

Sweden

February 2022

Strategic partner: Sweden has made outstanding contributions to international refugee protection over the past decades and is the largest multi-year donor of flexible funding to UNHCR.

EU affairs: Sweden is strongly engaged in current European discussions on the draft Pact for Migration and Asylum, working towards a consensus to uphold international refugee protection.

Solid national system: Sweden has a well-established asylum system, long-standing commitment to refugee resettlement and comprehensive integration programmes.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	244,942
Asylum-seekers	14,472
Stateless persons	50,098
Total population of concern	309,512

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Republic	114,995	Afghanistan	1,241
Afghanistan	28,744	Syrian Arab Republic	1,205
Eritrea	26,911	Iran	1,131

*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR regularly monitors developments and is in contact with authorities and partners where needed to ensure that persons of concern are included and mainstreamed in pandemic prevention and response programmes.

Inclusion: Refugees in Sweden are included in the national response and provided with social support and other measures to mitigate their unemployment/income loss.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR's legal partner, the Swedish Refugee Law Centre has modified its legal aid services to ensure the continuation of assistance remotely. Other NGO partners also continue outreach to refugee communities through email, contact lists and groups on social media to provide timely information on COVID-19 in different languages.

HIGHLIGHTS

4 months

The forecasted average processing time for an asylum application at first instance in Sweden in 2022.

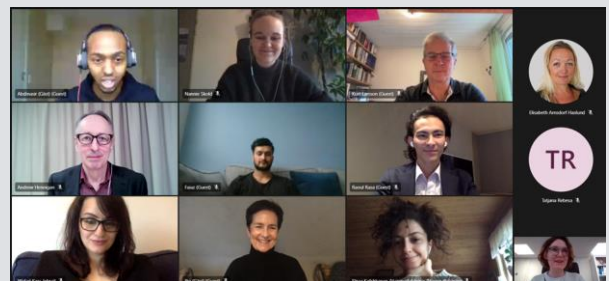
6,409 refugees

were resettled to Sweden in 2021. Sweden offers a yearly quota of 5,000 resettlement places.

40,000 formerly stateless persons

acquired Swedish nationality from the start of the #IBelong Campaign in 2014 to 2021.

UNHCR AND TEDxSTOCKHOLM LAUNCH REFUGEE SPEAKERS PROGRAMME



UNHCR and TEDxStockholm launched the Refugee Speakers Programme to help amplify refugee voices and give nuance to the narrative of persons with refugee background.

Read more [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Advocacy:** UNHCR promotes Sweden'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.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR promotes fair and efficient asylum procedures and supports the national asylum authorities to continuously improve the asylum system, through quality initiatives and other forms of capacity-building.
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** Sweden has assumed a leading role in galvanizing support for the global strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways. UNHCR continues to support these efforts.
- **Integration:** The integration of refugees into Swedish society is facilitated through comprehensive efforts and an all-of-society approach, including targeted education, inclusive employment policies and tackling segregation. UNHCR recommends Sweden to grant all beneficiaries of international protection a secure and stable status to facilitate integration.
- **Family reunification:** UNHCR works with the Government and other partners to reduce and remove practical, legal and financial obstacles to family reunification, including to refrain from imposing a maintenance requirement for reunification of beneficiaries of international protection.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish Migration Agency, County Administrative Boards, and the Swedish Association for Municipalities and Regions to support legal and policy development. With research institutions and civil society actors, UNHCR helps foster successful local integration of refugees in Sweden including the promotion of community sponsorship.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR works with partners to raise awareness on asylum and statelessness issues. During key events, such as the World Refugee Day and Opinion Festivals, UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in the public debate.

Statelessness

- Sweden has acceded to both Conventions.
- The Government appointed an Inquiry on Nationality in October 2019 and continued in 2020 and 2021 looking to further align domestic legislation with Sweden's obligations under the UN Conventions on statelessness.

UNHCR in Nordic and Baltic Countries

Staff:

21 National Staff
 11 International Staff

Offices:

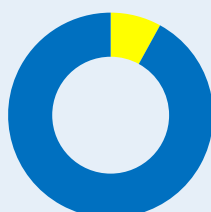
1 Regional Office in Stockholm
 1 Liaison Office in Vilnius
 1 Liaison Unit in Copenhagen
 1 Liaison person in Riga

Financial information (22 February 2022)

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 5.6 M

Funding gap
92%
5.2 M



Funded
8%
0.4 M

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland

Unearmarked contributions provide UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest need or at the greatest risk.