

Serbia

September 2021

Serbia hosts **26,000** refugees, including from former Yugoslavia, **197,000** IDPs and some **2,100** persons at risk of statelessness.

Persons in need of international protection are supported in accessing asylum and local integration. Most displaced from within the region have found solutions, Risk of statelessness has been reduced.

UNHCR continues to support the Government in strengthening the national asylum system to secure institutional protection and sustainable solutions.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	25,991
Asylum-seekers	124
Internally displaced people	196,995
Stateless people	2,141
Total population of concern	232,005

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Croatia	17,670	Iran	27
BiH	8,124	Burundi	17
Libya	45	Somalia	17

Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR has advocated for inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in the national vaccination scheme. Seventy-seven refugees and migrants, accommodated in governmental centres, have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in 2021 thus [far](#).

Communication with Communities: A campaign to inform Roma population about vaccination was launched in April 2021. UNHCR and partners have made sure that information on prevention is available in multiple languages through different means.

Health: In health promotion workshops in asylum centres, UNHCR's partner DRC included protective measures against COVID-19. UNHCR has met the *ad hoc* needs in PPEs and medication of asylum authorities. [More info](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

33,854 registered

individuals between January and August 2021, a 104% compared to the same period in 2020)

107 asylum claims

were filed from January to August 2021 more than the 72 in the same period last year, but below pre-COVID-19 levels (Jan-Aug 2019: 169 claims)

4 University Scholarships

were granted to refugees by the DAFI - Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative for 2021-2022.

Education

175 refugees (over 60% of school-age refugee children) are included in the national educational system.

EQPR

Serbia acceded to the [European Qualifications Passport for Refugees \(EQPR\)](#) initiative of the Council of Europe, becoming the 11th country in Europe to do so.



The Biggest Step, so far, Towards Their Future

Kathia, Sebtimio, Sami and Reza are the first refugees from outside former Yugoslavia registered for University studies in Serbia. Classes will start in October and you can read more about the four refugees [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Protection outreach:** Data collection focuses on identifying persons with international protection needs and/or specific needs so they can be referred to asylum authorities and specialised agencies.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR strengthens capacities of authorities for protection-sensitive migration management in line with international standards.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR monitors asylum procedures and implements the Quality Initiative, including enhanced use of country-of-origin information, ensuring gender- and child-sensitive asylum procedures and provision of free legal aid.
- **Solutions:** Advocating for the realization of Serbia's solutions-related pledges at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum. Exploring housing solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers.
- **Inclusion & Integration:** Support the integration of international protection holders through different interventions including cash-based interventions, livelihoods, language classes etc., in cooperation with the private sector and civil society organizations.
- **Promoting social cohesion** Through joint activities with the host community, integration in primary and secondary education, vocational training and local employment.
- **Capacity building:** Judicial engagement and capacity development of the judiciary to interpret and apply relevant international legal principles.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR Serbia enjoys close cooperation with the SCRM, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, of Internal Affairs, of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, as well as with local authorities. Partnership agreements are in place with 11 implementing NGO partners and a number of academic institutions.

- **External Engagement:** UNHCR acts as a catalyst of changes and advancement of the asylum system, supporting the national authorities, synergizing with civil society partners, donors, stakeholders, the private sector and the refugees themselves.



Sustainable Development Goals

- In July 2021, the SCRM, with support by UNHCR and its legal partners, issued the annual [2020 Migration Profile](#), which for the first time reports on attainment of 16 national SDG indicators concerning asylum-seekers and refugees.

Statelessness

- Authorities, UNHCR, UNDP and the National Roma Council [signed a joint Declaration of Intent in Belgrade in July 2021](#), reaffirming their commitment to supporting employment and better social inclusion of young Roma and other vulnerable.
- Fifty persons had their nationality confirmed/granted in Jan-Aug 2021, thanks to the legal assistance of UNHCR partner Praxis.

UNHCR Presence in Serbia

Staff:

35 National Staff
 3 International Staff
 11 Affiliate Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Belgrade
 1 Field Unit in Preševo

Financial information (28 September 2021)

Financial requirements

USD 8.8 M



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