

Luxembourg

February 2022

In 2021, **1,249** persons applied for international protection, a **7 per cent increase** from 2020. Top countries of origin were Syria, Eritrea and Afghanistan and the protection rate was **77 per cent**.

Access to territory, reception and the asylum procedure have remained guaranteed amid the pandemic, and persons of concern are included in the **national vaccination scheme**.

Luxembourg **relocated** eight Eritrean and Sudanese asylum-seekers from Malta in 2021 and announced it would **resettle** 50 refugees in 2022.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	5,158
Asylum-seekers	1,580
Stateless persons	194
Total population of concern	7,017

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Republic	2,069	Syrian Arab Republic	360
Eritrea	1,044	Eritrea	265
Iraq	773	Afghanistan	180

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

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR advocated for registration, access to asylum and reception conditions to remain effective during the pandemic.

Inclusion of persons of concern: People with a legal stay, including asylum-seekers and refugees, are included in the general COVID-19 vaccination plan. UNHCR continues to liaise with relevant stakeholders to monitor the situation and ensure that persons of concern are included in the national COVID-19 response and have access to relevant information.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR increased the frequency of its communication with the authorities and civil society and remained reachable by phone and email to all persons of concern. UNHCR set up a **COVID-19 guide** for asylum-seekers and refugees in Belgium and Luxembourg.

HIGHLIGHTS

Signature of new partnership

On 9 November, the High Commissioner (HC) signed in Luxembourg a new Strategic Partnership Framework for 2022-2025, which foresees contribution of EUR 32 million to UNHCR over the next four years. The HC held additional meetings with the Government and with Members of Parliament on the situation of forcibly displaced persons, recent developments at EU borders and ongoing humanitarian interventions. He also met the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg to address violence against women and girls.

Facilitation of family reunification

In 2021, Luxembourg extended from 3 to 6 months the deadline to apply for family reunification under more favourable conditions. UNHCR's partnership with Miles4Migrants was also successfully implemented, with two families including one unaccompanied child benefitting from the scheme in 2021.

INTEGRATION IS BETTER TOGETHER



In December 2021, a video was published following the story of a duo in Luxembourg City as part of the [#BuddiesWithRefugees](#) campaign.

Watch the story of El Mowafak and Candy [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedure:** Luxembourg has a solid asylum system. While access to the asylum system remained guaranteed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, delays have taken place with asylum interviews and appeal procedures. UNHCR is continuing its work with authorities on the quality of asylum procedures, a top priority since 2019.
- **Integration:** UNHCR is seeking to gain a better understanding of the integration process of refugees to foster its improvement through a consultancy launched in fall 2021. UNHCR continues to follow the integration process of the first 12 unaccompanied and separated children relocated from Greece in April 2020, including through a visit to their reception centre in 2021.
- **Family reunification:** The legislation extending the deadline to apply for family reunification under more favourable conditions from 3 to 6 months, which UNHCR advocated for notably in its 2018 memorandum ahead of the legislative elections and which was included in the Government's coalition agreement for 2018-2023, entered into force in 2021.
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** UNHCR continues to advocate for additional resettlement pledges and has been exploring complementary pathways opportunities in Luxembourg with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and NGOs.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR maintains regular and constructive interactions and coordination with relevant stakeholders (e.g. authorities, IOM, the European Migration Network, NGOs, lawyers).
- **External engagement:** UNHCR raises awareness among the general public about the situation of refugees in Luxembourg and worldwide. To improve

public perceptions toward persons of concern, a [video](#) was produced following a duo in Luxembourg City to share a positive integration story about a young refugee from Sudan and his friend who were connected through a mentorship programme of the association RYSE.

Statelessness

- Luxembourg is party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons since 1960 and acceded to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2017.
- In 2017, a law on nationality was adopted which includes articles aimed at preventing statelessness and facilitating acquisition of nationality for refugees and stateless persons. The majority of UNHCR's comments on the draft law were taken into account.
- Luxembourg has an administrative statelessness determination procedure in place. Stateless applicants are not entitled to reception conditions, and a residency permit is not automatically granted to a recognized stateless person.

UNHCR Presence in Luxembourg

- Country activities are followed up by the Representation for EU Affairs, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland and the Netherlands, which includes the following staff and office. Additionally, UNHCR makes use of an office in Luxembourg, kindly offered by the Luxembourg authorities.

Staff:

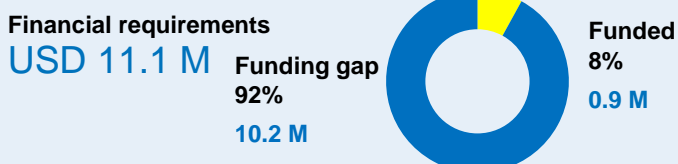
26 National Staff
 17 International Staff
 3 Affiliated workforce

Offices:

1 Multi-country Office
 in Brussels
 1 Office in Luxembourg

Financial information (22 February 2022)

Information relates to the Representation for EU Affairs, Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg the Netherlands, and the Liaison Offices to EUAA and Frontex.



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.