

Slovenia

February 2022

Slovenia is a **gateway** to northern and western European countries, with considerable **transit** of asylum-seekers and migrants crossing its territory.

In 2021, 5,301 asylum applications were registered, a **49 per cent increase** compared to 2020. **3,396** asylum-seekers **absconded** before the procedure could be finalized.

704 of the 782 **unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who arrived in 2020** absconded. They face high risks as they are exposed to smugglers and traffickers.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Refugees | 833 |
| Asylum-seekers | 253 |
| Stateless persons | 1 |
| Total population of concern | 1,143 |

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

| | Refugees | | Asylum-seekers |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|----------------|
| Syrian Arab Republic | 326 | Afghanistan | 112 |
| Eritrea | 86 | Iran | 27 |
| Iran | 78 | Iraq | 22 |

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

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: The national COVID-19 vaccination plan includes refugees and asylum-seekers on par with citizens.

Inclusion: Refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons are included in the national health response plan, and can access all COVID-19 health services, except rapid antigen tests, which are available only to Slovenian Health Insurance Card holders. Refugees are part of the socioeconomic response plan and eligible for the same financial support as citizens of Slovenia.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR's partner Institute Emma provides psychosocial support to refugees and asylum-seekers, including those experiencing anxiety and depression as a result of the pandemic.

HIGHLIGHTS

1,199

persons of concern were assisted by UNHCR's partners in 2021. Asylum-seekers and refugees had access to legal assistance and psychosocial counselling

10

protection monitoring visits were conducted to border police stations, as well as to detention centres and accommodation facilities for asylum-seekers in 2021

111

advocacy and coordination meetings with national authorities were facilitated or attended by UNHCR and NGOs to advocate for improved access to territory and asylum procedures and ensure improved protection mechanisms for children of concern and vulnerable persons in 2021

IRANIAN ASYLUM-SEEKER FINDS HIS CALLING IN CARING FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE



Reza feels that fate has brought him to Slovenia, and to a job where he can make a difference.

Key Priorities

- Access to territory:** 10,067 persons were intercepted by border authorities when entering the country irregularly in 2021. While this is 31 per cent fewer than in 2020, substantially more of these people applied for asylum (+41 per cent), resulting in an overall increase of registered asylum applications (+49 per cent). 2021 saw a 60 per cent decrease in readmissions to neighbouring countries compared to 2020. UNHCR regularly monitors the situation of people in need of international protection seeking access to the territory and the asylum procedure.
- Legal assistance:** The provision of quality legal assistance from the start of their application helps asylum-seekers navigate the complex asylum procedure. To ensure that asylum-seekers have access to information, counselling and legal representation at the first instance, UNHCR supported the Legal Information Centre PIC.
- Asylum procedure:** UNHCR supports asylum authorities with quality assurance and undertook a quality review study of the asylum procedure at the first instance with the Peace Institute in 2021.
- Vulnerability in asylum:** Once identified as vulnerable, asylum-seekers are entitled to specific rights and safeguards in the asylum procedure. As identification is key, UNHCR advocated for the improvement of identification and referral mechanisms at borders and in asylum procedures.
- Family reunification:** UNHCR promotes and facilitates family reunification and is assisting the authorities with 7 family reunification cases.
- Education:** Teachers, children and parents face challenges during the process of integrating refugee children in schools. UNHCR has developed the learning programme “Teaching About Refugees” to foster a more inclusive learning environment in schools and tackle misinformation about refugees,

asylum-seekers and migrants. The programme will be rolled-out at schools in Slovenia as soon as the COVID-19 situation allows.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR supports the **Legal Information Centre PIC**, an NGO providing information, counselling and legal representation to asylum-seekers.
- UNHCR supports **Institute EMMA**, an NGO providing psychosocial counselling and support to asylum-seekers and refugees with vulnerabilities.
- UNHCR works with **governmental partners**, primarily the Migration Directorate, the Office for the Support to and Integration of Migrants, as well as the Border Police Division of the General Police Directorate.
- UNHCR co-facilitates and offers capacity-building to the **working group** providing support to survivors of gender-based violence and vulnerable persons.
- UNHCR supported the development of a handbook for legal guardians of unaccompanied **children**, which has been in use since January 2022.

Statelessness

- Slovenia succeeded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless persons in 1992, but is not party to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- Slovenia has no statelessness determination procedure in place. UNHCR promotes and advocates for the establishment of such a procedure.

UNHCR Presence in Slovenia

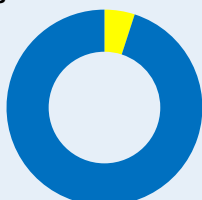
| Staff: | Offices: |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 Liaison Staff | 0 Offices |

Financial information (22 February 2022)

Information relates to the Representation for Central Europe, which covers Belarus, 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

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland

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.