

Finland

September 2021

Strategic Partner: Finland has made outstanding contributions to international refugee protection over the past decades and UNHCR is Finland’s biggest recipient of multilateral aid.

Strong Engagement in EU Affairs: Finland is actively supporting a common EU asylum system, including through discussions on the Pact for Migration and Asylum and participation in EU Relocation Scheme.

Solid protection system: Finland has a well-established asylum and protection system, long-standing commitment to refugee resettlement and robust integration programmes.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	23,483
Asylum-seekers	6,339
Stateless persons	3,428
Total population of concern	33,250

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Iraq	8,938	Iraq	2,633
Afghanistan	3,331	Afghanistan	928
Syria	2,620	Somalia	637

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

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR 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 are included in the national response, including the national vaccination program, and are provided with social support and other measures to mitigate their unemployment/income loss.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR’s legal partner, the Finnish Refugee Advice centre has modified its legal aid services through a combination of remote and in-person counselling. Other NGO partners continue their outreach to refugee communities through email and contact lists and groups on social media to provide timely information on COVID-19 in different languages.

HIGHLIGHTS

482 asylum applications

were lodged by 31 July 2021, the lowest number in more than a decade.

Community Sponsorship

A feasibility study was published by the authorities in May 2021 exploring opportunities for a Community Sponsorship resettlement pilot. The study is complemented by a comparative Complementary Pathways study due to be finalized in Fall 2021.

1,050 resettlement places

have been pledged for 2021 to meet the protection needs of the most vulnerable refugees around the world, up by 200 places from the previous year.

Statelessness

Finland is a strong supporter of the #IBelong Campaign to eradicate by 2024.

UNHCR NORDIC AND BALTIC COUNTRIES AT THE WORLD VILLAGE FESTIVAL 2021



UNHCR Nordic and Baltic Countries joined the virtual [World Village Festival 2021](#) together with other UN agencies and affiliates in Finland on 29-30 May 2021. This year’s theme for the festival was future, with a focus on the Sustainable Development goals.

Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR promotes fair and efficient asylum procedures and maintains ongoing dialogue with the national asylum authorities to continuously improve the asylum system, including through quality initiatives and other forms of support.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** Finland is assuming a leading role in galvanizing support for the global strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways.

Integration: The integration of refugees into Finnish society is facilitated through comprehensive efforts and an all-of-society approach, including targeted education, inclusive employment policies and tackling segregation.

- **Family reunification:** UNHCR works with the Government and other partners to reduce and remove practical, legal and financial obstacles to family reunification, including the maintenance requirement for beneficiaries of international protection.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR promotes Finland'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 persons of concern to UNHCR.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with line ministries to support legal and policy developments as well as integration-related initiatives including efforts to introduce community sponsorship. UNHCR also engages in advocacy efforts together with civil society organisations on legal issues. UNHCR supports refugee labour market inclusion in a cooperation with the [Finnish Refugee Council](#) and [IKEA Finland](#).
- Additionally, in a cooperation with [Migration Policy Group](#) and [Migration Institute of Finland](#) UNHCR is developing a Practitioners' tool for refugee integration in Europe. UNHCR is in dialogue with stakeholders engaged in integration efforts. UNHCR also works with the Council of Europe's Intercultural City Programme and Ministry of Justice to support local level integration efforts.

Statelessness

- By the end of 2020, 2,973 persons were reported under UNHCR statelessness mandate. Finland has acceded to both Statelessness Conventions and automatically grants nationality to children born who would otherwise be left stateless, regardless of their residence status in Finland.
- UNHCR recommends Finland to consider further developing its Citizenship Status Determination Procedure (CSDP) into a dedicated statelessness determination procedure and to incorporate one definition of statelessness into Finnish law in accordance with Article 1(1) of the 1954 Convention.

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

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2021 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

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