

Iceland

February 2023

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.

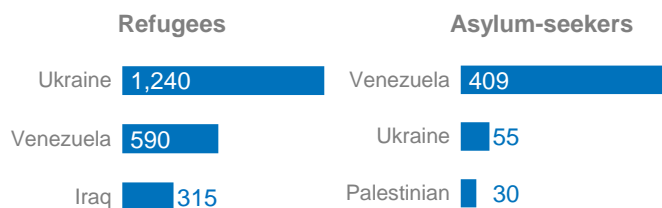
Global engagement: Iceland responded to global situation by more than doubling funding to UNHCR from USD 1.5 million in 2021, to USD 4.2 million in 2022.

Temporary protection: Iceland activated a national temporary protection scheme for refugees from Ukraine, which enabled a pragmatic response to the pace and large numbers of arrivals from Ukraine.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022*

Refugees	3,290
Asylum-seekers	670
Stateless persons	68

Top three countries of origin*



*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of mid-February, **2,239** refugees from Ukraine were registered for temporary protection in Iceland.

UNHCR response:

Capacity building for local integration actors: In cooperation with the Multi-Cultural Information Centre UNHCR provides capacity-building to municipalities receiving refugees. UNHCR recently launched the “Effective Inclusion of Refugees: participatory approaches for practitioners at the local level” tool, which helps to develop and apply participatory techniques at municipal level.

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 organisations scaled up support to protect children and to prevent gender-based violence.

HIGHLIGHTS

Service center

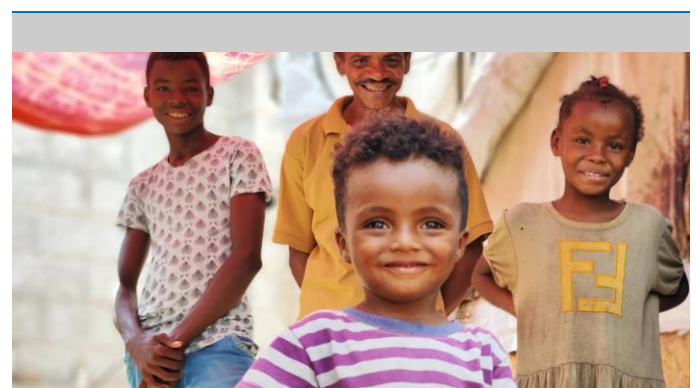
A new service center for asylum-seekers and refugees was opened in Reykjavik in 2022. The centre provides a range of different reception services “under one roof” including registration, provision of information and advice, and medical check-ups.

International protection

In 2022, 3,455 individuals were granted protection in Iceland.

Statelessness

Upon accession to both Conventions in 2021, Iceland has continued to work on operationalizing its Statelessness Determination Procedure with the aim to eradicate statelessness in the country by 2024.



UNHCR PRAISES ICELAND FOR ITS SUPPORT TO ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION OF REFUGEES

Iceland continues to show dedication in providing support and assistance to globally displaced populations. In a statement, UNHCR’s Representative to the Nordic and Baltic Countries, Henrik M. Nordentoft, stated that the country “deserves recognition for responding to the global situation”.

To read the full statement, click [here](#).

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 has remained steadfast in its supporting UNHCR's resettlement (RST) efforts globally. Iceland is also contributing to evacuations from Afghanistan coordinating with UNHCR in facilitating family reunification. UNHCR is advocating for the introduction of community sponsorship and complementary pathway programs to further strengthen Iceland's initiative.
- **Integration:** Iceland has made substantive efforts to ensure that refugees arriving spontaneously have the same rights as resettled refugees to work and access to integration assistance and services.
- **Capacity building:** UNHCR organizes quality initiative activities such as annual workshops, and other events for both governmental and non-governmental actors. These events aim to strengthen capacity regarding asylum procedure as well as the statelessness determination (SDP) procedures.
- **Law and policy:** UNHCR promotes Iceland's compliance with international standards relating to international protection of refugees. UNHCR is engaged with the Government in identifying areas where UNHCR can strengthen government-led responses in the area of international protection, and improving public attitudes towards persons of concern to UNHCR.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with a range of partners in Iceland, including government agencies, municipalities, and NGOs to support integration developments, including efforts to capacitate local integration actors with participatory techniques.

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 Nordic and Baltic Countries

Staff:

19 National Staff
 14 International Staff
 2 Affiliated Work Force

Offices:

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

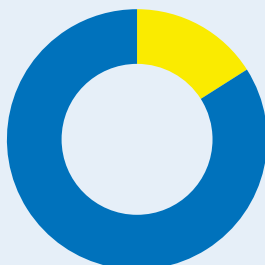
Financial information* (February 2023)

*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 14 M

Funding gap
 88%
 12.4 M



Funded
 12%
 1.6 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.