

Luxembourg

September 2021

Between January and August 2021, **715** persons applied for international protection, representing a **14% increase** compared to 2020. The protection rate during that period was at **75 %**.

Covid-19: Access to territory reception, conditions and asylum procedure have remained guaranteed, and persons of concern have been included in the **national vaccination scheme**.

Family Reunification (FR): A new legislation **extending the deadline** to apply for FR under more favourable conditions entered into force.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	5 213
Asylum-seekers	1 400
Stateless persons	194
Total population of concern	6 892

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Rep.	2,069	Syrian Arab Rep.	340
Eritrea	1,044	Eritrea	317
Iraq	773	Afghanistan	146

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Best interest of the child

Early June, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child rendered its concluding observations on Luxembourg taking into account several comments submitted by UNHCR, notably on ensuring non-custodial solutions to children with their families.

Appeals against Dublin transfers

The effectiveness of appeals against Dublin transfer decisions has been enhanced by a new law, which grants them automatic suspensive effect and allows the appellate court to consider new elements in the case.

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR advocated for registration, access to asylum and reception conditions to remain effective during the pandemic.

Inclusion of persons of concern: People with a legal stay, including asylum-seekers and refugees are included in the general COVID-19 vaccination plan. UNHCR continues to liaise with relevant stakeholders to monitor the situation and ensure that persons of concern are included in the national COVID-19 response and have access to relevant information.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR increased the frequency of its communication with the authorities and civil society and remained reachable by phone and email to all POCs. UNHCR also set up a **COVID-19 guide** for asylum-seekers and refugees in Belgium and Luxembourg.

FORMER REFUGEE YONAS KINDE



Ethiopian Olympian, Marathoner and former refugee Yonas Kinde fled to Luxembourg in 2012, where he was granted protection the following year and has since competed and won several titles in Luxembourg. Discover more about his story [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedure:** Luxembourg has a solid asylum system. While access to the asylum procedure remained guaranteed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, delays have taken place with asylum interviews and appeal procedures. UNHCR is continuing its work with the authorities on the quality of the asylum procedure, one of its priorities since 2019.
- **Integration:** UNHCR is seeking to gain a better understanding of the integration process of refugees to foster its improvement through a 3-month consultancy initially planned for 2020 and postponed to 2021. UNHCR continues to follow the integration process of the first 12 UASC relocated from Greece in April 2020. In addition, UNHCR started working on a joint Protection and Public Information campaign on Buddying for Integration for 2021.
- **Family reunification:** The legislation extending the deadline to apply for family reunification under more favourable conditions from 3 to 6 months, which UNHCR advocated for notably in its 2018 memorandum ahead of the legislative elections and which was included in the government's coalition agreement for 2018-2023, entered into force this summer.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** UNHCR continues to advocate for additional resettlement pledges and is exploring complementary pathways opportunities in Luxembourg.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR maintains regular and constructive interactions and coordination with relevant stakeholders (e.g. authorities, IOM, EMN, NGOs, lawyers).

- **External Engagement:** The public information unit raises the general public's awareness about the situation of refugees in Belgium and Luxembourg. On World Refugee Day 2021, the unit supported the production of the [Global 'Hero' video about Yonas Kinde](#), a track and field athlete, former refugee who acquired the Luxembourg nationality, to illustrate the power of inclusion in health, education and sport.

Statelessness

- Luxembourg is party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons since 1960 and acceded to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2017.
- In 2017, a new law on nationality was adopted which includes articles aimed at preventing statelessness and at facilitating acquisition of nationality for refugees and stateless persons. The majority of UNHCR's comments on the draft law were taken into account.
- Luxembourg has an administrative statelessness determination procedure in place. Stateless applicants are not entitled to reception conditions and a residency permit is not automatically granted to a recognized stateless person.

UNHCR Presence in Luxembourg

- Country activities are followed up by the Representation for EU Affairs, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland and the Netherlands, which includes the following staff and office. Additionally, UNHCR has been offered the use of an office in Luxembourg by the Luxembourg authorities.

Staff:

24 National Staff

17 International Staff

Offices:

1 Multi-country Office
in Brussels

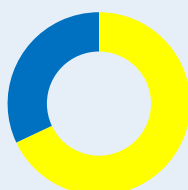
Financial information (28 September 2021)

Information relates to the Representation for EU Affairs, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland, the Netherlands and the Liaison Offices to EASO and Frontex.

Financial requirements

USD 11.1 M

Funding gap
40%
4.4 M



Funded
60%
6.7 M

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