

# Slovenia

February 2021

Slovenia is a **gateway** to northern and western European countries, with considerable **transit movements** across its territory, both of migrants as well as persons seeking international protection.

In 2020, 3,472 asylum applications were registered, a **4% decrease** compared to the number of applications registered in 2019. More than **80%** of asylum-seekers **absconded** from the procedure.

Among **unaccompanied asylum-seeking children**, the abscondion rate is as high as **98%**. These children face high protection risks as they are exposed to exploitation by smugglers and traffickers.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees **806**  
Asylum-seekers **460**

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	319	Morocco	224
Eritrea	86	Algeria	77
Iran	75	Afghanistan	34

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

## COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

**Advocacy:** The national COVID-19 vaccination plan includes refugees in the roll-out on a par with citizens. UNHCR advocates with authorities to ensure inclusion of asylum-seekers.

**Inclusion:** refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people are included in the national health response plan, and they can access all COVID-19 health services. Refugees are part of the socio-economic response plan and eligible for the same financial support as citizens of Slovenia.

**Communication with Communities:** UNHCR's partner EMMA provides psycho-social counselling to refugees and asylum-seekers, including those who experience anxiety and depression as a result of the pandemic.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**1,722**

persons of concern were assisted by UNHCR partners in 2020. Asylum-seekers and refugees had access to legal assistance and psycho-social counseling.

**20**

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

**11**

coordination meetings with centre management and NGOs were facilitated by UNHCR in 2020, resulting in the improved conditions and services in these accommodation facilities.

**2**

key proposals for amendments to the Aliens Act and the International Protection Act were commented on in 2020. UNHCR advocated for improved access to territory and asylum procedure.



### Refugee puts own worries aside to help the homeless

Palestinian refugee Mohammed Alburai is a welcomed figure among the homeless of Ljubljana. Read the full story [here](#)

## Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** The number of asylum-seekers and migrants arriving irregularly, has increased in the last year. 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 often complex asylum procedure. To ensure that asylum-seekers in Slovenia have access to information, counselling services and legal representation at the first instance, UNHCR supports the Legal Information Centre PIC.
- **Vulnerability in asylum:** Once identified as vulnerable, asylum-seekers are entitled to specific rights and safeguards in the asylum procedure. Because identification is key, UNHCR advocates for the improvement of identification and referral mechanisms at borders and within the asylum procedure. Through its partner EMMA, UNHCR provides assistance to vulnerable asylum-seekers in need of psycho-social counselling and support.
- **Family reunification:** UNHCR promotes and facilitates family reunification. In 2020, UNHCR successfully assisted the Slovenian authorities with finalizing eight family reunification cases. The concerned family members have in the meantime arrived in Slovenia and are now receiving integration support.

**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 to combat misinformation about refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. As soon as the COVID-19 situation allows, the programme will be rolled-out at schools in Slovenia.

## Working with Partners

- **Legal Information Centre PIC** – UNHCR supports the Legal Information Centre PIC, an NGO which provides information, counselling, and legal representation to asylum-seekers.
- **Institute EMMA** – UNHCR supports Institute EMMA, an NGO providing psycho-social counselling and support to asylum seekers and refugees with vulnerabilities.
- UNHCR works together with **governmental partners**, primarily with the Migration Office, the Office for the Support to and Integration of Migrants, as well as the Border Police Division of the General Police Directorate.
- UNHCR supports a **working group**, composed of NGOs and governmental partners, to develop a set of guidelines and operating procedures for legal guardians of unaccompanied children.

## Statelessness

- Slovenia succeeded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless persons in 1992, but it is not party to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- Slovenia does not have a dedicated statelessness determination procedure in place. UNHCR promotes and advocates for the establishment of such a procedure.

## UNHCR Presence in Slovenia

### Staff:

1 Liaison Staff

### Offices:

0 Offices

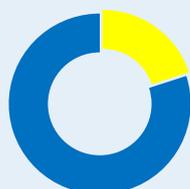
UNHCR’s operations in Slovenia are managed by the UNHCR Representation for Central Europe in Budapest, Hungary

## Financial information\* (28 February 2021)

\* Information relates to the Representation for Central Europe, which covers the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia

Financial Requirements  
**USD 4.7 M**

Funding gap  
 92%  
**4.3 M**



Funded  
 8%  
**0.4 M**

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

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.