

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

## UNHCR Representation for Central Europe | Slovenia

### Population statistics (as of December 31, 2024)

<b>12,558</b> refugees	<b>850</b> asylum-seekers	<b>10</b> stateless people	<b>5</b> other persons of concern
---------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------	---

### Top countries of origin

**Ukraine:** 11,296 refugees  
**Syrian Arab Republic:** 373 refugees  
**Afghanistan:** 114 refugees

### Background & operational context

UNHCR has been operating in Slovenia since 1992, working in close coordination with national authorities, municipalities, civil society partners, and UN agencies to ensure access to protection and durable solutions for people forced to flee. Slovenia continues to provide a generally welcoming environment for refugees and asylum-seekers, ensuring access to territory, international protection, social services, and employment, including for those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

In 2024, Slovenia recorded 44,383 new arrivals of individuals seeking international protection and 2,596 new applications for temporary protection (TP). Despite the Government's continued open-door policy and the availability of core services, many refugees face ongoing challenges in integrating into Slovenian society—particularly in the areas of language acquisition, employment, and access to healthcare.

The increasing number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), many of whom are

at heightened risk of exploitation and abuse, further underscores the complexity of the current protection environment. In response, UNHCR intensified advocacy efforts for their systematic identification and protection.

To support the national response, UNHCR continued to provide legal counselling, psychosocial support, and technical assistance. This included capacity-building activities and contributions to the development of Slovenia's National Implementation Plan under the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. Integration efforts were also strengthened through the successful resettlement of 50 refugees from Türkiye and the launch of a new education pathway, which enabled two refugee students to enroll in a Master's program in Kinesiology at EMUNI University, with full institutional support.

As needs continue to evolve, UNHCR remains focused on identifying gaps and supporting sustainable, long-term solutions for people forced to flee.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

### Status determination

UNHCR and its partners continued to support strengthening Slovenia's asylum system through targeted capacity-building and technical support to authorities responsible for refugee status determination (RSD), border management, and reception. This included assistance to the asylum authority on decision drafting, as well as training for border officials, reception staff, and social workers on identifying and referring individuals with specific protection needs, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and victims of trafficking.

To address the rising number of unaccompanied children, UNHCR contributed to the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and workflows at a newly established facility. Access to information on asylum procedures was further strengthened through the upgrade of the UNHCR Help page and the dissemination of QR codes.

UNHCR also actively engaged in national-level preparations for the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, providing detailed recommendations to support a protection-sensitive application of the Asylum Procedures Regulation, the Screening Regulation, and the recast Reception Conditions Directive.

### Protection Policy & Law

UNHCR continued to promote full compliance with international refugee law and human rights standards, including the 1951 Refugee Convention & the Statelessness Conventions,

through evidence-based advocacy and active engagement in government consultations and with national and international human rights institutions. Additionally, UNHCR successfully advocated for the [ratification](#) of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. UNHCR then supported the process by providing technical assistance to ensure alignment with the Convention's objectives.

### Local integration and other local solutions

In 2024, UNHCR expanded its efforts to support the integration and inclusion of refugees and other forcibly displaced people in Slovenia. Through its partnership with Slovene Philanthropy, nearly 1,900 individuals received integration support, while over 1,800 accessed mental health and psychosocial support services and gender-based violence response services. UNHCR also partnered with three community-based organizations offering psychosocial support, cultural activities, and language classes for refugees from Ukraine.

A [multi-sectoral needs assessment](#) published in May identified employment (49%), healthcare (40%), and language courses (29%) as key priorities. These findings informed UNHCR's advocacy to enhance self-reliance and access to essential services.

To further support inclusion at the local level, UNHCR distributed a Municipality Toolkit to 200 municipalities. In collaboration with partners, UNHCR also co-organized a job fair to promote refugee access to employment opportunities.

In the area of child protection, a dedicated handbook for Centers for Social Work was finalized and distributed to 1,500 social and child protection professionals across Slovenia.

UNHCR also promoted resettlement and complementary pathways to Slovenia, including a pilot [education pathway](#) that enabled two refugee students from Türkiye to begin Master's studies.

Additionally, 50 refugees from Syria and Afghanistan, resettled from earthquake-affected areas in Türkiye, were successfully integrated into the Slovenian community. Separately, UNHCR supported the reunification of three families through family reunification efforts.

To promote inclusion and raise public awareness, UNHCR supported the participation of a Slovenian refugee football team in the [Unity Euro Cup](#)—a regional tournament organized by UEFA and UNHCR that brings together refugee and host community players to encourage social connections through sport and break down barriers between diverse communities.

UNHCR also participated in the [Migrant Film Festival](#), an annual event organized by Slovene Philanthropy, which features films focused on migration and refugee stories. The 2024 edition drew over 1,300 visitors and served as an important platform for dialogue and engagement.

Indicator	# (2024)
# of individuals who received legal assistance	1,492
# of personnel trained and sensitized on the state-led refugee status determination (RSD) procedure	53
# of awareness-raising, capacity-building, and advocacy interventions	8
# of awareness-raising, capacity-building, and advocacy interventions on statelessness	6
# of consultations provided through UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services	1,949
# of people who received protection services	3,557
# of people consulted through UNHCR-led participatory assessments	61
# of refugees and others of concern who received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services	1,169
# of persons of concern (PoC) reached by refugee-led organizations	529

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

Australia | Belgium | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway |  
Republic of Korea | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sweden | Switzerland

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