



Asylum seekers are one of the most vulnerable groups in Irish society. The long wait (many 3-8years) for decisions to be made on their applications is a major problem that needs to be tackled. The restrictions to work, study and live in specific areas, contributed immensely to the difficulty leading to loss of self-confidence and skills, illness, and inability to contribute to the economy. If given the opportunity, most African asylum seekers are ready to contribute to the economy, while the population that cannot, fall in the category of children or those who are sick.



MANY VOLUNTEERS REGISTERED WITH THE VOLUNTEER BUREAUX ARE ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES. REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS BRING WITH THEM TO IRELAND A VAST ARRAY OF SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS\* (VOLUNTEER IRELAND, 2010).

In 2011, the UN Refugee Agency (03/2011) reported a decrease in asylum applications in 44 industrialised countries, which includes the 27 European Union member states.

	2010	2009
Total asylum applications in 44 industrialised countries	358,840	378,360
Total asylum applications in Ireland	1,939	2,689
Total asylum applications by Africans in Ireland	457	762
Total asylum seekers in DPA in Ireland	6,149	6,494
Total African asylum seekers in DPA in Ireland	4,881	4,649

African asylum seekers in Ireland, represent about 11% of 42,000 of the total population of Africans in Ireland. Ireland's total share of asylum seekers in the industrialised countries between 2006 and 2010 is only 1%

The acceptance rate of refugees in Ireland in 2010 was 1.38%, or 14 out of 1,014 cases handled (without specific number of African applications accepted) . The United Nations High Commission for Refugees in July 2010 criticised the acceptance rate and said that it would engage with the authorities to address the matter, adding that the acceptance rate went down from the 2007 record of 9%.

USEFUL LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- [www.citizeninformation.ie](http://www.citizeninformation.ie)
- [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)
- [www.djei.ie](http://www.djei.ie)
- [www.esri.ie/publications](http://www.esri.ie/publications)
- [www.integrationireland.ie](http://www.integrationireland.ie)
- [www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie)
- [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)
- [www.ria.gov.ie](http://www.ria.gov.ie)
- [www.catholiccommunications.ie/sanctuary](http://www.catholiccommunications.ie/sanctuary)
- [www.uneca.org/statistics](http://www.uneca.org/statistics)
- [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)
- [www.volunteerireland.ie](http://www.volunteerireland.ie)
- [www.volunteersouthdublin.ie/pdf/refugees.pdf](http://www.volunteersouthdublin.ie/pdf/refugees.pdf)

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We acknowledge the support of The Community Foundation for Ireland

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AFRICANS