

Finland

September 2022

Strategic Partner: Finland has made outstanding contributions to international refugee protection over the past decades. UNHCR is Finland’s biggest recipient of multilateral aid.

Strong Engagement in EU Affairs: Finland supports a common EU asylum system, including through discussions on the Pact for Migration and Asylum and participation in EU Relocation Scheme

Solid protection system: Finland has a well-established asylum and protection system, long-standing commitment to refugee resettlement and robust integration programmes.

POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022*

Refugees	53,327
Asylum-seekers	5,405
Stateless persons	3,546

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	29,172	Iraq	1,508
Iraq	9,175	Ukraine	715
Afghanistan	3,755	Russian Federation	613

*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 30 September, 38,588 refugees from Ukraine are currently present in Finland.

40,339 refugees from Ukraine are registered for temporary protection in Finland

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

2,848 new asylum applications

were lodged in the first half of 2022. The number of new asylum applications has significantly increased compared to the same period in 2021.

EU relocation exercise in 2020–2021

175 vulnerable asylum-seekers, including 126 unaccompanied children, were relocated from Mediterranean countries to Finland.

Resettlement

1,500 resettlement places have been pledged by Finland for 2022 to meet the protection needs of the most vulnerable refugees around the world. Finland has increased its quota by 450 places from the previous year due to the situation in Afghanistan.

UNHCR LAUNCHED EXHIBITION OF REFUGEE CHILDREN’S DRAWINGS IN HELSINKI



What does family mean to you? UNHCR asked refugee children in countries such as Libya, Mozambique, Bangladesh and Ethiopia to draw their answers. The results were shown during the Helsinki Day celebrations and through the digital exhibition is available [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR promotes fair and efficient asylum procedures and maintains ongoing dialogue with the national asylum authorities to continuously improve the asylum system, including through quality initiatives and other forms of support.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** Finland assumes a leading role in galvanizing support for the global strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways. Government commissioned feasibility and mapping reports on community sponsorship and complementary pathways were published in 2021 and pilot programs are being developed.
- **Integration:** The integration of refugees into Finnish society is facilitated through comprehensive efforts and an all-of-society approach, including targeted education, inclusive employment policies and tackling segregation. Finland is undergoing a comprehensive review of its integration framework.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR promotes Finland's compliance with international and European standards relating to international protection of refugees. UNHCR seeks to support the Government to develop and strengthen national laws and policies in the area of international protection and improve public attitudes towards persons of concern to UNHCR.
- **Family Reunification:** UNHCR works with the Government and other partners to reduce and remove practical, legal and financial obstacles to family reunification. Finland is reviewing its family reunification legislation which UNHCR has provided comments to.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the [Ministry of Interior](#) to support legal and policy developments and with [Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment](#) to support integration developments including efforts to introduce community sponsorship. UNHCR supports refugee labour market inclusion in cooperation with the [Finnish Refugee Council](#) and [IKEA Finland](#). In cooperation with [Migration Policy Group](#) and [Migration Institute of Finland](#) UNHCR is developing a tool for refugee integration in Europe. UNHCR works with the Council of Europe's Intercultural City Programme and Ministry of Justice to support local level integration efforts.

Statelessness

- Finland acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and to the 1967 Protocol on 10 October 1968. UNHCR recommends Finland to consider further developing its Citizenship Status Determination Procedure into a dedicated statelessness determination procedure.
- Finland automatically grants nationality to children born in Finland who would otherwise be left stateless, regardless of their residence status in Finland. Finland is currently reviewing its Nationality Act whereby it will incorporate one definition of statelessness into Finnish law.

UNHCR Presence in Nordic and Baltic Countries*

Staff:

19 National Staff
 13 International Staff

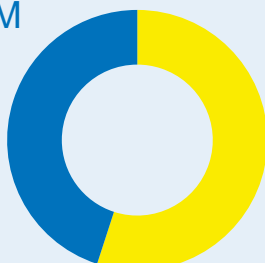
Offices:

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:

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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