

Suriname

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Is there a refugee protection program?	<p>Suriname acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol in 1978. Suriname is not a State party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons nor to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Suriname has not developed any national asylum and refugee legislation or procedures.</p> <p>The Aliens Act of 1991 provides some limited protections and a citizenship pathway for refugees.</p> <p>Although there is not a formative Refugee Protection Program, in the past 30 years, Suriname, like its neighbors in the Caribbean region, has become a host country for irregular migrants attracted by the relative ease of Suriname’s border crossing and the perception that the population is more accepting of migrants.</p> <p>The number of migrants living in Suriname has nearly doubled since 2000. In 2019 the migrant population was estimated at 46,200.</p>
Who runs any available refugee protection program? Who determines which applicants qualify for refugee protection?	<p>In the absence of national asylum and refugee legislation and procedures in Suriname, UNHCR, through its Regional Office based in Washington DC, conducts registration of asylum-seekers and refugee status determination in the country, and undertakes the search for durable solutions for recognized refugees. Additionally, other UN agencies and the Suriname Red Cross have been involved in this referral process.</p>
Is the refugee protection program functional? For example, how long does it take for decisions to be issued? What percentage of applications are granted?	<p>According to World Data Reports, 759 applications had been received and were still in review in 2020. These applications were lingering for an unspecified number of years. In 2020, 15 applications were accepted and 10 were rejected, resulting in a 60% acceptance rate for applications once processed.</p> <p>As of 2018, Suriname hosted 242 refugees and asylum seekers.</p>

<p>Do refugees have a right to work? A right to education? A right to medical care?</p>	<p>Refugees do not need a work permit to take up remunerated employment. However, this fact is not widely understood and is complicated in enforcement efforts for migrant work permits. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation has proposed amending local legislation to maximize immigrant access to the labor market.</p> <p>The right to health is described in Article 30 of the Suriname Constitution and guarantees access to all person regardless of their nationality.</p> <p>Basic Education is ensured in the Suriname Constitution. To access primary education in Suriname, a file from the Civil Registry (Bevolkingsregister) is required, which can only be obtained if a child has obtained a legal residency status.</p>
<p>Are those seeking refugee protection free to live freely or forced to reside in camps?</p>	<p>Refugees and Asylum seekers are not moved to designated camps or communities.</p> <p>The government generally upholds constitutional freedoms of internal movement and residence, though the lack of protections for Indigenous and Maroon lands leaves those communities vulnerable to displacement, highlighting that these constitutional freedoms can be selectively accessible.</p> <p>General reports of neighboring countries receiving migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers that had first passed through Suriname, indicates an underlying freedom of movement in Suriname.</p>
<p>Does a grant of refugee protection result in a pathway to permanent status? In other words, can a refugee eventually become a citizen? Is there another form of legal permanent status available for people with refugee status?</p>	<p>Surinamese nationality can also be obtained through naturalization if a person had their residence in Suriname for the proceeding five years. According to the Ministry of Justice and Police, approximately 200 to 300 migrant residents naturalize each year.</p>
<p>Does the country offer temporary</p>	<p>The Aliens Act 1991 (Art. 10) stipulates that, foreigners are eligible for permanent residency if they have obtained a temporary residence</p>

<p>protections available other than refugee status? If so, what are they?</p>	<p>permit or if they have been admitted as refugees. A temporary residence permit is granted for a maximum of two years, with the possibility of renewal. In order to receive a permanent residency, foreigners must legally reside in Suriname for a minimum of five years.</p>
<p>What, if any, penalties are there for people without status or people who are denied refugee protection?</p>	<p>Migration law in Suriname is civil, and the country does not have a dedicated detention center for migrants. Migrants in irregular status are taken into temporary custody specifically for migrants as they await extradition. The Military Police has direct responsibility for immigration control at Suriname’s principal border crossing points.</p>
<p>What organizations exist in-country that can help displaced people seek available protections? What other organizations in the country may be able to help displaced people access services and rights, even if their mission is not to specifically work with refugees and displaced people?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Refugee Legal Aid, has not yet identified any NGO or law firm that is offering refugees legal assistance in Suriname: https://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/refugee-resources ● Hesperian Health Guides. Not specifically a refugee support group but may have capacity.
<p>Is there other information that might be valuable for displaced people arriving in that country to know?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is a general perception that the population is accepting of migrants, but even UNHCR documents link this perception to the need for labor in the loosely regulated gold mining industry. ● The refugee and asylum process is underdeveloped but is growing. As of 2015 Suriname had hosted three asylum seekers and one refugee. The current number of 242 is incredibly low, but may comparatively reflect a cultural movement that embraces these international protections. ● There is a perception that Suriname may have relatively porous borders that have been used to seek asylum in neighboring countries. Those neighboring countries like French Guiana may be more receptive, but their Asylum accommodation is also almost nonexistent. The 2,820 asylum

	<p>demands in French Giana exceeded the actual capacity of 600 accommodations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The countries Development Plan 2017-2021 identified international migration flow as a “game changer” for increasing the population and growing the economy. There is no published plan to address the social and economic integration of migrants, but there is a general perception shift in the value of migrants to the country. This value orientation might be expressed through greater social integration programs in the near term.
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