About us

Since 1950, UNHCR has protected the lives and rights of millions of people and helped them rebuild their futures. UNHCR has a unique mandate to protect and assist refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced, returnees and stateless people. We are working globally to ensure that everybody has the right to seek asylum and get to safety, when they have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence or persecution. We are leading and coordinating the international work in all stages of the lives of our persons of concern – from flight to solution.

- We are providing humanitarian and life-saving assistance.
- We are working to protect refugees and the displaced, including the most vulnerable.
- We are helping the forcibly displaced to rebuild their futures through access to education and livelihoods.
- And we are working to identify and secure lasting solutions such as resettlement, local integration and voluntary returns when it’s possible and safe.

With just under 17,000 staff members, UNHCR is present in 134 countries around the world. The vast majority of our colleagues are working in the field – in areas of crisis and emergency.

Every three seconds, somewhere in the world a person is forced to flee.

Source all data: UNHCR Global Trends 2019
UNHCR Nordic and Baltic Countries

UNHCR’s Representation for the Nordic and Baltic Countries was established in 1985 and is responsible for the agency’s activities in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden.

What we do:
- Support and advise governments and authorities in their implementation of European and international legal instruments related to asylum and statelessness
- Work with governments, partners and stakeholders in ensuring the right to apply for protection and access to fair, efficient and high-quality asylum procedures.
- Share good practices on asylum, children and integration, including through training of professionals
- Raise public and political awareness of the global refugee situation and the human faces behind the record high forced displacement figures as well as advocate for a strong international commitment to provide protection to the people who need it.
- Mobilize financial and other support for the work of UNHCR worldwide

A region of vital and strong donors

UNHCR is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions, principally from governments but also from intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and individuals.

The Nordic countries continue to rank among the strongest supporters and largest financial contributors to UNHCR also when seen as contribution per capita. Large parts of the contributions are provided as unearmarked funding which can be allocated globally where the needs are the most urgent.

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