

# Lithuania

February 2021

**Refugee Protection:** Lithuania is signatory to refugee and human rights treaties and hosts a refugee community which it is helping to successfully integrate into the society.

**European Solidarity:** Lithuania successfully participates in EU relocation and resettlement efforts, a good practice which hopefully can be developed into a regular Lithuanian resettlement program.

**Global Engagement:** Lithuania is UNHCR's donor and contributes to finding solutions for the causes of displacement.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	<b>1,872</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>275</b>
Stateless people	<b>2,683</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Russian Federation	685	Russian Federation	142
Syria	462	Tajikistan	85
Afghanistan	236	Turkey	10

Data source: UNHCR 2020 Mid-Year Statistical report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#) and the Lithuanian Migration Department statement on the survey of stateless persons in 2020.

## COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

**Advocacy:** UNHCR liaises with authorities and partners to ensure that persons of concern to UNHCR are included in pandemic prevention and response programmes.

**Inclusion:** Refugees in Lithuania are included in the national response and provided with social support and other measures to mitigate their unemployment/income loss. Asylum-seekers and refugees are included in the national vaccination plan.

**Communication with Communities:** UNHCR's partner, Lithuanian Red Cross has modified its legal aid to ensure assistance remotely and provided training and counselling to refugees to facilitate their access to mainstream support mechanisms. Targeted material support was also provided to refugees belonging to COVID-19 risk groups. Other NGO partners also continue their outreach to refugee communities through various networks to provide timely information and counselling on COVID-19.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Solidarity in action

By 2021, in the framework of EU relocation and resettlement, Lithuania has successfully received almost 500 persons in need of international protection.

### Inclusion support by local authorities

Lithuania strengthens the role of municipalities in the integration of refugees, e.g. Jonava became the first Baltic city to join the network of the CoE Intercultural Cities.

### Higher education for refugees

Two Lithuanian Universities have opened their doors for education of refugees providing full scholarship, accommodation and other support.

### Statelessness

As per Action 10 and Pledge 3 at the High-Level Segment, in 2020, Lithuania carried out a campaign to



### UNHCR congratulates Jonava on joining the Council of Europe's network of intercultural cities

UNHCR welcomes Jonava's membership in the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities Programme. Jonava became not only the first city in Lithuania, but also the first city in the Baltic States to join this network.

## Key Priorities

- **Advocacy:** UNHCR with Lithuanian partners advocate for EU legal and policy developments, and implementation of EU standards in accordance with international obligations.
- **Protection Sensitive Entry Systems:** UNHCR supports 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.
- **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 is advocating for Lithuania to establish a regular resettlement programme and consider complementary pathways in higher education.
- **Integration:** UNHCR is working with government counterparts and partners to support Lithuania's comprehensive approach to integration and to further capacitate national and local authorities in providing support for refugees. UNHCR also promotes local level integration and labour market inclusion. UNHCR is also working with partners to improve regulations and remove practical obstacles related to family reunification.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR is working 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 and asylum procedures, and reception

conditions, further reinforced by the partner Lithuanian Red Cross with advocacy and legal interventions. With governmental counterparts such as the Refugee Reception Centre, NGOs like Caritas Vilnius, Diversity Development Group, Artscape and local authorities, UNHCR helps to foster local integration of refugees in Lithuania.

- **External Engagement:** UNHCR is mostly working with partners to raise awareness on asylum and statelessness issues. During key events, such as the World Refugee Day, the UN Day and opinion festivals, UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in national public debates.

## Statelessness

- Lithuania is a party to the Statelessness Conventions and UNHCR promotes the establishment of a statelessness determination procedure.
- Stateless persons in Lithuania predominantly have long-term (permanent) residence permits and enjoy access to a wide range of rights.
- Lithuania has made significant efforts to further decrease the number of stateless persons. UNHCR supports Lithuania's efforts to implement pledges made at the High-Level Segment (HLS), notably in prevention of statelessness at birth and facilitation of naturalization.
- Lithuania amended the Law on Citizenship related to situation of stateless children born on the territory of Lithuania and carried out an analysis in every single statelessness case.
- UNHCR legal partner, Lithuanian Red Cross provides counselling and advice to stateless persons on procedures for acquiring Lithuanian citizenship.

## UNHCR in Nordic and Baltic Countries

### Staff:

14 National Staff  
 10 International Staff

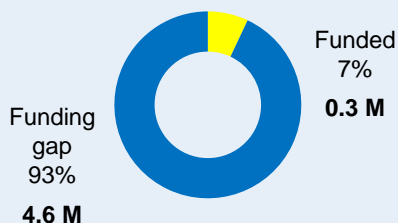
### Offices:

1 Office in Stockholm  
 1 Liaison Office in Copenhagen  
 1 Liaison Office in Vilnius

## Financial information\* 28 February 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**



UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions\* to the 2021 global programmes (USD, as of 28 February):

Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

\*Unearmarked contributions allow UNHCR for critical flexibility in how best to reach populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Above are donors of USD 10 million or more