

# Iceland

September 2022

**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.

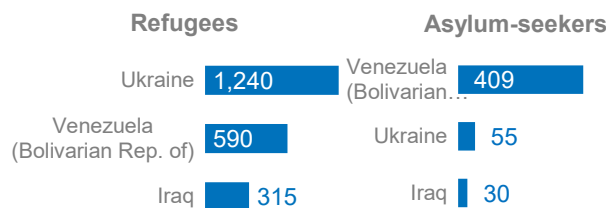
**Protection and Solidarity:** Iceland remains committed to its international obligations and continued its pledge to evacuate 120 individuals from Afghanistan.

**Statelessness:** Upon accession to both Conventions in 2021, Iceland operationalizes its Statelessness Determination Procedure aiming to eradicate statelessness in the country by 2024.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022\*

Refugees	<b>3,290</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>670</b>
Stateless persons	<b>68</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*



\*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

**As of 30 September, 1,640** refugees from Ukraine are currently present in Iceland and registered for temporary protection.

**UNHCR response:** Protection monitoring and assessment, including of implementation of temporary protection framework and dialogue with refugees from Ukraine.

**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.

**Support to the most vulnerable:** Governments and civil society scaled up support to protect children and to prevent gender-based violence.

**Coordination:** UNHCR participates in monitoring and inter-agency assessments of the needs of Ukrainian refugees to help inform the government and organizations on how to address these needs.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### 358 asylum-seekers

other than arrivals from Ukraine were registered in Iceland from January to May 2022. The number of asylum applications continues to be high in comparison to past years.

### Resettlement

Iceland is strongly committed to protecting the most vulnerable, clearly demonstrated through its offering of resettlement places in addition to pledging 120 evacuations from Afghanistan (annual resettlement quota 100).

## REFUGEES IN ICELAND PURSUE EDUCATION WITH HELP FROM STUDENT VOLUNTEERS



The initiative Student Refugees is providing support and guidance to refugees and asylum-seekers in Iceland to overcome barriers in the education system.

## Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR promotes fair and efficient asylum procedures and provides guidance to relevant government agencies and NGOs to strengthen the asylum procedures. UNHCR further provides advice to lawyers offering legal aid and representation to asylum-seekers.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** Iceland is an important actor supporting resettlement globally. Iceland has remained steadfast in its support, also contributing to evacuations from Afghanistan as well as facilitating family reunification.
- **Integration:** Iceland has made significant improvements when it comes to integration policies, including substantive efforts to ensure that refugees arriving spontaneously have the same rights to work and access to integration assistance and services as resettled refugees. Immigrants and refugees benefit from a comprehensive approach to integration, with a focus on secure rights, equal opportunities and protection from discrimination.
- **Capacity building:** UNHCR works with various stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental, to build capacity linked to the asylum procedure as well as the statelessness determination procedure. Training, workshops, quality initiatives and other events are organised on a yearly basis.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with a range of partners in Iceland, including government agencies, civil society and NGOs. UNHCR also has a good working relationship with other relevant stakeholders, including the UN Association in Iceland, e.g. on coordinating public information and messaging on forced displacement and statelessness.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR works with partners to raise awareness on asylum, family reunification, integration including community sponsorship and statelessness issues. UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in the public debate.

## Statelessness

- Iceland acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions on 26 January 2021.
- Iceland has taken several steps towards operationalizing Statelessness Determination Procedures in the country, including through developing and implementing Standard Operating Procedures.

## UNHCR Presence in Nordic and Baltic Countries\*

### Staff:

19 National Staff  
 13 International Staff

### Offices:

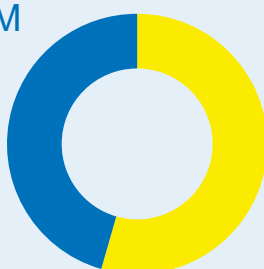
1 Regional Office in Stockholm  
 1 Liaison Office in Vilnius  
 1 Sub Office in Tallinn  
 1 Sub Office in Riga

## Financial information\* (September 2022)

### Financial requirements

USD 11.6 M

Funding gap  
 45%  
 5.3 M



Funded  
 55%  
 6.3 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked and earmarked funding:

**Australia | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America**

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

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