

Sweden

February 2023

Strategic partner: Sweden has made outstanding contributions to international refugee protection over the past decades.

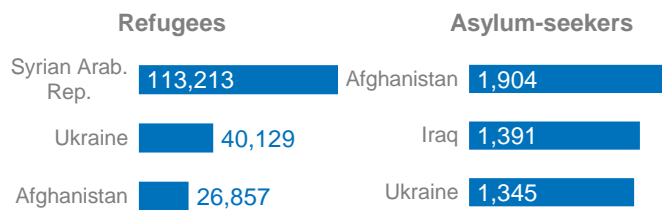
Important donor: Sweden is a large contributor of unearmarked funding, which enables UNHCR to address critical humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable refugees.

Solid national system: Sweden has a well-established asylum system, long standing commitment to refugee resettlement and comprehensive integration programmes.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022*

Refugees **276,381**
Asylum-seekers **14,131**
Stateless persons **46,515**

Top three countries of origin*



*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of mid-February 2023, **50,740 refugees from Ukraine** were registered for temporary protection in Sweden.

UNHCR response: UNHCR assesses the implementation of the temporary protection framework in Sweden. UNHCR in partnership with the *Svenska med baby* has further conducted a focus group discussion with refugees from Ukraine. The preliminary findings of the focus group discussions were presented during a seminar in December 2022, and the final report will be made available in the course of 2023.

Essential items and services, such as housing, food, daily allowance, health care and education are provided by the Government to newly arrived refugees from Ukraine.

Engagement with partners and authorities: UNHCR regularly engages in information exchange with civil society partners and authorities on the situation of refugees from Ukraine.

HIGHLIGHTS

Swedish EU Presidency

Sweden holds the EU Presidency during the first half of 2023. Sweden intends to advance the negotiations on the Pact on Migration and Asylum in accordance with the agreement between the institutions to conclude negotiations during the current parliamentary term. UNHCR has welcomed the focus on advancing negotiations on the Pact.

Recognition rate Afghan women

The Swedish Migration Agency has decided to systematically grant women and girls from Afghanistan asylum. In light of the increasingly restrictive measures imposed by the de facto authorities on women and girls in Afghanistan in violation of their human rights, UNHCR considers that Afghan women and girls are likely to be in need of international refugee protection.

900 resettlement places

For 2023, Sweden has reduced the annual places offered for resettlement of refugees from 5,000 to 900.



UNHCR AND SOAS ARRANGED STATELESSNESS PHOTO EXHIBITION

UNHCR and the Swedish Organization Against Statelessness (SOAS) arranged a photo exhibition centered around 20 individuals who are, or recently were, stateless. The exhibition also highlighted the plight of the millions of people who are currently stateless. Since 2014, Sweden has made several important pledges to address statelessness. Read more about these (and statelessness in general) [here](#)

Key Priorities

- **Law and policy:** UNHCR promotes Sweden's compliance with international and European standards relating to international protection of refugees. UNHCR seeks to support the Government to develop and strengthen national laws and policies in the area of international protection and improve public attitudes towards refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in Sweden.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR promotes fair and efficient asylum procedures and supports the national asylum authorities to continuously improve the asylum system, through quality initiatives and other forms of capacity building.
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** Sweden has assumed a leading role in galvanizing support for the global strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways. In 2023 pilot community sponsorship programs funded by Dalarna and Stockholm county administrative boards are starting in two municipalities.
- **Family Reunification:** UNHCR works with the Government and other partners to reduce and remove practical, legal and financial obstacles to family reunification, including to refrain from imposing a maintenance requirement for refugees to reunite with their families.
- **Integration:** The integration of refugees into Swedish society is facilitated through comprehensive efforts and a whole-of-society approach, including targeted education, inclusive employment policies and tackling segregation. UNHCR recommends Sweden to grant all beneficiaries of international protection a secure and stable status to facilitate integration.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish Migration Agency, County Administrative Boards, Swedish Association for Municipalities and Regions to support legal and policy development. With research institutions and civil society actors, UNHCR helps to foster integration of refugees, including promoting community sponsorship.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR and partners raise awareness on asylum and statelessness during events, such as the WRD and Opinion Festivals, promoting the inclusion of refugee voices in the public debate.

Statelessness

- Sweden is a state party to both the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions.
- UNHCR recommends Sweden to build on the commitment to end statelessness in Sweden by 2024 by establishing a statelessness determination procedure and aligning the Nationality Act with international standards so that all children born stateless in Sweden will acquire Swedish citizenship automatically, or as soon as possible after birth.

UNHCR Nordic and Baltic Countries

Staff:

19 National Staff
 15 International Staff
 2 Affiliate Work Force

Offices:

1 Regional Office in Stockholm
 1 Liaison Office in Vilnius
 1 Liaison Office in Tallinn
 1 Liaison Office in Riga

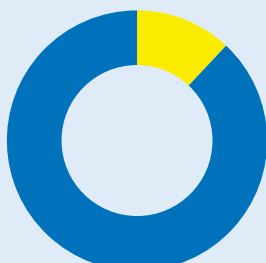
Financial information* (February 2023)

*Information relates to the Representation for the Nordic and Baltic countries, which includes Representation for Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden

Financial requirements

USD 14 M

Funding gap
 88%
 12.4 M



Funded
 12%
 1.6 M

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As well as for the generous contributions from private individuals and the private sector.