

Ireland

February 2022

Resettlement: COVID-19 restrictions temporarily curtailed resettlement, although selection missions resumed in 2021 and 55 refugees arrived from Lebanon during the year.

COVID-19: The national action plan on COVID-19 identified asylum-seekers living in State accommodation centres as a vulnerable group requiring additional support.

Access to territory: Access was not impeded despite COVID-19 public health restrictions. There were 728 asylum applications in Ireland in the first six months of 2021.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	9,421
Asylum-seekers	7,002
Stateless persons	107

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Republic	3,195	Nigeria	900
Zimbabwe	644	Georgia	622
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	459	Zimbabwe	617

*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Inclusion: Refugees have access to health services on the same basis as citizens and have been included in the Government's [vaccine allocation programme](#). The Irish Health Service Executive (HSE) conducted a targeted rollout of vaccinations to those living in accommodation centres. This rollout was administered through dedicated vaccination clinics, general practitioners, vaccination centres and pharmacies.

Communication with Communities: The HSE has [translated public health information](#) into other languages to improve effective communication with communities. A collaborative NGO initiative, "[COVID-19 World Service](#)", produced public health video messages translated into 30 foreign languages aimed at better informing asylum-seeker, refugee and migrant communities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Resettlement

55 resettled refugees arrived in 2021, of which four families with a total of 19 people welcomed by Community Sponsorship Groups around Ireland.

Asylum Applications

728 asylum applications were filed in Ireland in the first six months of 2021, 11 per cent fewer than in the same period in 2020.

Accommodation

8,582 persons were accommodated by the International Protection Accommodation Service as of 30 January 2022.

DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FGM



For International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) 2022, our story on Ifrah Ahmed was re-launched across UNHCR Global [social media channels](#). Ifrah is a proud high-profile activist and UNHCR supporter, and continues to campaign to end FGM.

Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** 25 per cent of decisions on refugee status or subsidiary protection in the first half of 2021 were successful at first instance, at the International Protection Office. Of appeals to the International Protection Appeals Tribunal, 32 per cent were successful in the same period.
- **Resettlement:** Resettlement arrivals to Ireland were lower than planned in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Of the 55 refugees resettled from Lebanon, 19 were welcomed as part of the Community Sponsorship Ireland programme, which gives towns and cities around Ireland the opportunity to support the integration of refugees into their communities. Ireland has committed to resettling 2,900 refugees from 2020 to 2023.
- **Complementary pathways:** UNHCR Ireland has been successful in receiving funding for a new project under the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The project will focus on working with employers and universities to identify alternative routes to safety for refugees.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR's Representative for EU Affairs, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland and the Netherlands appeared before the Oireachtas joint Committee on European Affairs in February 2022 to present UNHCR's key messages to the EU.
- **Inclusion:** UNHCR appointed an eight-member Refugee Advisory Board in early 2022. As a refugee-led board, it will serve as a key platform to identify key gaps preventing refugees from enjoying their full rights as well as appropriate solutions.
- **Humanitarian admissions:** Following our [previous calls](#) for a new admissions programme, UNHCR [welcomed](#) the decision of the Irish Government to open a new humanitarian admissions scheme to Afghan applicants. The news that asylum-seekers are to be included in the Government's new regularization scheme was also [welcomed](#).

- **Capacity-building:** In line with UNHCR's advisory role as set out in Article 35 of the 1951 Refugee Convention, UNHCR continued to work with the International Protection Office and International Protection Appeals Tribunal on quality assurance activities.
- **EU Solidarity:** Ireland has participated on an ad hoc basis in relocating people from search and rescue missions in the Mediterranean. In 2021, 44 people arrived (23 from Italy, 21 from Malta) as asylum-seekers. Separately, 37 Syrians and 13 Afghans displaced by fires in Greece's Moria Camp were given refugee status on arrival in Ireland and 28 unaccompanied children were relocated from Greece and taken into care.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR's Head of Office was appointed as a member on the Programme Board overseeing the end of Direct Provision, Ireland's reception system. The Board provides guidance and expertise to Government officials as they reform the international protection support service in Ireland.

Statelessness

- Ireland has acceded to both the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- Ireland does not have a statelessness determination procedure in place. UNHCR continues to advocate the establishment of one in line with Action 6 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness. Disaggregated data on stateless persons in Ireland is not systematically collected.

UNHCR Presence in Ireland

Personnel

7 National Staff
2 Affiliated Workforce

Offices:

1 National Office in Dublin

Financial information (22 February 2022)

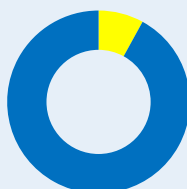
Information relates to the Representation for EU Affairs, Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the Liaison Offices to EUAA and Frontex.

Financial requirements

USD 11.1 M

Funding gap
92%

10.2 M



Funded
8%
0.9 M

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Unearmarked contributions provide UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest need or at the greatest risk.