

Lithuania

February 2023

Refugee protection: Lithuania has received large numbers of refugees from Ukraine in 2022, currently amounting to 2,5 percent of its population.

Support and services: Support and services for refugees from Ukraine are provided in close cooperation and coordination with NGOs.

Belarus border: the State Border Guard Service reported more than 11,000 prevented attempts of asylum-seekers and migrants crossing the border in an irregular manner in 2022.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022*

Refugees	49,535
Asylum-seekers	381
Stateless persons	2,720

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	47,569	Belarus	210
Russian Fed.	698	Russian Fed.	67
Syrian Arab. Rep.	479	Syrian Arab. Rep.	35

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

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of mid-February 2023, **74,611 refugees from Ukraine** were registered for temporary protection in Lithuania.

Protection assistance: UNHCR conducted 14 monitoring visits to monitor reception of refugees from Ukraine, visited 7 groups of evacuated children, and conducted 14 interviews at foster care centres in 2022.

Emergency response: UNHCR works closely with the authorities in Lithuania, in particular with the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, aiming to improve emergency response and reception of refugees from Ukraine.

Support to the most vulnerable: Partner projects have been scaled up to protect and support persons with specific needs. 379 unaccompanied children were provided with psychosocial support, 4,613 refugees participated in community outreach and inclusion activities and 482 have received individual support.

Coordination: UNHCR is part of an inter-agency coordination initiative set up by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. UNHCR leads the coordination of the RRP for the Ukraine situation in Lithuania in support of the government response.

HIGHLIGHTS

Response to refugee situations

Lithuanian authorities, UNHCR, UN partners and NGOs are working together in context of the Ukraine Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for Lithuania for 2023. The RRP was launched together with authorities on 20 February 2022.

UNHCR delivered 2,860 essential items

such as field cots, mattresses, pillows and duvets to assist newly established collective accommodation facilities organized by the authorities for immediate accommodation of refugees from Ukraine.

Establishment of a new reception agency

UNHCR supports the authorities with the establishment of a reception agency in Lithuania and has organized a study visit for relevant state agencies to Sweden to showcase good practices in terms of reception of asylum-seekers.



UNHCR ORGANIZED ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION WITH LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT

In October 2022, UNHCR organized a round-table discussion about refugees with the Human Rights Committee of the Lithuanian Parliament, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on accommodation of refugees

For more on this story, click: [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Protection-sensitive border system:** UNHCR closely monitors the protection situation of refugees and asylum-seekers at borders, at reception and detention facilities, coordinating with relevant stakeholders, and providing technical advice as necessary on all refugee protection matters and adherence to the 1951 Convention.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR and partners advocate for changes to the current legislation and push-back practice on the border and work to ensure that asylum-seekers have access to territory, including in times of emergency.
- **Reception conditions:** UNHCR and partners support the reception of and assistance to vulnerable groups.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR and partners monitor access to asylum procedures and advocate for fair asylum processing and procedural safeguards.
- **Integration:** UNHCR supports Lithuania's comprehensive approach to integration. UNHCR promotes local level integration and labour market inclusion.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR supports the refugee-led organization "Refugee Council" to become a voice for refugees in Lithuania.
- **Reception conditions and detention:** UNHCR advocates for improved reception conditions, alternatives to detention and against the detention of children.
- **Capacity-building:** UNHCR assists with capacity building support for various interlocutors, including border guards, migration authorities and staff of the appeal instance.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support asylum, integration, and statelessness legal and policy development, and with the Migration Department and the State Border Guard Service to ensure access to the territory, asylum procedures and reception conditions. With the Lithuanian Red Cross, Caritas Vilnius, Artscape, the Diversity Development Group, Diversity Charter, the Refugee Council, Order of Malta, Save the Children and international organizations WHO and IOM, UNHCR helps the Government to address emergency-related reception challenges and to foster local integration of refugees.
- UNHCR works with several foreign embassies covering Lithuania, the Office of the Nordic Council of Ministers, EU Asylum Agency and EU representations in Lithuania.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in national public discourse during key events such as World Refugee Day.

Statelessness

- Lithuania acceded to both Statelessness Conventions in 2000 and 2013. Lithuania has made efforts to decrease the number of stateless persons. Lithuania has no statelessness determination procedure at place.

UNHCR Nordic and Baltic Countries

Staff:

19 National Staff
 15 International Staff
 2 Affiliate Work Force

Offices:

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

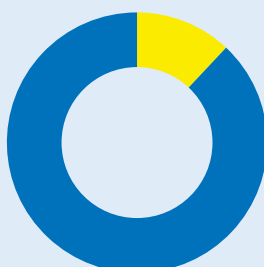
Financial information* (February 2023)

*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

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