

# Montenegro

February 2023

Since March 2022, Montenegro has been granting temporary protection to refugees from Ukraine, and hosts a **large refugee community** relative to its population.

**Statelessness:** UNHCR and the authorities are working towards meeting the 2019 pledge to resolve the legal status of all refugees with unstable legal status from Yugoslavia by 2024.

In 2022, in cooperation with Finland, a **Workshop on Asylum and Integration** took place in Podgorica to reinforce advocacy and technical knowledge in all stages of asylum.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN AS OF MID-2022\*

Refugees	<b>9,236</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>121</b>
Stateless persons	<b>468</b>

## Top three countries of origin\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	<b>9,133</b>	Russian Federation	<b>38</b>
Serbia	<b>54</b>	Cuba	<b>33</b>
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	<b>13</b>	Pakistan	<b>10</b>

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

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 28 February, **8,014** refugees from Ukraine were registered for temporary protection in Montenegro.

**Coordination:** UNHCR and the government jointly oversee the implementation of Temporary Protection (TP) through the Coordination Body. Task forces are organized with the EU, UN and the Government to ensure adherence to directives.

**Protection monitoring and CwC:** UNHCR ensures continuous provision of legal assistance and psychosocial support across coastal cities, where most refugees reside. Updated information on protection, rights and services is provided through communication with communities and the [HELP page](#).

**Registration:** UNHCR supports the Ministry of Interior branch offices with equipment necessary to conduct temporary protection registration.

**Advocacy:** UNHCR advocates for the access to rights and services for refugees from Ukraine.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Strengthening access to asylum

UNHCR advocates with national authorities to further strengthen asylum-seekers' access to procedures. In November 2022, asylum authorities from Finland and Montenegro exchanged best practices during a workshop.

### Statelessness

Montenegro is progressing towards fully implementing all four High-Level Segment on Statelessness (HLS) pledges, by further strengthening the birth registration and the statelessness determination procedures (SDP) through coordination with relevant national authorities.

### Ex-Yugoslav refugees

With UNHCR's legal assistance, refugees from former Yugoslavia with unresolved legal status decreased from 319 at the end of 2021 to 93 at the end of 2022. UNHCR aims to find a resolution for pending cases by the end of 2023.



### #IBELONG POSTERS TAKE OVER THE STREETS OF MONTENEGRO TO REAFFIRM STATELESSNESS CAN END BY 2024

From over 4,300 persons at risk of statelessness in 2021, to less than 500 in 2022, Montenegro is on track to eradicate statelessness entirely. [Read more here](#). ©UNHCR/M. Bajramspahic

## Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** UNHCR documents and proposes interventions for protection incidents with national authorities, while supporting implementation of identification and referral procedures in line with the mixed movement [strategy](#).
- **Access to registration:** UNHCR supports national authorities to identify key protection issues at registration points, and advocates for referral of persons with specific needs to relevant bodies.
- **Access to asylum procedures:** In cooperation with national authorities, UNHCR monitors asylum processes to strengthen TP processing, refugee status determination and individual case management, working towards expediting the processing of asylum claims.
- **Adequate reception facilities:** UNHCR advocates for access to protection-sensitive reception and accommodation facilities and supports contingency planning for adequate and timely healthcare for persons with specific needs.
- **Refugee integration:** UNHCR facilitates refugee access to social and economic integration by identifying gaps and providing solutions to authorities for access to rights and services by advocating for refugee mainstreaming in strategic and legal documents.
- **Self-reliance:** UNHCR advocates for access to regular employment opportunities for refugees and asylum-seekers, including through timely issuance of documentation. UNHCR also facilitates refugees' access to state-provided grants for self-employment and job fairs.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the government and with the UN Country Team (Task Force on Ukrainians) to ensure inclusion of persons of concern in all relevant strategic and legislative documents. UNHCR also leverages networks with the EU Delegation, European Union Agency for Asylum, Frontex, IOM, Ombudsman, private sector, financial actors, and civil society to foster comprehensive approaches to protection and solutions.

## Statelessness

- Montenegro has had statelessness determination procedures (SDP) since 2018. UNHCR coordinates with the Ministry of the Interior to further strengthen the SDP.
- In September 2020, the Embassy of Serbia, through UNHCR support, introduced context-specific procedures to issue identity documents to persons of Serbian heritage residing in Montenegro without Serbian identity documents, thereby providing a solution for them.
- The birth registration practice for abandoned children, implemented by authorities since 2022, eliminated the final legal obstacle for comprehensive birth registration of all persons born in Montenegro. UNHCR coordinates with the Mol to ensure implementation at the local level.

## UNHCR Presence in Montenegro

### Staff:

11 National Staff  
 1 International Staff  
 3 UNOPS Staff  
 1 TA

### Offices:

1 Country Office in Podgorica

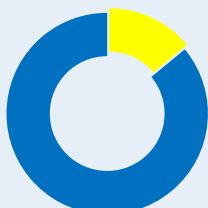
## Financial information (February 2023)

### Financial requirements

USD 2.8 M

Funding gap  
 86%

2.4 M



Funded  
 14%  
 0.4 M

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