

## TOLERANCE IN ACTION

On 23–24 October 2025, UNHCR took part in the 19th Festival of Tolerance in Zadar, a cultural platform promoting empathy, dialogue, and human rights. The festival, supported by UNHCR, featured films and educational activities highlighting refugee experiences and the importance of inclusion. UNHCR contributed to “Tolerance Talks” and youth-focused sessions, raising awareness of forced displacement and engaging diverse audiences.

## Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** Since 2021, UNHCR has welcomed the Croatian Government's establishment of an Independent National Monitoring Mechanism to monitor the human rights situation at Croatia's borders. UNHCR continues to advocate for its effective functioning, including through participation in its Advisory Board.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR monitors the asylum system and supports the Government in ensuring fair and effective procedures, including through capacity-building, providing comments on asylum legislation, and sharing country-of-origin information and guidance.
- **Integration:** To enhance the integration of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, UNHCR participates in the Government's Working Group on Integration, which develops national integration action plans. UNHCR also works with private sector partners and employers to facilitate access to decent work and sustainable livelihoods for refugees.
- **Communicating with communities:** UNHCR provides information to refugees through its [Help page](#) and social media channels. In addition, two information hotlines for displaced and stateless people are run with UNHCR's support through its partner, the Croatian Law Centre.
- **Child protection:** UNHCR participates in the work of the Government's Commission for the Protection of Unaccompanied and Separated Children and advocates for improved reception conditions for children, including family-based accommodation and care arrangements.
- **Addressing GBV:** UNHCR works with the Government to strengthen the capacity of national institutions and to disseminate information on safe disclosure and referral pathways for survivors of GBV, as well as on preventing sexual exploitation, abuse, and trafficking.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Government, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector to improve protection for forcibly displaced people through advocacy, legal and policy reforms, and the provision of legal aid and integration services.
- UNHCR began 2025 with six funded national partners to respond to refugee needs: *the Croatian Law Centre* (legal assistance and capacity-building on access to territory and asylum); *Jesuit Refugee Service* (employment support); *the Centre for Missing and Exploited Children* (livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion); *the Croatian Red Cross* (gender-based violence prevention and child protection); *the Civil Rights Project Sisak* (statelessness); and *the Jewish Film Festival* (promotion of positive refugee narratives through engagement with media, faith-based organizations, and academia). Due to funding constraints, only the partnership with the Croatian Law Centre will continue into 2026.

## Statelessness

- Croatia is a State Party to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness. UNHCR advocates with national counterparts for Croatia to join the [Global Alliance to End Statelessness](#) and to establish a dedicated statelessness determination procedure.

## UNHCR Presence in Croatia

### Staff:

2 National Staff

### Offices:

1 office in Zagreb, operating under the coordination of the UNHCR Representation for Central and South-East Europe, based in Budapest

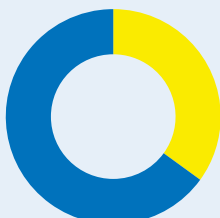
## Financial information (28 February 2026)

\* Information relates to UNHCR's Representation for Central and South-East Europe, which covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and Kosovo.

### Financial requirements

\$ 24 M

Funding gap 73%  
\$ 17.4 M



Funded 27%  
\$ 6.6 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors in 2026:

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UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.