

As Croatia gradually relaxed COVID-19 related restrictions, refugees and asylum-seekers continued to have access to health services in a non-discriminatory manner.

No virus spread has been detected among the UNHCR persons of concern in Croatia. Situation in the two Reception Centers for Asylum Seekers remain calm and safe.

Asylum procedure has resumed in the pre-pandemic manner. UNHCR and its partners continue to adapt their activities as per the advice from health authorities.

## General overview

In the first four months of 2020, MoI registered **529** asylum seekers (top three countries of origin: Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria). In the same period, **14** people were granted refugee status (Iraq, Iran, Syria and one stateless).

As at end May, **382** asylum seekers have been accommodated in the two Reception Centers for Asylum Seekers (RCAS) in Zagreb and Kutina. Of those, 41 per cent are children, 37 per cent men and 22 per cent women, with top three countries of origin: Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria.

So far in 2020, **14** families (22 people) were provided with housing solutions under the [Regional Housing Programme-RHP](#). Total number of beneficiaries of RHP assistance by 16 April 2020 in Croatia stands at **315** families (749 people).

## Reception Centers for Asylum Seekers

After almost two months of limited activities and 14-day shifts in the RCAS in Zagreb and Kutina, Ministry of Interior, Croatian Red Cross and Medicines du Monde, as essential service providers in the centers resumed their regular work on 11 May. Restrictions for non-essential entries to the centers remain in place.

## Education

To support effective access to education of asylum-seeking children under remote learning arrangements, UNHCR donated computers and a TV set to the RCAS in Kutina, complementing the existing capacities. UNHCR also donated a notepad with connectivity solutions to a Roma child at risk of statelessness who, due to her situation, didn't receive necessary IT equipment from school that was otherwise available to her schoolmates.

UNHCR published a [web story](#) on a Croatian teacher who, while her school is closed due to Covid-19, keeps the doors of learning open for her refugee students by going online.

UNHCR donated computers and a TV set to Kutina reception centre for asylum seekers to ensure all children have access to remote learning arrangements.

## Health

UNHCR and UNICEF inquired with the Minister of Health about arrangements for provision of health services in the Reception Center for asylum seekers in Zagreb following the completion of an EU AMIF project at the end of April. By late April, Ministry announced extension of the current project until end July 2020, while in May a new call was published for provision of healthcare in the center for the same scope of activities until end 2022.

## IKEA Donation

IKEA in Croatia made a generous donation to UNHCR to mitigate health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on some 500 refugees. In the course of the coming weeks, IKEA products, including different household items and products for children, will be distributed to refugees across the country. IKEA and UNHCR global partnership aims at improving the livelihoods of people forced to flee their homes around the world.

## Asylum Procedure

As of 18 May, the refugee status determination procedure has been resumed at all levels in the pre-pandemic manner, including interviews conducted by the Ministry of Interior at first instance, as well as appellate hearings before the Administrative Courts.



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