

Iceland

September 2021

Strategic Partner: Iceland continues to be a strong partner of UNHCR. Relative to its size, Iceland makes significant contributions to the protection of refugees and stateless persons.

Protection and Solidarity: Iceland remains committed to its international obligations and with the situation unfolding in Afghanistan has decided to accept an additional 120 individuals.

Strong asylum system: Iceland has a well-established asylum and protection system supported by inclusive integration programmes to facilitate education and employment.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	1,510
Asylum-seekers	182
Stateless persons	65
Total population of concern	1,757

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Iraq	297	Palestinian	84
Venezuela	294	Somalia	16
Syria	167	Nigeria	15

Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR regularly monitors developments and is in contact with authorities and partners where needed to ensure that persons of concern are included and mainstreamed in pandemic prevention and response programmes.

Inclusion: Refugees in Iceland are included in the national response and provided with social support and other measures to mitigate income loss. More than 60% of the refugee population has received the COVID-19 vaccine.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR's partner, the Icelandic Red Cross has modified its legal aid services to ensure assistance remotely. Other NGO partners also continue their outreach to refugee communities through email and contact lists and groups on social media to

HIGHLIGHTS

285 asylum-seekers

Were registered in the first seven months of 2021 according to government statistics. This is comparable to the figures for 2020, largely due to the travel restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resettlement

Iceland remains strongly committed to protect the most vulnerable an action which is clearly demonstrated through its consistent offering of places which has now reached 100 places annually.

UNHCR WELCOMES ICELAND'S DECISION TO JOIN GLOBAL EFFORTS TO END STATELESSNESS



UNHCR's Press Release welcoming Iceland's accession to the United Nations Statelessness Conventions, key international treaties to counter statelessness.

Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR promotes fair and efficient asylum procedures and provides guidance to relevant government agencies and NGO's, including follow-up on the 2016 Quality Initiative to **strengthen** the asylum procedures.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** Iceland remains an important actor in supporting resettlement globally. Iceland has remained steadfast in its support also contributing to relocation (**from** Greece) and evacuations (from Afghanistan) of vulnerable refugees beyond its annual resettlement quota.
- **Integration:** UNHCR and **partners** continue to monitor the alignment of entitlements and rights for individuals with different legal status (continuous arrivals and resettled refugees). UNHCR also works with the Council of Europe's Intercultural City Programme as well as Multicultural and Information Centre to support local level integration efforts.
- **Capacity building:** UNHCR continues to work with various stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental to build capacity linked to the asylum procedure as well as the statelessness determination procedure.

Working with Partners

- In addition to working with relevant government agencies on legal matters UNHCR also works with Amnesty International on the future feasibility of community sponsorships, with the Icelandic Red Cross on individual cases. UNHCR continues to have a good working relationship with the UN Association in Iceland which is an important partner in sharing information relevant to the plight of refugees and **stateless** persons.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR works with partners to raise awareness on asylum, family reunification, integration and statelessness issues. UNHCR continued to promote **and** secured the inclusion of refugee voices in the public debate.

Statelessness

- Iceland acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions on 26 January 2021. Besides, Iceland, prior to accession, aligned the national legislative framework with the UN Conventions on Statelessness, through introducing the Act on Foreigners in 2016 and amending the Icelandic Nationality Act in 2018, including establishing a Statelessness Determination Procedure, as well as safeguards for children born stateless in Iceland.

UNHCR in Nordic and Baltic Countries

Staff:

21 National Staff
 10 International Staff

Offices:

1 Regional Office in Stockholm
 1 Liaison Office in Copenhagen
 1 Liaison Office in Vilnius

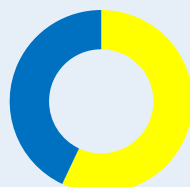
Financial information (28 September 2021)

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 4.9 M

Funding gap
 43%
 2.7 M



Funded
 57%
 2.8 M

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