

# Finland

September 2024

**International protection:** Finland continues to [host refugees and asylum-seekers](#), including from the neighbouring countries. UNHCR is one of Finland's largest recipients of multilateral aid.

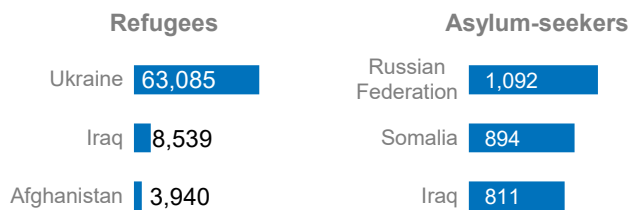
**Engagement in EU Affairs:** Finland supports a [common EU asylum system](#), including the Pact for Migration and Asylum.

**Quality procedures:** Finland continues to ensure high [quality asylum procedures](#) for forcibly displaced people.

## POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024)\*

Refugees **87,691**  
Asylum-seekers **6,554**  
Stateless people **2,976**

### Top three countries of origin\*



\*UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report 2024 and UNHCR [data finder](#)

## Protecting forcibly displaced and stateless people in Finland

### Observations on legislation

UNHCR has continued to engage with the Government on the ongoing reform of the asylum legislation and has in 2024 provided observations on seven law proposals advocating for the rights for forcibly displaced and stateless people.

### Capacity-building

In June 2024, UNHCR in partnership with the Ministry of Justice provided capacity building for lawyers on the principle of non-refoulement and subsequent asylum applications.

### Reception conditions

UNHCR visited two reception centres for asylum-seekers in June 2024 to support the provision of quality reception services.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Law to combat instrumentalized immigration

*In July 2024, a new law on temporary measures to combat instrumentalized immigration came into force. The law lays down the conditions for the restriction of the reception of applications for international protection at and near the Finnish border.*

### Eastern land border

*In late 2023, Finland closed its eastern land border after more than 1,300 asylum-seekers arrived through the border with the Russian Federation. All eastern border crossing points and three seaports have been closed since 15 April 2024 until further notice.*

### Resettlement quota

The Government of Finland announced a resettlement quota of 500 refugees in 2024, down from 1,050. As part of the quota, Finland receives refugees in urgent need of resettlement without any specific limitations on nationality or region.



© Finnish Refugee Council

### Refugee of the year 2024

The Finnish Refugee Council has selected Sa Myer Oo, known as San, as the Refugee of the Year 2024. San, her parents and three younger siblings came to Finland in May 2007 from a refugee camp in Thailand, where they were selected by the UNHCR for resettlement in Finland. In the future, San wants to work with vulnerable people, but especially with children and young people. See more [here](#).

## Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** UNHCR supports the Government to ensure that access to territory and respect for the principle of non-refoulement are maintained, including in exceptional situations, as Finland strengthens its border security.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR promotes fair and efficient asylum procedures through dialogue with national asylum authorities. UNHCR supports relevant stakeholders in their initiatives to strengthen the asylum system, including for accompanied and unaccompanied children.
- **Law and Policy:** UNHCR seeks to support the Government in developing and strengthening national laws and policies in international protection and improve public attitudes towards refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people in Finland.
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** Finland decreased its resettlement quota in 2023 from over 1,000 to 500 but has taken a leading role in raising support for the Global Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways. A three-year pilot programme aimed at ensuring community support for refugees across 15 municipalities was launched in January 2023.
- **Inclusion:** Inclusion is facilitated through comprehensive efforts and a whole-of-society approach. UNHCR facilitates exchange of experience and knowledge between Finnish municipalities, NGOs, and civil society with inclusion counterparts from the Baltic countries to further strengthen integration systems.
- **Family reunification:** UNHCR engages with civil society partners and is in dialogue with the relevant Ministries and the Finnish Immigration Service to identify ways of reducing and removing practical, legal, and financial obstacles to family reunification.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Ministry of Interior and other authorities to support legal and policy development around asylum and statelessness. UNHCR also supports community sponsorship.
- UNHCR works in partnership with civil society to raise awareness on asylum and statelessness issues and provision of support and advice to people in need of international protection.
- UNHCR also collaborates with regional partners including Council of Europe and Frontex regarding information sharing in the areas of human rights, asylum and statelessness.

## Statelessness

- Finland has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness.
- UNHCR advocates for Finland to further develop its Citizenship Status Determination Procedure into a dedicated Statelessness Determination Procedure.
- Finland automatically grants nationality to children born in Finland who would otherwise be stateless, regardless of their residence status in the country.
- Finland is committed to the #IBelong campaign. UNHCR encourages Finland to join the Global Alliance to End Statelessness.

## UNHCR Presence in Nordic & Baltic Countries

### Staff:

22 National Staff  
 13 International Staff  
 2 Affiliate Work Force

### Offices:

1 Regional Office in Stockholm  
 1 Office in Vilnius, Lithuania  
 1 Office in Riga, Latvia  
 1 Office in Tallinn, Estonia

## Financial information\* (30 September 2024)

*\*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

\$ 14 M

Funding gap 50%  
 \$ 7.0 M



Funded 50%  
 \$ 7.0 M

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