

Croatia

September 2022

Croatia's **asylum system** is in line with international standards. Asylum-seekers benefit from **reception conditions**, and refugees under international protection enjoy integration support.

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

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

POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022*

Refugees	16,415
Asylum-seekers	1,077
Stateless persons	2,889
Others of concern**	1,044

**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.	1,552	Iraq	101
Iraq	119	Pakistan	71

*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 30 September, **18,328 refugees from Ukraine** are currently recorded in Croatia.

18,326 refugees from Ukraine are registered for temporary protection in Croatia.

UNHCR support: UNHCR supports provision of psychosocial support, Croatian language courses, intercultural exchanges between locals and refugees, and builds capacity of national and local service providers for timely identification and referral of persons with specific needs.

Advocacy: UNHCR commends the Government for the protection extended to refugees under temporary protection and continues advocating for expanding provisions of access to free legal aid, Croatian language classes, and access to tertiary education to persons under temporary protection.

Support to the most vulnerable: UNHCR scaled up its support in protecting children, preventing gender-based violence and communicating with refugee communities.

Coordination: UNHCR led an inter-agency assessment of the needs of Ukrainian refugees to help inform the government and organizations on how to address them

HIGHLIGHTS

First refugee-led association formed

In August, UNHCR and the EBRD supported the launch of the first refugee women-led initiative in Croatia. The "Svoja" Association supports economic empowerment of refugees.

Event on gender-based violence

In April 2022, UNHCR and the Council of Europe organized a high-level online event on 'Preventing, Combating and Responding to Gender-Based Violence in the Context of Asylum and Migration.' The event discussed challenges in prevention, mitigation, and response to GBV, shared best practices, and encouraged strengthening cooperation.

IKEA internship

In May, IKEA Croatia, in partnership with UNHCR, provided internship opportunities for the second year in a row for 11 refugees in their Zagreb store. The three-month fully paid internship programme aims at developing skills and increasing future opportunities in the job market.

STATELESS GIRL IN CROATIA DREAMS OF HAVING "PAPERS"



Read the [story](#) of Medina, who faces bureaucratic hurdles due to being stateless.

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** Croatia faces mixed movements of people arriving irregularly, mainly from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. UNHCR welcomed the establishment of an independent national monitoring mechanism to address allegations of denial of access to the territory. UNHCR advocates for its renewal and strengthening aimed at effective and independent functioning of this monitoring mechanism, including through the participation in its Advisory Board.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR monitors the asylum system and supports the Government in ensuring a fair and effective system, including through capacity building, commenting on asylum legislation and sharing country of origin information and guidelines.
- **Integration:** Working with the Government to enhance the integration system, UNHCR participates in the Working Group on Integration, which establishes integration action plans. To further support effective refugee inclusion, UNHCR promotes the participatory approach for local practitioners, including promoting [Municipal Toolkit](#).
- **Communicating with communities:** UNHCR provides important information to refugees through its [HELP webpage](#) and social media. Additionally, three hotlines serve asylum-seekers, refugees under international and temporary protection, stateless persons, those at risk of statelessness, and beneficiaries of the Regional Housing Programme.
- **Gender-based violence:** UNHCR works with the Government on raising capacity on safe disclosure and referral pathways for GBV, sexual exploitation and abuse, and trafficking of survivors and at-risk persons working with Ukrainian refugees. UNHCR also developed related information materials

promoting national referral mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of response.

- **Child protection:** UNHCR participates in the work of the Government's Commission for UASC protection and advocates for improved reception conditions for children, including through implementing alternative accommodation and care arrangements.
- **Durable solutions:** UNHCR monitors sustainability measures for the Regional Housing Programme.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with the **Government, civil society, academia, international organizations** and the **private sector** to promote a positive protection environment for asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees and stateless people.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR seeks to engage local communities and the public through the creative use of arts, including by organizing exhibitions, film screenings and other public events. UNHCR also works with academia.

Statelessness

- Croatia has acceded to both Statelessness Conventions. In 2020, UNHCR published an analysis of the statelessness legal framework, recommending further strengthening legislative safeguards to prevent statelessness. The report called for the establishment of a national statelessness determination procedure.

UNHCR Presence in (country name)

Staff:

11 National Staff
2 International Staff

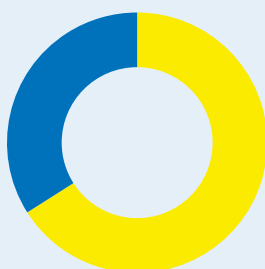
Offices:

1 Representation in Zagreb

Financial information (September 2022)

Financial requirements USD 2.1 M

Funding gap
34%
0.7 M



Funded
66%
1.4 M

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