

Croatia

February 2023

Croatia's **asylum legislation** is in line with international standards. Asylum-seekers can access adequate **reception conditions**, and refugees enjoy integration support.

UNHCR monitors access to territory and asylum, and advocates for the effective functioning of the **independent national monitoring mechanism**.

Since March 2022, Croatia has been granting **temporary protection** to refugees from Ukraine, providing them with a higher standard of protection than envisioned under EU legislation.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022*

Refugees	16,415
Asylum-seekers	1,077
Stateless persons	2,889
Others of concern**	546

**Beneficiaries of reconstruction and housing care and persons who expressed an intention to seek international protection

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	15,387	Afghanistan	483
Syrian Arab Rep.	552	Iraq	101
Iraq	119	Pakistan	71

*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 15 February, **20,800** refugees from Ukraine were registered for temporary protection in Croatia.

Support: UNHCR facilitates the provision of psychosocial support, Croatian language courses, and builds capacity of national and local service providers for timely identification and referral of persons with specific needs.

Communicating with Communities: UNHCR visits collective centers, monitors reception conditions and provides legal counseling and information about access to services and available assistance through group sessions, individual counselling, a dedicated 24/7 hotline for refugees from Ukraine, and on social media.

Advocacy: UNHCR commends the government for the protection extended to refugees under temporary protection and continues advocating for the provision of free legal aid in the temporary protection procedure, Croatian language classes, and access to tertiary education to refugees under temporary protection.

HIGHLIGHTS

Building capacity of frontline workers

In December, UNHCR completed the delivery of an annual training programme on GBV, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, anti-trafficking and communication with communities for 326 frontline workers, including national emergency hotline operators.

Promoting refugee employment

In October, UNHCR hosted a panel on refugee employment at an international conference on refugee integration organised by the government. IKEA and UNHCR presented their local partnership for internship opportunities, and the business case for timely and effective inclusion of refugees into the workforce.

Roll-out of the UNHCR Municipal toolkit

To support host communities in developing participatory inclusion practices, UNHCR presented its **Municipal Toolkit** to 8 local communities and 21 national integration coordinators.



FIRST REFUGEE-LED ORGANIZATION IN CROATIA ASSISTS REFUGEES WITH FINDING EMPLOYMENT

The Svoja Association, headed by refugee women from Ukraine, focuses on the economic empowerment of refugees and is an excellent example of collaboration between grassroots, humanitarian and development actors in support of refugee inclusion. Link to the [story](#).

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Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** In 2021, UNHCR welcomed the establishment of an independent national monitoring mechanism to address allegations of denial of access to territory and monitor the human rights situation at the border. UNHCR advocates for the effective and independent functioning of the monitoring mechanism, 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, commenting on asylum legislation and sharing country of origin information and guidelines.
- **Integration:** to enhance integration, UNHCR participates in the government's Working Group on Integration, which develops national integration action plans. To further support refugee inclusion, UNHCR works with private sector partners such as IKEA, and supports participatory approaches.
- **Communicating with communities:** UNHCR provides information to refugees through its [HELP webpage](#) and social media. Additionally, three hotlines provide information to displaced and stateless people.
- **Child protection:** UNHCR participates in the work of the government's Commission for Protection of Unaccompanied and Separated Children and advocates for improved reception conditions for children, including alternative accommodation and care arrangements.
- **Addressing gender-based violence:** UNHCR works with the government to strengthen capacity and disseminate information on safe disclosure and referral pathways for GBV survivors, prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and trafficking.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with the government, civil society, academia, international organizations and the private sector to promote a positive protection environment through advocacy interventions, support for improving legislative and policy frameworks, and engagement with local and national actors.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR promotes tolerance, inclusion, public awareness of refugee protection issues and understanding of UNHCR's mandate. UNHCR seeks to engage local communities and the public through the creative use of the arts, including by organizing exhibitions, film screenings and other public events. UNHCR also promotes interest in issues related to refugee protection in schools.

Statelessness

- Croatia has acceded to both Statelessness Conventions. In 2020, UNHCR published an analysis of the statelessness legal framework, calling for the establishment of a national statelessness determination procedure, among other measures.
- UNHCR provides free legal aid to stateless people and those at risk of statelessness to help them regulate their stay, obtain documentation and access rights and services. UNHCR also provides training to government officials on issues related to statelessness.

UNHCR Presence in Croatia

Staff:

11 National Staff
2 International Staff

Offices:

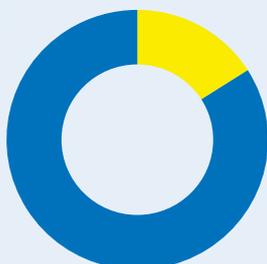
1 Representation in Zagreb

Financial information (February 2023)

Financial requirements

USD 2.3 M

Funding gap
84%
1.9 M



Funded
16%
0.4M

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