

Slovakia

September 2021

Asylum-seekers have **access** to territory and the 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 a par with citizens, except for certain political rights.

Slovakia delivered on its **pledge** made at the Global Refugee Forum to **donate** 100,000 EUR for education and equal opportunities and deploy asylum experts.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Refugees | 1,015 |
| Asylum-seekers | 48 |
| Stateless persons | 1523 |
| Total population of concern | 2586 |

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

| Refugees | | Asylum-seekers | |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|-----------|
| Afghanistan | 298 | Afghanistan | 50 |
| Iraq | 214 | Morocco | 41 |
| Russian Federation | 38 | Syria | 38 |

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

1 EUR

Daily pocket money for asylum-seekers was increased from 40 cents to 1 EUR per day as of 1 August 2021.

Help Slovakia

UNHCR launched the [Help Slovakia](#) website to provide asylum-seekers and refugees in Slovakia with information on a wide range of topics.

Inclusion of asylum-seekers

Following advocacy efforts, asylum seekers were included in the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out.

Access to naturalization

As of 2021, stateless persons applying for citizenship can do so under more favorable terms.

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR advocated to ensure that all persons of concern, including asylum-seekers, are included in the national vaccination roll-out. UNHCR advocated for refugees to have access to all available social protection measures.

Inclusion: Refugees and subsidiary protection holders have access to all COVID-19-related health services. They also have access to social protection measures. Asylum-seekers are finally included in the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out.

Communication with Communities: Two-way communication with the refugee community in Slovakia is ensured through UNHCR's partner, the Slovak Humanitarian Council. UNHCR also conducted in person meetings with persons of concern to assess, among others, the impact of COVID-19 on their well-being and overall situation.

STATELESS AFRICAN FINDS HIS WAY THROUGH LEGAL MAZE IN SLOVAKIA



Ben Salam from Ivory Coast was stateless from birth, but he only understood the full extent of his problem when he reached Europe. Slovakia finally helped him solve it.

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** UNHCR monitors the situation of persons in need of international protection seeking access to the territory and the asylum procedure at Slovakia's external Schengen border with Ukraine.
- **Asylum procedure:** UNHCR advocates for fair and efficient asylum procedures and provides the Government with comments to draft laws and policies to strengthen the legislative framework. 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, counselling 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 the adoption of the State Integration Programme for beneficiaries of international protection. UNHCR works with partners to promote positive attitudes towards refugees, to combat xenophobia and racism and foster welcoming communities.
- **Education:** Integrating refugee children in schools is challenging for teachers, children and parents. 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** – Slovak Humanitarian Council, an UNHCR-supported NGO provides legal counselling and legal representation to detained asylum-seekers at first instance and organises community-based events to raise awareness among persons of concern.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR engages with People in Need and the Film Faculty in Bratislava to produce three refugee-themed movies by young filmmakers to be promoted at One World Film Festival in November 2021.
- UNHCR engages with **New Scene Theatre** by supporting the theatre play Jane Teller's "War - if it were here", that raises **awareness** on the plight of refugees among secondary school children.
- UNHCR supported the mobile game 'Aaron's dilemma' developed as an education tool for young **students** by civic association, **Impact Games**.

Statelessness

- Slovakia is a party to both Statelessness Conventions but does not have a statelessness determination procedure in place.
- As of 1 January 2021, the administrative fee for a citizenship application by a stateless person may be reduced or waived. This change was introduced following UNHCR's comments to a draft amendment to relevant legislation in August 2020.

UNHCR Presence in Slovakia

Staff:

1 Liaison Staff

Offices:

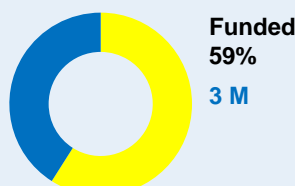
0 Offices

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

Financial information (28 September 2021)

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

Financial requirements

USD 5.1 M
**Funding gap
41%**
2.1 M


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