

# Asylum seekers in Albania

## Year 2020

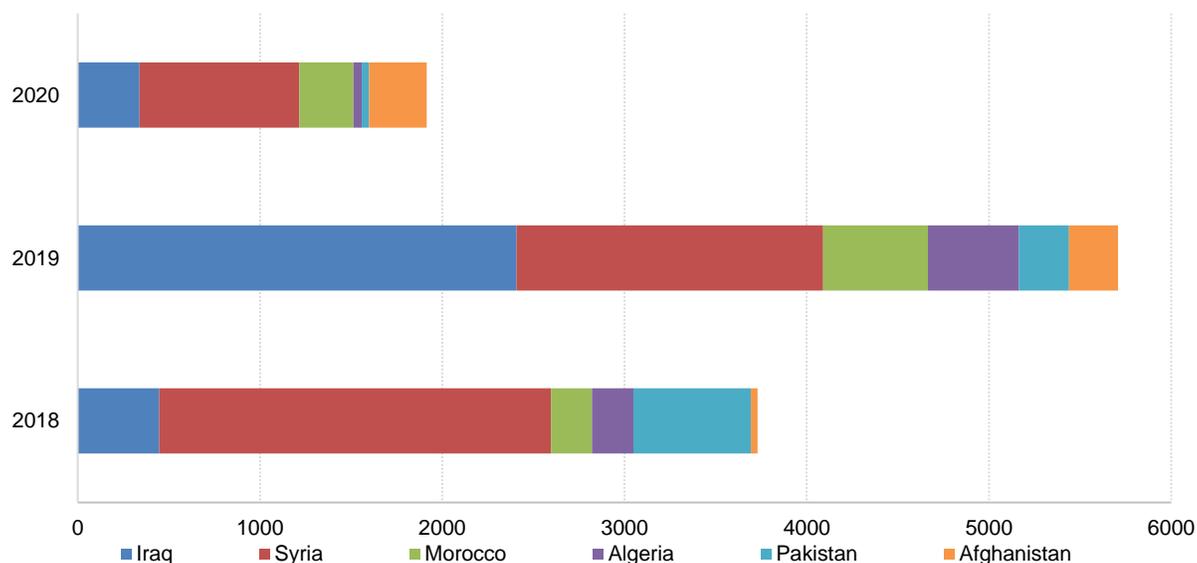
**Tirana, on 05 July 2021:** In the year 2020 result 2,232 asylum seekers in Albania, marking a decrease by 66.0 % compared to 2019.

Asylum seekers originating from Syria and Iraq account for 54.4 % of the total number of asylum seekers in 2020 and result 876 and 339 asylum seekers respectively.

## Asylum seekers in Albania

Asylum seekers in Albania referred to the Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior, result 2,232 people. Analyzing the country of origin of asylum seekers, we understand that most cases are those of Syria origin, with 876 asylum seekers, from Iraq with 339 asylum seekers, from Afghanistan with 316 asylum seekers, from Morocco with 297 asylum seekers.

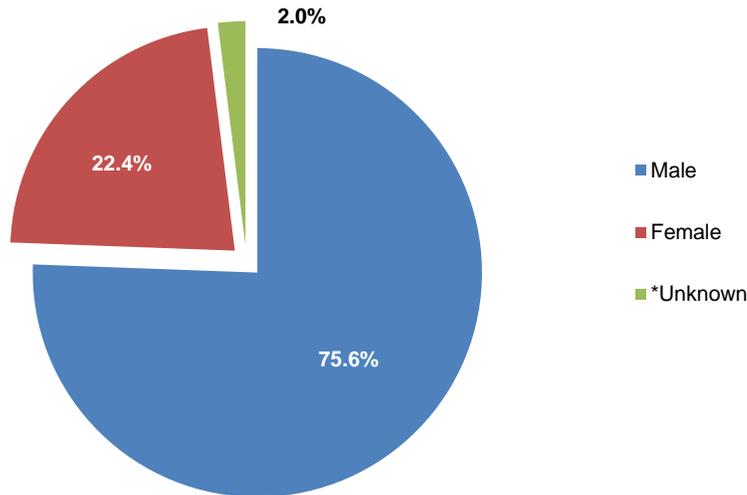
Fig. 1 Asylum seekers by year and country of origin



Source: Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

If we analyze the data by sex, we notice that the number of female asylum seekers is 501 while the number of male asylum seekers is 1687. It is noticed a dominance of male, in the number of asylum seekers in Albania with 75.6 % of the total number of asylum seekers.

**Fig. 2 Asylum seeker by sex, 2020**

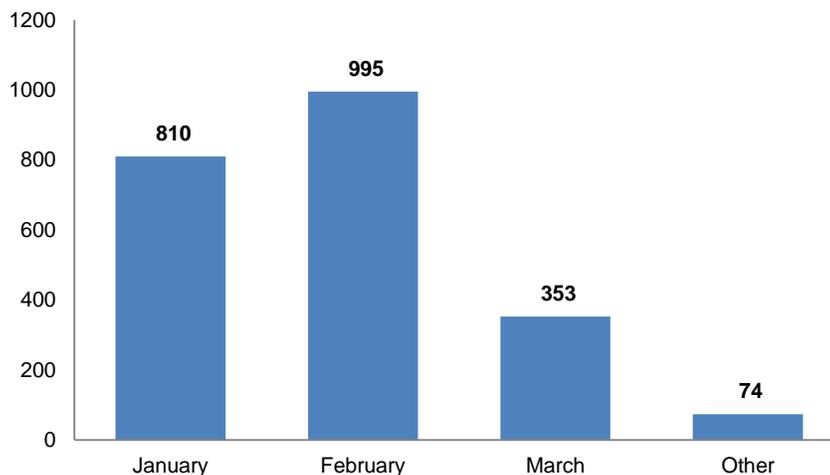


Source: Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

\* Category "Unknown" means cases of asylum seekers for which sex information is missing

Seeing at asylum request by months, we understand that the peak of applications were during the months January-March, which occupy 97.7 % of the total number of asylum seekers. This is due to the pandemic situation in the country.

**Fig. 3 Requests for asylum by months, 2019**



Source: Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

During 2020 there were 4 positive decisions for granting refugee and supplementary protection status to asylum seekers, all of these cases are Syrian citizens.

### **Acquisition and termination of Albanian citizenship**

In 2020 there are 423 people who have acquired Albanian citizenship, making a decrease by 12.8 %, compared to 2019.

In 2020 there are 513 people who have lost Albanian citizenship, making a decrease by 30.8 %, compared to 2019.

**Tab. 1 Acquisition, loss, recognize and regaining Albanian citizenship**

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020
Acquisition of citizenship	316	345	485	423
Loss of citizenship	651	640	741	513

Source: Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior

# Methodology

The purpose of the yearly publication for asylum seekers in Albania is to present the results and indicators by sex, month of application, countries of origin, as well as the annual number of persons that acquired or lost the Albanian Citizenship.

Data on Asylum Seekers and the acquisition or loss of citizenship in Albania are provided by the Directorate of Asylum, Foreigners, and Citizenship at the Ministry of Interior.

## Definitions:

**Asylum** is the form of international protection that the Republic of Albania grants to refugees and persons under subsidiary protection.

**Asylum seeker** is any foreigner or stateless person that expresses in any way that he or she does not wish to return to his or her country, as well as any foreigner or stateless person who has applied for asylum in the Republic of Albania for whom no final decision has been made yet.

**Asylum application** is the official request of a foreigner or stateless person to the responsible authority for asylum and refugees, which is considered as a request for international protection under the UN Geneva Convention on Refugee Status. Any application for international protection is considered as an application for asylum, unless the foreigner clearly requires another type of protection, which applies separately.

**Request for asylum** is any statement by a foreigner or stateless person, expressed in any way and at any time before the competent authorities at the border crossing points or within the territory of the Republic of Albania, which requires international protection under international conventions and Albanian legislation.

**Albanian citizenship** is acquired, regained, lost or terminated of in accordance with the provisions of the law, which respects the recognized norms and principles of international law in the field of citizenship accepted by the Republic of Albania.

**Albanian citizenship is acquired by:** a) birth; b) naturalization; c) adoption

**Acquisition of citizenship** is taken by a foreigner who has applied for Albanian citizenship, and acquires it if he meets the conditions set forth in the law.

**Loss of Albanian citizenship** means that the acquisition of Albanian citizenship ends upon the request of the person when he meets the conditions laid down in the law.

**Foreign national** means a person who is not a national of the Republic of Albania and holds a foreign nationality..

**Stateless person** means a person who is not a national of any state due to the lack of a durable legal connection between him and a state.

**Refugee** means a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality or outside of the country of former habitual residence and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country or to return to it as a result of such circumstances, in accordance with the requirements of Article 1(A) of the Geneva Convention.

**State or country of origin** means the applicant's state of nationality, or, for stateless persons, the country of their former habitual residence;

**Subsidiary protection status** means the recognition by the Republic of Albania of a foreign person or a stateless person as eligible for subsidiary protection

**Refugee status** means the recognition by the Republic of Albania of a foreign national or a stateless person as a refugee.