

Ireland

February 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 the territory: Access was not impeded despite public health restrictions imposed during the pandemic response. There were a total of **1,566 asylum applications** in Ireland in 2020.

Resettlement: Despite suspension of resettlement activities globally in March 2020, 195 refugees arrived in Ireland from Lebanon and Jordan in November and December.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	8,195
Asylum-seekers	7,466
Stateless people	99

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	2,899	Nigeria	765
Zimbabwe	504	Zimbabwe	761
Iraq	404	Georgia	695

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

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Inclusion: Asylum-seekers living in state accommodation centres have been identified in the [national action plan on COVID-19](#) as a vulnerable group requiring additional supports and arrangements. The Health Service Executive have also developed “[Infection Prevention and Control Guidance including Outbreak Control in Residential Care Facilities](#)” which apply to asylum-seekers in such settings. Refugees have access to health services on the same basis as citizens and have been included in the government’s [vaccine allocation programme](#).

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 migrant communities.

HIGHLIGHTS

195

refugees were resettled from Lebanon and Jordan on in 2020. Of these, 6 people were welcomed by a local groups as part of the community sponsorship programme.

1,566

556 asylum applications were lodged in Ireland in 2020, a 67.3% reduction on 2019 due to the pandemic.

6,997

asylum-seekers lived in accommodation centres and emergency accommodation at the end of 2020.

USD 22.26 M

were donated by Ireland to UNHCR during 2020. Of this, almost US10 million was unearmarked.



Sanctuary Runner Busie Mhlophe © Clare Keogh

Sports and Refugees

UNHCR Ireland teamed up with Sanctuary Runners for World Refugee Day 2020. Internationally renowned Irish sports stars wore t-shirts with our slogan as a sign of solidarity. Click [here](#) to read more

Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** 26% of those who applied for refugee status or subsidiary protection in the first half of 2020 were successful at first instance (the International Protection Office). Of those that appealed to the International Protection Appeals Tribunal, 28% 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. UNHCR also delivered a number of seminars, training sessions and workshops. These included seminars to the Irish Legal Aid Board on Reception Conditions and the Dublin Regulation, plus training with Irish authorities and the Legal Aid Board on international protection procedures.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** Despite the suspension of resettlement activities globally in March, arrivals were able to resume in November and December with 195 Syrian refugees from Lebanon and Jordan. Of this number, six 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.
- **Advocacy:** In the lead up to the general election in 2020 UNHCR published its list of priorities for the new government, including ending emergency accommodation, streamlining the application process and better support for refugee integration. In October and November UNHCR made submissions to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

on their respective Statements of Strategy 2021 – 2023.

- **High Profile supporters:** UNHCR was proud to name Jess Murphy and Ifrah Ahmed as High-Profile supporters in 2020. Over the course of many years, both women have worked hard to raise awareness of refugee issues in Ireland and abroad.
- **Integration:** UNHCR was proud to join the Sanctuary Runners movement to encourage people to run in solidarity with refugees for World Refugee Day. Over 40 Irish athletes around the country participated, sharing messages of support for people forced to flee.

Working with Partners

- A partnership agreement with IOM provided assistance in 2020 to individuals granted family reunification who could not afford to travel; the project is co-financed and implemented with the assistance of the Irish Red Cross.

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

Staff:

5 National Staff

2 Affiliated Workforce

Offices:

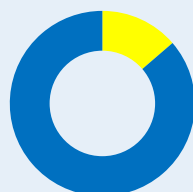
1 Country Office in Dublin

Financial information* 28 February 2021

*information relates to the Representation for EU Affairs, Belgium, Luxemburg, Ireland, the Netherlands, and the Liaison Offices to EASO and Frontex.

Financial requirements
USD 11.1 M

Funding gap
 89%
9.9 M



Funded
 11%
1.2 M

UNHCR Ireland is grateful for the continued support provided by Irish Aid to UNHCR programmes around the world.

Ireland donated USD 22.26 million to UNHCR during 2020. Of this, almost USD 10 million was unearmarked.

UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions* to the 2021 global programmes (USD, 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.