

Ireland

September 2021

Covid-19 Response: Asylum-seekers living in state accommodation centres were identified in the national action plan on COVID-19 as a vulnerable group requiring additional supports.

Access to Territory: Access was not impeded despite public health restrictions imposed during the pandemic response. There were **728 asylum applications** in Ireland in the first six months of 2021

Resettlement has been curtailed due to COVID-19; however, selection missions have recently resumed, and **55 refugees** arrived from Lebanon/Jordan from Jan-June 2021.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	9,070
Asylum-seekers	7,393
Stateless persons	107

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	3,126	Nigeria	818
Zimbabwe	597	Zimbabwe	688
DRC	435	Pakistan	654

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends 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](#) as such. The Irish health executive also began the targeted rollout of vaccinations to those living in accommodation centres at the beginning of July 2021. This rollout is being administered through bespoke vaccination clinics, GPs, Vaccination Centres and pharmacies.

Communication with Communities: The Health Service Executive has [translated public health information](#) into other languages in order 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

HIGHLIGHTS

Resettlement

55 resettled refugees arrived in Ireland in the first half of 2021. Of those arrivals, 6 Syrian refugees travelling from Jordan and 19 from Lebanon were welcomed by five Community Sponsorship Groups under the Community Sponsorship Ireland programme.

728 Asylum Applications

Were filed in Ireland in first half of 2021.

Accommodation

6,455 asylum-seekers lived in accommodation centres and emergency accommodation as of 7 July 2021

HIGH PROFILE SUPPORTER IFRAH AHMED



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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

UNHCR Ireland published a web story and video about the work of UNHCR high profile supporter Ifrah Ahmed. The profile explored how Ifrah's fight against Female Genital Mutilation has taken on a new urgency during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** 25% of those who applied for refugee status or subsidiary protection in the first half of 2021 were successful at first instance (the International Protection Office). Of those that appealed to the International Protection Appeals Tribunal, 32% were successful in the same period.
- **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 (IPO) and International Protection Appeals Tribunal (IPAT) on quality assurance activities.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** Arrivals to Ireland have been lower than planned to date in 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions. 55 refugees were resettled from Jordan and Lebanon in the first half of 2021. 25 were welcomed as part of the community sponsorship 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 over the period 2020 to 2023.
- **Integration:** As part of World Refugee Day 2021, UNHCR Ireland teamed up with Sports Against Racism Ireland (SARI) to hold the 11th annual Fairplay Cup in the Law Society. Refugees and asylum-seekers from all over the country took part, as well as teams from inner city Dublin. UNHCR also collaborated with libraries and bookshops to encourage young people to learn about refugees during our annual book reading campaign.
- **Advocacy:** In response to the Afghanistan situation in August 2021, UNHCR Ireland reiterated its [call on the Irish Government](#) to expand family reunification opportunities for refugees. UNHCR also urged the Irish government to apply a flexible approach to the processing of Afghan cases.

Working with Partners

- In March 2021, UNHCR Ireland and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) hosted a seminar on family reunification and the manner in which new laws have seriously hampered opportunities for families to be reunited. UNHCR also launched its report on the travel assistance programme, which ran in partnership with IOM and the Irish Red Cross until 2020.
- In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the UEFA European Football Championship, SARI in partnership with UNHCR and other local stakeholders, hosted a Football for UNITY Festival. The festival showcased the potential of football as an educational tool which can bring communities together and promote social inclusion for newcomers to 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 which UNHCR has been advocating for 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:

5 National Staff
3 Affiliated Workforce

Offices:

1 National Office in Dublin

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%**

4.5 M



**Funded
60%
6.6m**

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