

# Luxembourg

February 2021

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, **access to territory, asylum procedures and adequate reception conditions** has remained **guaranteed** for persons of concern in Luxembourg.

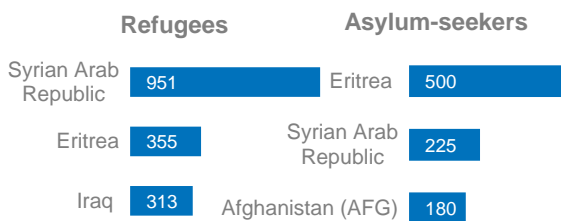
In 2020, the **number** of asylum-seekers **decreased by 43%** and the main countries of origin were **Syria, Eritrea and Afghanistan**. The **protection rate** was **68.1%**, a 4.5% increase from 2019.

**14 Somali and Eritrean refugees** were **resettled** to Luxembourg from Niger (ETM) in October 2020. **49 refugees** have now been resettled from **Niger** since December, 2019.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	<b>2,632</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>1,800</b>
Stateless people	<b>83</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



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

## 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.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Family Reunification

A draft law was introduced seeking to **extend from 3 to 6 months** the time limit for protection holders to **apply for family reunification under favorable conditions**.

### EU Solidarity & Relocation

Luxembourg has continued to show **intra-EU solidarity** throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by **relocating 16 unaccompanied and separated children** and **2 families from Greece**, as well as **7 asylum-seekers from Malta**.

### Video on statelessness

On the 6th anniversary of the #IBelong campaign, a **Luxembourgish version** of a UNHCR video on **statelessness** was created and shared on social media.

### Financial contribution

In 2020, Luxembourg was ranked UNHCR's **36th donor** with a total contribution of **USD 8.6 million**.



### Luxembourg Grand Duke thanks refugee for sewing masks

Read the full story about how Iraqi refugee Mohammed Alhashimi helped his new country of Luxembourg [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 as regards asylum interviews and appeal procedures. Expiring certificates attesting of the introduction of an asylum application were automatically extended for the whole duration of the state of emergency. 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 extension of the deadline to apply for family reunification under more favourable conditions, 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, has been included in a draft law at the end of 2020. UNHCR is drafting comments and recommendations for the authorities on the family reunification procedure.
- **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, based in the UNHCR office in Brussels, raises awareness about the situation of refugees in Luxembourg and worldwide to the general public. On World Refugee Day 2020, the unit produced a [2-minute video](#) about asylum-seekers and refugees in Belgium and Luxembourg assisting society in the fight against Covid-19.

## 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

- UNHCR has no official presence in Luxembourg; country activities are followed by the Representation for EU Affairs, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland and the Netherlands, which includes the following staff and office:

### Staff:

25 National Staff

17 International Staff

### Office:

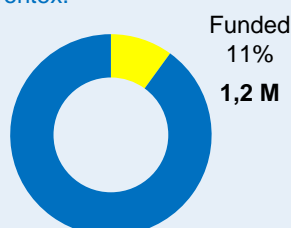
1 Office in Brussels

## Financial information\* (28 February 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  
89%  
**9.9 M**



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

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.