Slovakia

February 2022

Asylum-seekers have **access** to the country's territory and 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 par with citizens, except for certain voting rights.

Slovakia's funding for UNHCR **significantly increased** in the last year compared to previous years. The latest contribution is mostly directed at the Afghanistan situation.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	**1,012**
Asylum-seekers	**53**
Stateless persons	**1,532**
Total population of concern	**2,597**

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Afghanistan	301	Morocco	18
Iraq	211	India	12
Serbia and Kosovo**	46	Algeria	8

*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR data finder platform
** References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

UKRAINE SITUATION

At the time of updating this fact sheet, in light of the rapidly deteriorating situation and war in Ukraine, UNHCR is ramping up its response and capacity in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, including in Slovakia.

UNHCR estimates that up to 4 million refugees may flee Ukraine, with more than 650,000 people having already crossed an international border in search of safety from 24 to 28 February.

UNHCR declared a Level 3 Emergency for Ukraine and a Level 2 Emergency for neighbouring countries on 25 February. UNHCR and OCHA jointly launched the Humanitarian Flash Appeal and the Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Ukraine situation on 1 March.

HIGHLIGHTS

Slovakia contributed USD 354,000

for the Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan in September 2021

Asylum legislation

To promote international refugee law standards, UNHCR commented on amendments to the asylum law in November 2021, resulting in strengthening the role of legal counsel in the asylum procedure

3 refugee-themed movies

were produced with partners in Slovakia and promoted at One World Film Festival in November 2021

Memorandum of Understanding

signed with the Art Faculty of Comenius University in December 2021 strengthening UNHCR's engagement with academia

VIRTUAL REALITY HELPS FILMGOERS SEE THE REALITY FOR REFUGEES

With goggles provided by UNHCR, visitors of the Jeden Svet film festival in Slovakia in November 2021 had the opportunity to experience the refugee world in 3D.

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 procedures:** UNHCR advocates for fair and efficient asylum procedures and provides the Government with comments to draft laws and policies to strengthen the legislative framework, inter alia by recent comments to the asylum law amendments. UNHCR also works with Government authorities on improving the information provision for asylum-seekers and refugees.

- **Legal assistance:** UNHCR, through its partner, the Slovak Humanitarian Council, provides legal counselling for asylum-seekers in detention to ensure they have access to information and legal representation at the first instance. The provision of quality legal assistance from the start of their application helps asylum-seekers navigate the complexities of the asylum procedure.

- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** UNHCR advocates for the expansion of safe pathways to admission, including student scholarships, humanitarian corridors and labour mobility schemes.

- **Integration:** UNHCR advocates for adjustment of integration policy so that the legal framework and public policies promote long-term integration. UNHCR works with partners to promote positive attitudes towards refugees, combat xenophobia and racism, and foster welcoming communities.

- **Education:** To improve the integration of refugee children in schools, UNHCR launched "Teaching about Refugees," a programme for primary schools to raise awareness on refugee issues. The programme will be extended to secondary schools as soon as the COVID-19 situation allows for it.

Working with Partners

- **Slovak Humanitarian Council**: The Slovak Humanitarian Council, a UNHCR-supported NGO, provides legal counselling and legal representation to detained asylum-seekers at first instance and organizes community-based events to raise awareness on rights among persons of concern.

- **External engagement**: UNHCR engaged with **People in Need** and **the Film Faculty** in Bratislava to produce three refugee-themed movies by young filmmakers. The films were promoted at the One World Film Festival in November 2021.

- **Comenius University:** UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding on collaboration with the **Art Faculty of Comenius University**.

- UNHCR supported the mobile game **'Aaron's dilemma'**, which has been developed as an education tool for young students by the civic association, Impact Games.

Statelessness

- Slovakia is a party to both Statelessness Conventions but does not have a statelessness determination procedure in place.

- The text of the UNHCR-commissioned **mapping study** on statelessness in Slovakia is to be finalized and respective findings will inform UNHCR's advocacy and activities in Slovakia.
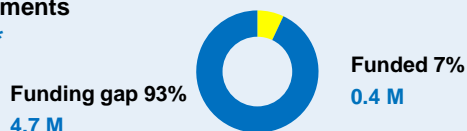
UNHCR Presence in Slovakia

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

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

Financial information (22 February 2022)

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

Financial requirements
USD 5.1 M*

Funding gap 93%
4.7 M

Funded 7%
0.4 M

*This amount refers to the initial budget approved by UNHCR's Executive Committee for 2022, prior to the latest hostilities in Ukraine.