

Croatia

February 2021

Croatia's [asylum system](#) is in line with international and EU standards. Asylum-seekers benefit from adequate [reception conditions](#) and refugees enjoy generous [integration](#) support.

With irregular arrivals from neighboring countries, Croatia is facing allegations of [pushbacks](#). UNHCR monitors access to territory and advocates for an [independent national border monitoring mechanism](#).

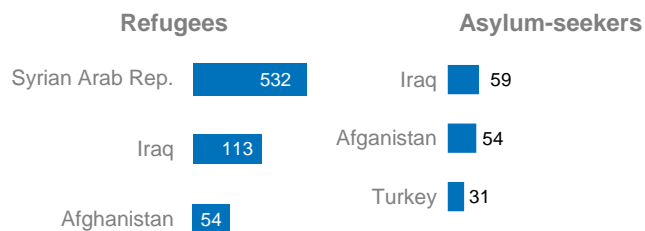
UNHCR supports authorities in finding solutions for stateless people, those at risk of statelessness or displaced within the region, including through the Regional Housing Programme.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	936
Asylum-seekers	263
Stateless people	2,890
Others of concern*	3,999

*Beneficiaries of reconstruction and housing care and persons who expressed an intention to seek international protection.

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



Data source: UNHCR 2020 Mid-Year Statistical report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: Persons of concern have been included in the Government public health programmes from the onset of the pandemic, and UNHCR advocates for their equitable inclusion in the national vaccination plan.

Inclusion of persons of concern: The Croatian Government generously included UNHCR persons of concern in the national prevention and response measures the same way as nationals.

Communication with Communities: Information on prevention measures is available in relevant languages to all persons of concern. UNHCR has also created an online section on COVID-19 on Croatia's [HELP page](#).

Health: Refugees and asylum-seekers testing positive for COVID-19 benefit from appropriate treatment. In support of the Government's prevention efforts, UNHCR has provided disinfectants for two reception centres housing asylum-seekers and children's homes

HIGHLIGHTS

Earthquake Response

Following the devastating earthquake in December 2020, UNHCR has been supporting the Government by providing [legal counselling](#) to earthquake survivors and distributing [material assistance, including plastic sheeting](#), to affected populations.

Child Protection

To strengthen the national child protection system, in cooperation with the Government, UNHCR has trained over [200 state-appointed child guardians](#) on child protection and care, with a focus on unaccompanied and separated children ([UASC](#)).

Resettlement

Croatia is a new resettlement country and has so far welcomed [250 Syrian refugees](#) from Turkey. The Government remains [committed](#) to resettling additional 100 Syrian refugees, once pandemic restrictions allow.



Croatian volunteer assists Syrian refugee girl with visual impairment

Syrian refugee Yara has developed a strong bond of friendship with a Croatian visual therapist who is helping her to overcome low-vision challenges. Read the full store [here](#)

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** Croatia continues to face **mixed movements** of people arriving irregularly, mostly from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and from Serbia. UNHCR has been advocating for the establishment of an **independent national border monitoring mechanism** to address allegations of denial of access to territory and welcomes Croatia's intention to set up such a mechanism, which is supported by the EU.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR monitors the **asylum system in Croatia** and continues to support the authorities in ensuring a fair and effective system, including through capacity building, commenting on asylum legislation and sharing country of origin information and UNHCR guidelines.
- **Integration:** UNHCR works with the Government in enhancing the integration system, including through membership in the **government Working Group on Integration**, which is responsible for drafting Action Plans on Integration. UNHCR outreach activities include support for **helping refugees access housing, employment and free language learning** for both children and adults.
- **Communicating with Communities:** UNHCR ensures that persons of concern receive important information through its **HELP web page**, as well as through information campaigns on **social media**. There are also **two dedicated hotlines**, one for asylum-seekers, and one for stateless people and those at risk of statelessness, as well as for beneficiaries of the Regional Housing Programme.
- **Child protection:** UNHCR advocates for improved **reception conditions for children**, including through the establishment of a dedicated **facility for unaccompanied children**, where specialised services would be available upon arrival. UNHCR welcomes Croatia's commitment to receive **12 UASC refugee girls** from Greece.
- **Durable Solutions -** UNHCR provides **legal aid** and advocates for solutions for people displaced in the region following the conflict in the 1990s. UNHCR monitors **beneficiary selection** and **sustainability** measures for the **Regional Housing Programme**. UNHCR also advocates for improvements in the state-funded **free legal aid programme**, and for the

acceleration of the national housing programme aimed to assist this population.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with the **government, civil society, academia, international organizations** and the **private sector** in order to promote a positive protection environment for asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees and stateless people. This is done through advocacy interventions, efforts to improve the legislative framework, as well as through promotion of positive attitudes towards persons of concern.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR promotes tolerance, inclusion, public awareness of refugee protection 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 works with **academia**, producing research papers, updating tertiary curricula and promoting interest in refugees and asylum-seekers in schools and universities.

Statelessness

- Croatia has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. In 2020, **UNHCR published an analysis** of the Croatian legal framework on statelessness, which included recommendations for further strengthening legislative safeguards to prevent statelessness. The report also called for the **establishment of a national statelessness determination procedure**.
- UNHCR provides **free legal aid** to stateless people and those at risk of statelessness, in order to assist them to regulate their stay, obtain documentation and **access basic services**. UNHCR also provides regular **capacity building** for Government officials on issues related to statelessness.

UNHCR Presence in Croatia

Staff:

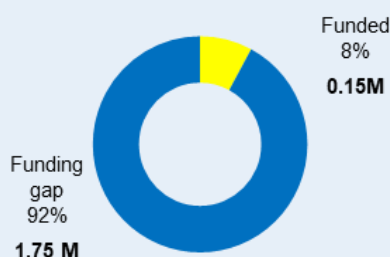
12 National Staff
 2 International Staff

Offices:

Representation in Croatia
 in Zagreb

Financial information (28 February 2021)

Financial Requirements:
USD 1.9 M



UNHCR is grateful to major donors of unearmarked contributions* to the 2021 Global Programmes (USD, as of 28 February):

Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

*Unearmarked contributions allow UNHCR for critical flexibility in how best to reach populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Above are donors of USD 10 million or more.