

# Slovenia

September 2021

Slovenia currently holds the EU Presidency. It is a **gateway** to northern and western European countries, with considerable **transit** of migrants and asylum-seekers crossing its territory.

In 2020, 3,472 asylum applications were registered, a **4% decrease** compared to 2019. More than **80%** of asylum-seekers **absconded** before the procedure could be finalised.

98% of the 539 **unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who arrived in 2020** absconded. They face high risks as they are exposed to smugglers and traffickers.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN\*

Refugees	<b>858</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>277</b>
Total	<b>1,135</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers
Syria	<b>322</b>	Afghanistan	<b>155</b>
Eritrea	<b>86</b>	Iran	<b>28</b>
Iran	<b>77</b>	Pakistan	<b>18</b>

\*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Annual Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

## COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

**Advocacy:** The national COVID-19 vaccination plan includes refugees and asylum-seekers on par with citizens.

**Inclusion:** refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons are included in the national health response plan, and they can access all COVID-19 health services. Refugees are part of the socio-economic response plan and eligible for the same financial support as citizens of Slovenia.

**Communication with Communities:** UNHCR's partner EMMA provides psycho-social counselling to refugees and asylum-seekers, including those who experience anxiety and depression as a result of the pandemic.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**624**

persons of concern were assisted by UNHCR partners by mid-2021. Asylum-seekers and refugees had access to legal assistance and psycho-social counseling.

**9**

protection monitoring visits were conducted to border police stations, as well as detention centers and accommodation facilities for asylum-seekers so far in 2021.

**72**

advocacy and coordination meetings with national authorities and NGOs were facilitated by UNHCR, to advocate for improved access to territory and asylum procedure and ensure improved protection mechanisms for children of concern and vulnerable persons so far in 2021.

## IRANIAN ASYLUM-SEEKER FINDS HIS CALLING IN CARING FOR THE ELDERLY



Reza feels that fate has brought him to Slovenia, and to a job where he can make a difference

## Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** The number of irregular arrivals has increased in the last years. UNHCR regularly monitors the situation of people in need of international protection seeking access to the territory and the asylum procedure.
- **Legal assistance:** The provision of quality legal assistance from the start of their application helps asylum-seekers navigate the complex asylum procedure. To ensure that asylum-seekers in Slovenia have access to information, counselling services and legal representation at the first instance, UNHCR supports the Legal Information Centre PIC.
- **Quality of asylum procedure:** UNHCR supports the asylum authorities with quality assurance, and is undertaking a quality review study of the asylum procedure at the first instance with the Peace Institute in 2021.
- **Vulnerability in asylum:** Once identified as vulnerable, asylum-seekers are entitled to specific rights and safeguards in the asylum procedure. Because identification is key, UNHCR advocates for the improvement of identification and referral mechanisms at borders and within the asylum procedure.
- **Family reunification:** UNHCR has continued to promote and facilitate family reunification in Slovenia throughout 2021 and is assisting the Slovenian authorities with 7 family reunification cases.
- **Education:** Teachers, children, and parents face challenges during the process of integrating refugee children in schools. UNHCR has developed the learning programme “Teaching About Refugees” to foster a more inclusive learning environment in schools, and to combat misinformation about refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. As soon as

the COVID-19 situation allows, the programme will be rolled-out at schools in Slovenia.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR supports the **Legal Information Centre PIC**, an NGO providing information, counselling, and legal representation to asylum-seekers.
- UNHCR supports **Institute EMMA**, an NGO providing psycho-social counselling and support to asylum-seekers and refugees with vulnerabilities.
- UNHCR works with **governmental partners**, primarily with the Migration Office, the Office for the Support to and Integration of Migrants, as well as the Border Police Division of the General Police Directorate.
- UNHCR co-facilitates and offers capacity building to the working group providing support to survivors of gender-based violence and vulnerable persons.
- UNHCR supports a **working group**, composed of NGOs and governmental partners, to develop a set of guidelines and operating procedures for legal guardians of unaccompanied **children**.

## Statelessness

- Slovenia succeeded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless persons in 1992, but is not party to the 1961 Convention.
- Slovenia does not have a statelessness determination procedure. UNHCR promotes and advocates for the establishment of such a procedure.

## UNHCR Presence in Slovenia

**Staff:** 1 Liaison Staff  
**Offices:** 0 Offices

UNHCR’s operations in Slovenia are managed by the UNHCR Representation for Central Europe in Budapest, Hungary

## Financial information (28 September 2021)

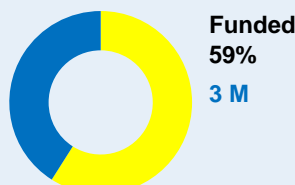
Information relates to the Representation for Central Europe, which covers the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia

Financial requirements:

**USD 5.1 M**

Funding gap  
41%

**2.1 M**



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