

North Macedonia

September 2024

UNHCR **supports the authorities** in addressing the protection needs of forcibly displaced and stateless people through a whole-of-society approach.

North Macedonia is **resolving all known cases and preventing new cases of statelessness**, in line with the **#IBelong Campaign**, the **Global Alliance to End Statelessness** and its Global Refugee Forum pledge.

UNHCR is collaborating with partners and the government to develop an **integration infrastructure** for asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless people.

POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024)*

Refugees	19,371
Asylum-seekers	41
Stateless people	179
Others of concern	47

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees	Asylum-seekers
Ukraine 19,187	Syrian Arab Rep. 9
Serbia and Kosovo** 179	Pakistan 7
Congo, Republic of 3	Iran (Islamic Rep. of) 4

*UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report 2024 and UNHCR *data finder*

**References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

Socio-economic inclusion

UNHCR, together with the Red Cross, is implementing a household-level Socio-Economic Implication Survey for refugees from Ukraine. The survey assesses the socio-economic profiles of the Ukrainian community in North Macedonia. The results will be used to map possible barriers to accessing socio-economic rights for refugees from Ukraine who have been granted Temporary Protection, or other legal status. This will inform future engagement with the population and foster integration and livelihood opportunities.

Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges

In total, 8 pledges were registered for North Macedonia at the GRF. In 2023, the Government committed to improving its national asylum system by 2027, while the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) pledged to support the inclusion of individuals in need of international protection, along with other foreigners with regulated stay. The Bar Association will enhance legal aid by incorporating a course on refugee law into its curricula.

HIGHLIGHTS

Temporary Protection

The Government has **extended temporary protection** for Ukrainians until 9 August 2025. UNHCR is working with the Ministry of Interior, civil society organizations to ensure refugees can register for temporary protection and access to rights. So far, 45 refugees from Ukraine have been granted temporary protection and residence on humanitarian grounds.

Statelessness

By July 2024, **608 of the 786 known stateless people in country had acquired their first ID cards**, with the remaining 179 in the process of obtaining personal documentation.

International Protection

The Sector for Asylum has granted refugee status to six individuals, including two single-headed families with three children. This decision is a positive step towards aligning with the country's Global Refugee Forum pledge to strengthen the asylum system by 2027, ensuring fairer and more efficient decisions.



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Changing the narrative through arts

The documentary *The Walk*, by Oscar-nominated Macedonian director Tamara Kotevska, highlighting solidarity with refugee children, premiered with a UNHCR-supported concert by acclaimed Macedonian composer Duke Bojadziev.

Key Priorities

- **Establish protection-sensitive entry systems:** UNHCR works with the responsible government authorities to improve the identification, registration and referral of forcibly displaced and stateless people, in line with national and international frameworks.
- **Quality of the asylum procedure:** UNHCR advocates for fair and efficient refugee status determination. UNHCR also offers technical support to the authorities engaged in the administrative decision-making process to increase the fairness and efficiency of the asylum system. UNHCR continues to advocate for the state-financed provision of quality interpretation services, and for free-of-charge legal aid at all stages of the asylum procedure.
- Fostering solutions:** UNHCR works to identify durable solutions for the remaining population of refugees from Kosovo* in North Macedonia, in line with the country's GRF 2019 pledge. UNHCR also supports national authorities in providing inclusion focused services aimed at enabling the self-reliance of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless people.

* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

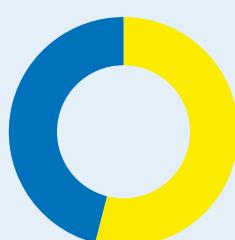
- **Emergency preparedness and response:** UNHCR works to improve preparedness in the event of a significant increase in forced displacement due to emergencies through support to national authorities and other partners. This includes regular risk analysis, border monitoring and contingency plan development.
- **Fostering Strategic Foresight:** UNHCR aims to strengthen local capacities and systems to support strategic and anticipatory forced migration governance. This facilitates the transition to long-term, participatory planning and policymaking, while promoting a more favourable environment for international protection and inclusion.
- **Communication:** UNHCR works to improve public perceptions of refugees and stateless people by

Financial information (as of 30 September 2024)

Financial requirements for 2024

\$ 3.8 M

Funding gap 46%
\$ 1.8 M



fostering tolerant and inclusive attitudes among host communities. This aims to ensure a more conducive protection environment while engaging with national and local stakeholders to counter misinformation, disinformation and hate speech.

- **External engagement:** UNHCR engages with a coalition of stakeholders, within civil society, private sector, academia, international organizations, UN agencies and others. Through these actions, UNHCR can advocate for the rights of forcibly displaced and stateless people while advancing international protection priorities.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR partners in support of protection and advocacy for forcibly displaced and stateless people in North Macedonia with MYLA for legal aid, La Strada for social protection, MOF and Faculty of Law for youth outreach, research, and communication, and SmartUp for NDS engagement. Additionally, UNHCR collaborates with the Ministry of Labour and social policy on integration.

Statelessness

- North Macedonia is a signatory to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness. UNHCR continues to advocate for the resolution of all known cases of statelessness, prevention of statelessness, and for the establishment of a stateless Status Determination Procedure.

UNHCR Presence in North Macedonia

Staff:

19 National Staff

2 International Staff

Offices:

1 Representation Office in Skopje

1 Field Unit in Gevgelija

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