

Croatia

February 2024

Croatia's asylum legislation is in line with international standards. Asylum seekers can access adequate **reception conditions**, and refugees have access to 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. UNHCR continues to identify opportunities for improved **access to services** and **socio-economic inclusion**.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2023)*

Refugees	23,789
Asylum-seekers	1,273
Stateless people	733
Others of concern**	435

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees	Asylum-seekers
Ukraine 22,533	Russian Federation 437
Syrian Arab Republic 550	Afghanistan 166
Iraq 120	Türkiye 144

*UNHCR mid-2023 Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

** People who expressed intention to seek international protection

Socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Croatia

First 'one-stop shop' for refugees in Croatia

In November 2023, the City of Zagreb and UNHCR organized a **round table** to discuss modalities for a 'one-stop shop' for refugees, which is expected to be launched under the City of Zagreb's local integration action plan in 2024, with UNHCR support.

UNHCR works with national and local governments for improved integration prospects

In January 2023, in partnership with the Croatian Employment Service, UNHCR organized a **training** for all regional refugee employment coordinators and presented the new joint **brochure** on the right to work for asylum-seekers and refugees granted international and temporary protection.

In October and November 2023, UNHCR presented its **Municipal Toolkit** to over 30 local stakeholders in eastern and southern Croatia, promoting this tool for the effective inclusion of refugees at the local level.

HIGHLIGHTS

Perspectives of refugees from Ukraine

In December 2023, UNHCR published a **report** on the situation and intentions of refugees from Ukraine in Croatia, highlighting the need for continued support in light of prolonged displacement.

Strengthening child protection systems

In November 2023, UNHCR and the Croatian Red Cross organized a workshop for guardians of unaccompanied and separated children from across the country to strengthen timely and efficient access to rights and services.

Gender-based violence (GBV)

In November 2023, the Judicial Academy, UNHCR and the Croatian Law Centre organized a **training** on GBV within the asylum procedure for judges and Mol asylum staff to enhance responses to such cases.



A. Kladar Terzic © UNHCR

Christmas lunch with refugees – a unique opportunity to create lasting friendships

In December, UNHCR and the Jesuit Refugee Service organized their traditional "Christmas Lunch with Refugees" initiative. Read more about the initiative [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** In 2021, UNHCR welcomed the establishment of an Independent National Monitoring Mechanism to monitor the human rights situation at Croatia's borders. UNHCR continues to advocate for the fair and effective functioning of an independent national 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, providing comments 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 page](#) 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 family-based accommodation and care arrangements.
- **Addressing gender-based violence (GBV):** UNHCR works with the Government to strengthen capacity and disseminate information on safe disclosure and referral pathways for GBV survivors, and 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, strengthening legislative and policy frameworks, and providing targeted assistance while engaging 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 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 the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness. In 2020, UNHCR published an [analysis](#) of the statelessness legal framework, calling for the establishment of a national statelessness determination procedure, among other measures.
- To support Government efforts for ending statelessness through the [#IBelong](#) campaign, UNHCR provides free legal aid to stateless people and those at risk of statelessness, and trains Government officials on related issues.

UNHCR Presence in Croatia

Staff:

11 National Staff
2 International Staff

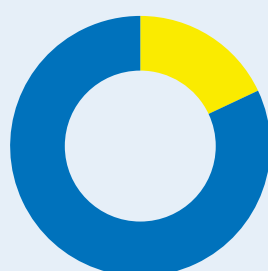
Offices:

1 Representation in Zagreb

Financial information (31 January 2024)

Financial requirements for 2024
\$ 2.3 M

Funding gap 82%
\$ 1.9 M



Funded 18%
\$ 0.4 M

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