

# Estonia

September 2022

Since the end of February 2022, Estonia has received many refugees from Ukraine, **amounting to 4 per cent of Estonia's population.**

Estonia is UNHCR's **largest donor in the Baltics** and contributes to finding solutions for the causes of displacement.

Estonia has recently adopted legal amendments, allowing denial of access to the asylum procedure **in situations of mass influx.**

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

Refugees	<b>28,600</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>174</b>
Stateless persons	<b>70,604</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	<b>28,181</b>	Russian Federation	<b>79</b>
Russian Federation	<b>118</b>	Ukraine	<b>69</b>
Syrian Arab Rep.	<b>94</b>	Belarus	<b>6</b>

\*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

**As of 30 September, 58,225** refugees from Ukraine are currently present in Estonia.

**35,971** refugees from Ukraine are registered for temporary protection in Estonia.

**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, social assistance, health care and education are effectively provided by the government to newly arrived refugees from Ukraine.

**Support to the most vulnerable:** UNHCR scaled up its support in protecting children, preventing gender-based violence and communicating with refugee communities.

**Coordination:** UNHCR is a part of inter-agency coordination and participates in the assessment of needs of Ukrainian refugees.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Over 1,000 asylum applications

were registered between January and September. The majority of these applications were lodged by refugees from Ukraine who do not meet the conditions of the temporary protection scheme. Instead, they are granted protection through a prioritized and simplified asylum procedure.

### Emergency preparedness

Estonian authorities have engaged in detailed contingency planning to be ready for potential increase of arrivals as a consequence of conflicts.

### Statelessness

Among the stateless persons in Estonia (referred to by Estonia as persons with undetermined citizenship), there is in recent months an increased interest in applying for Estonian citizenship. UNHCR is advocating for their naturalization.

## UNHCR PARTICIPATED IN THE ESTONIAN OPINION FESTIVAL ARVAMUS IN PAIDE ON 12-13 AUGUST



UNHCR's Associate Legal Officer, Kari Käsper, participated in the discussion "When a migrant becomes a weapon. To repel or not repel?", organized by the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board.

## Key Priorities

- **Advocacy:** UNHCR and Estonian partners advocate for legal and policy developments and implementation in accordance with EU standards and international obligations.
- **Protection Sensitive Entry Systems:** UNHCR promotes the development of an independent border monitoring mechanism, works to ensure that asylum-seekers have access to the territory and asylum, and helps with capacitation of border guards on refugee law and related practice.
- **Reception monitoring:** UNHCR and partners monitor reception conditions at the accommodation centres and in the detention centre and make recommendations for improvements.
- **Detention:** UNHCR promotes alternatives to detention in migration context and encourages to refrain from detention of children.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR helps to improve the quality of asylum procedure with a focus on refugee status determination, access to and quality of state legal aid and the identification of vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** UNHCR advocates for Estonia to re-engage in resettlement and consider introducing complementary pathways for refugees to higher education.
- **Integration:** UNHCR works with government counterparts and partners to support Estonia's comprehensive approach to integration and to further capacitate national and local authorities in providing support for refugees.
- UNHCR also promotes local level integration by encouraging Estonian cities' accession to the Council of Europe Intercultural Cities Programme and labour market inclusion by working with employers engaged with the Estonian Diversity Charter. UNHCR is working with partners to improve regulations and remove practical obstacles related to family reunification.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the [Ministry of the Interior](#), [Ministry of Culture](#), [Ministry of Social Affairs](#) and [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) to support asylum and statelessness legal and policy development, and with [Police and Border Guard Board](#) to ensure the quality of asylum procedures, further reinforced by the partner [Estonian Human Rights Centre](#) with advocacy and legal interventions. With governmental counterparts, NGOs and local authorities, UNHCR helps to foster local integration of refugees in Estonia.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR works with partners to raise awareness on asylum and statelessness issues. During key events, such as the World Refugee Day and the annual Opinion Festival, UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in national public debates.

## Statelessness

- Estonia has not acceded to the Statelessness Conventions and does not have a statelessness determination procedure.
- Estonia has made efforts to enhance the inclusion of stateless persons (referred to by Estonian authorities as "persons with undetermined citizenship"), including by offering citizenship agreements with free language courses.

## UNHCR Presence in Nordic and Baltic Countries\*

### Staff:

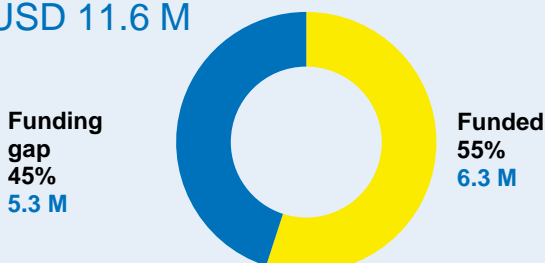
19 National Staff  
 13 International Staff

### 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



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