

## Montenegro

February 2024

**Ukraine refugee response:** Since March 2022, Montenegro has been granting [temporary protection](#) to refugees from Ukraine and hosts a large refugee community relative to its population.

**Asylum:** UNHCR supports Montenegro to strengthen [asylum procedures](#), improve [reception](#) standards and foster [socio-economic inclusion](#) for refugees and asylum-seekers.

**Ending statelessness:** UNHCR and authorities are working to improve [statelessness](#) determination procedures for [refugees](#).

### UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2023)\*

Refugees	<b>40,597</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>146</b>
Stateless people	<b>485</b>
Others of concern	<b>329</b>

### Top three countries of origin\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	<b>40,508</b>	Russian Federation	<b>86</b>
Serbia & Kosovo**	<b>37</b>	Cuba	<b>29</b>
Russian Federation	<b>17</b>	Belarus	<b>14</b>

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

\*\*S/RES/1244 (1999)

### [Socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Montenegro](#)

To enhance livelihood and employment opportunities for forcibly displaced and stateless people in Montenegro, UNHCR is working in coordination with national authorities, partners, and civil society to:

- Undertake evidence-based programming in the livelihood and socio economic inclusion of refugees (two reports produced in 2023)
- Organize workshops and other activities to increase awareness of the private sector about the employability of refugees
- Support organization of job fairs and other events to increase the employment rate among refugees
- Advocate with the Central Bank of Montenegro to ensure unimpeded access to a bank account for forcibly displaced persons

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Strengthening asylum procedures

UNHCR supports national authorities in strengthening identification and referral of asylum-seekers, improve refugee status determination procedures, and enhance local integration prospects to foster self-reliance among refugees and asylum-seekers.

#### Statelessness

By strengthening the statelessness determination procedures (SDP) and fully implementing functional birth registration procedures, Montenegro is making steady progress to fully implement all seven statelessness pledges stemming from the High-Level Segment on Statelessness and the Global Refugee Forum.

#### Ex-Yugoslav refugees

With UNHCR's assistance, the number of refugees from the former Yugoslavia with unresolved legal status decreased from 319 in late-2021, to 51 by end-2023; UNHCR aims to resolve all pending cases in early 2024.



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#### On World Refugee Day 2023, Montenegro's Prime Minister Reiterates His Country's Commitment to Refugee Protection

UNHCR and partners commemorated World Refugee Day through a series of events taking place between 16 – 22 June 2023 with the attendance of Montenegro's Prime Minister, the Head of the EU Delegation, Ukraine's Ambassador, and other guests. Activities included, among others, a high-level conference, an award ceremony for students for completing a legal clinic on refugee law, and an illumination of the Millenium bridge in Podgorica, the capital city. [Read more here.](#)

## Key Priorities

- **Ukraine refugee response:** Since the onset of the full-scale war in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, some 10,000 refugees from Ukraine have received temporary protection (TP) in Montenegro as of 25 December 2023.
- **Coordination:** UNHCR and the government jointly collaborate on the implementation of TP through the Coordination Body and its task forces, which also includes the EU Delegation, UN Agencies and CSOs.
- **Protection monitoring and communicating with communities (CwC):** UNHCR ensures continuous provision of legal assistance and psychosocial support across the country. Updated information on protection, rights and services is provided through CwC activities and the UNHCR [HELP page](#).
- **Inclusion:** UNHCR works closely with relevant institutions to increase attendance of refugee children in schools, improve health services for TP holders and improve employment opportunities.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR documents incidents and intervenes when necessary with national authorities, while supporting identification and referral procedures.
- **Access to registration:** UNHCR supports national authorities to identify key protection issues at registration points; advocates with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) for the extension of TP regime beyond March 2024 and provision of free accommodation to vulnerable TP holders.
- **Access to asylum:** In cooperation with authorities, UNHCR monitors TP processing, refugee status determination, and individual case management. UNHCR also helps expediting asylum claim processing.
- **Adequate reception facilities:** UNHCR advocates for access to protection-sensitive reception and accommodation facilities and supports contingency

planning for adequate and timely healthcare for people with specific needs.

- **Refugee integration:** UNHCR facilitates refugee socio-economic inclusion by identifying gaps in the legal framework and making recommendations to authorities to improve access to rights and services, including through advocacy for refugee mainstreaming in government's strategies and the country's legal framework.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the government and the UN Country Team to ensure inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless people in all relevant strategic and legislative documents. UNHCR also coordinates with the EU Delegation, the European Union Agency for Asylum, Frontex, IOM, Ombudsman, and the private sector to encourage comprehensive approaches to protection and solutions.

## Statelessness

- Montenegro has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness and has a statelessness determination procedure (SDP) since 2018. Montenegro also pledged to join the Global Alliance to End Statelessness in 2024. UNHCR coordinates with the MoI to further strengthen the SDP and improve birth registration practices.

## UNHCR Presence in Montenegro

### Staff:

9 National Staff  
 1 International Staff  
 6 UNOPS

### Offices:

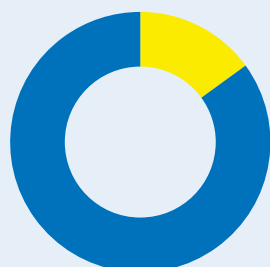
1 Country Office in Podgorica

## Financial information (31 January 2024)

### Financial requirements

**\$ 2.9 M**

**Funding gap 85%  
\$ 2.5 M**



**Funded 15%  
\$ 0.4 M**

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