

Kosovo¹

September 2021

The UNHCR Office of the Chief of Mission (OCM) in Pristina was established in 1999 and supports asylum-seekers, refugees, persons at risk of statelessness, internally displaced people, voluntary returnees.

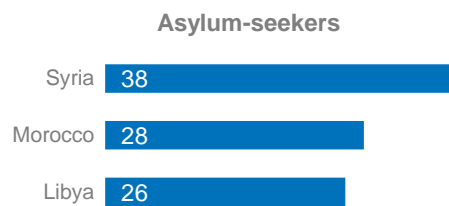
The UNHCR OCM in Pristina supports authorities' administrative, legal and infrastructural capacities so they can extend protection and solutions for persons of concern to UNHCR.

Together with partners and other stakeholders, UNHCR contributes to the strengthening of the existing asylum system and promotes sustainable solutions.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	108
Asylum-seekers	195
Internally displaced people	16,023
Stateless people	4
Voluntary Minority Returnees	394

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*



Data source: UNHCR 2020 Annual Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: Asylum seekers and refugees are included in the national COVID-19 vaccination deployment plan. Covid-19 tests are conducted in asylum centres and vaccination of refugees and asylum seekers is rolled-out.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR and partners are using different means to establish effective communication with communities through a telephone helpline, social media channels, partner [website](#), and community mediators.

Health: UNHCR promotes awareness raising among persons of concern on all COVID-19 related topics, including preventive measures and benefits of vaccination through posters, social media/online, individual and focus group discussions.

HIGHLIGHTS

Asylum

Upgrade of the conditions of the asylum center including enhanced access to services for asylum seekers were conducted with the support of the EU IcSP project. This also included a playground for children, equipment for access to online education and virtual RSD interviews.

Refugees

Two refugees completed vocational training and attended a three-month internship program at the local company. Accommodation for seven heads of families with 20 individuals with recognized international protection status has been provided with public funds.

Statelessness

The Ministry of Internal Affairs publicly pledged to create an institutional systematic solution mechanism for identification, reduction, prevention, and protection of persons at risk of statelessness.

COVID-19 TESTING – ASYLUM CENTER



Asylum seekers being tested for COVID-19 at the Asylum Center in Magure/a. Read more [here](#).

¹ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

Key Priorities

- **Legislation/Policy:** UNHCR engages in the development of legislative and administrative frameworks in the areas of asylum, civil status registration and durable solutions for displaced population. By strengthening the capacity of the institutions at the central and municipal levels, UNHCR fosters the effective implementation of the legislation in accordance with the international standards.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR conducts protection monitoring with a view to monitor trends and identify key protection concerns for persons in need of international protection and for those vulnerable and/or with specific needs. In addition, UNHCR advocates with authorities to ensure unhindered access to territory and asylum procedures in compliance with the principle of *non-refoulement*.
- **Asylum procedures:** In close collaboration with institutions, UNHCR is pursuing the Regional Quality Assurance Initiative aimed at strengthening the Refugee Status Determination capacities and overall asylum system.
- **Integration:** Legislation in place guarantees sustainable integration of refugees and stateless persons. UNHCR supports creation of favourable integration environment and concrete institutionally led capacities that would provide socio-economic stability.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR through advocacy promotes trust-building activities with selected municipalities, addressing inter-ethnic relations to strengthen social cohesion, tolerance and cooperation between communities.
- **Capacity building:** UNHCR and partners regularly organises capacity building events/workshops for specific institutions, including RSD authority, Border Police, Integration Department, the Bar Association, Justice Academy. UNHCR organises regular Legal Clinic on Refugee Law and Statelessness with students of the Law Faculty, Pristina University.

Working with Partners

- In collaboration with the UN Development Coordinator Office and through UN Kosovo Team, UNHCR contributes to a joint UN Development System supporting authorities to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Other partners include the United Nations Interim Administration Mission (UNMIK), the EU Office in Kosovo, OSCE, and others.
- Five Project Partnership Agreements have been concluded with local partner organizations for 2021.
- UNHCR cooperates with institutions at central level, municipalities, the Kosovo Agency for Statistics, the Judicial Institutions, the Ombudsperson Office, the Kosovo Academy of Justice, Bar Association, University of Pristina - Law Faculty, Association of Journalists, and other relevant stakeholders.

Internally Displaced Persons

- UNHCR regularly monitors the situation of the displaced population and advocates for durable solutions. Through advocacy, UNHCR also promotes self-reliance and social inclusion of the particularly vulnerable displaced persons who are still residing in collective shelters. IDPs are included in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Kosovo.

Statelessness

- UNHCR jointly with national human rights institutions promotes effective birth registration and recommends introduction of systemic measures for the identification, prevention and reduction of the risk of statelessness, including within UNHCR's [#IBelong](#) campaign.
- Safeguards are included in the legal framework regulating the statelessness status determination procedures and naturalization of persons with granted stateless and refugee status.

UNHCR Presence in Kosovo

Staff:

18 National Staff

1 International Staff

Offices:

1 Office (OCM) in Prishtina

Financial information (September 2021)

Financial requirements

USD 3.6 M

Funding gap

46%
1.65M


Funded

54%
1.95 M

UNHCR is grateful to donors of unearmarked contributions to the 2021 global programme, which allow UNHCR for critical flexibility to reach populations of concern in the greatest need:

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Private donors Spain 49.7 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | United Kingdom 28.4 million | Germany 26 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 25 million | Japan 23.4 million | Private donors Japan 20.7 million | France 20.2 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Private donors Italy 12.3 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Sweden 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million

UNHCR Kosovo is grateful to donors who supported the 2021 programme (as of September 2021):

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