

Slovakia

February 2021

Asylum-seekers have **access** to territory and the asylum procedure, but many continue to move onwards. Slovakia supports the Global Compact on Refugees.

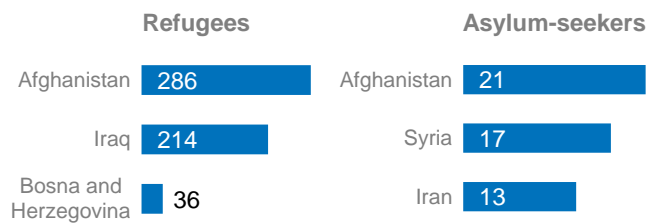
Slovakia is party to all relevant asylum and statelessness instruments. **Rights** of refugees are on a par with citizens, except for certain political rights.

Slovakia delivered on its **pledge** made at the Global Refugee Forum to **donate** EUR 100,000 for education and equal opportunities, and deploy asylum experts.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	991
Asylum-seekers	48
Stateless people	1,523
Total	2,586

MAIN THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



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

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR is advocating to ensure that all persons of concern, including asylum-seekers, are included in the national vaccination roll-out. UNHCR advocated for refugees to have access to all available social protection measures.

Inclusion of persons of concern: Refugees and subsidiary protection holders have access to all COVID-19 related health services. They also have access to social protection measures.

Communication with Communities: Two way-communication with the refugee community in Slovakia is ensured through UNHCR's partner, the Slovak Humanitarian Council. UNHCR conducted an online survey with refugees to assess the impact of COVID-19 on their well-being and overall situation.

HIGHLIGHTS

282

asylum applications were submitted in 2020

38

individuals were granted international or national protection in 2020

1000+ viewers

watched a debate on resettlement organized during the One World Film Festival 2020. UNHCR also supported the screening of refugee movies during this event.

Access to naturalization

A new favourable provision for stateless persons who apply for citizenship is effective as of 1 January 2021.



Stateless finds his way through legal maze in Slovakia

Ben Salam from Ivory Coast was stateless from birth, but he only understood the full extent of his problem when he reached Europe. Slovakia finally helped him to solve it. Read more about his story [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** UNHCR monitors the situation of people in need of international protection seeking access to the territory and the asylum procedure at Slovakia's external Schengen border with Ukraine.
- **Asylum procedure:** UNHCR advocates for fair and efficient asylum procedures and provides the Government with comments to draft laws and policies to strengthen the legislative framework. UNHCR also works with Government authorities on improving the information provision for asylum-seekers and refugees.
- **Legal assistance:** The provision of quality legal assistance from the start of their application helps asylum-seekers navigate the often complex asylum procedure. UNHCR, through its partner, the Slovak Humanitarian Council, provides legal counselling for asylum seekers in detention centres to ensure they have access to information, counselling services and legal representation at the first instance.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** UNHCR advocates for the expansion of safe pathways to admission, including student scholarships and labour mobility schemes.
- **Integration:** UNHCR advocates for the adoption of the State Integration Programme for beneficiaries of international protection. UNHCR works with partners to promote positive attitudes towards refugees, to combat xenophobia and racism and foster welcoming communities.
- **Education:** Teachers, children and parents face challenges during the process of integrating refugee children in schools. UNHCR launched "Teaching about Refugees", a programme for primary schools to raise awareness among teachers and local children on refugee issues. The programme will be extended to secondary schools as soon as the COVID-19 situation allows for it.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with governmental partners and civil society (NGOs, universities and civic associations). In particular, UNHCR supports the Slovak Humanitarian Council, an NGO that provides legal counsel and representation to detained asylum-seekers at first instance; and organises community-based events with persons of concern.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR engages with **People in Need** and the **Film Faculty** in Bratislava to produce three refugee-themed movies by young filmmakers to be promoted at One World Film Festival in 2021.
- UNHCR engages with the **New Scene Theatre** by supporting the theatre play Jane Teller's "War-if it were here", that raises awareness on the plight of refugees among secondary school children.

Statelessness

- Slovakia is a party to both Statelessness Conventions has no statelessness determination procedure in place.
- As of 1 January 2021, the administrative fee for a citizenship application submitted by a stateless person may be reduced or waived. This change was introduced following UNHCR's comments to a draft amendment of the Citizenship Act and the Administrative Fee Act submitted in August 2020.

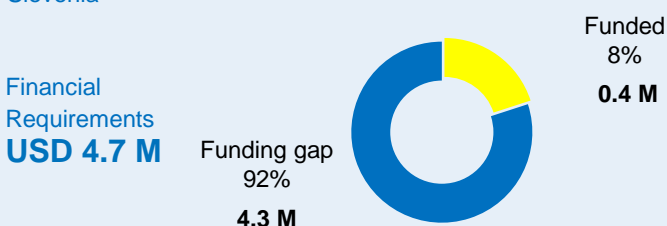
UNHCR Presence in Slovakia

Staff:	Offices:
1 National Staff (liaison)	0 –

UNHCR's operations in Slovakia are managed by the UNHCR Representation for Central Europe in Hungary.

Financial information* (28 February 2021)

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



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

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.