

Estonia

February 2023

Refugee protection: Estonia offers protection and assistance to large numbers of refugees from Ukraine, corresponding to more than 4% of Estonia's total population.

Support for refugees: Estonia is UNHCR's largest donor in the Baltics and contributes to finding solutions for the causes of displacement. In 2022, they increased contributions to USD 700,000.

Asylum legislation: Estonia has adopted amendments to the State Border Act, permitting denial of access to the asylum procedure in situations of mass influx.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022*

Refugees **28,600**
Asylum-seekers **174**
Stateless persons **70,604**

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	28,181	Russian Fed	79
Russian Fed	118	Ukraine	69
Syrian Arab. Rep.	94	Belarus	6

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

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As per latest data as of mid-February, 43,057 refugees from Ukraine were registered for temporary protection in Estonia.

UNHCR response: UNHCR has scaled up its support to partners to support the efforts of the national authorities in addressing the needs of refugees from Ukraine, with a focus on the most vulnerable.

Protection: Protection monitoring and assessment, including of implementation of temporary protection framework and outreach activities through events with refugees from Ukraine.

Coordination: UNHCR leads the coordination of the Regional Refugee Response Plan for Ukraine situation in Estonia to support the government response in 2023.

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, with civil society filling gaps with UNHCR support.

Support to the most vulnerable: UNHCR scaled up its support to complement the government efforts in protecting children, preventing gender-based violence and helping older refugees and people with disabilities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Coordinated Response to Refugees

UNHCR supports the government-led response to the Ukraine situation in Estonia by coordinating the implementation of the 2023 Refugee Response plan (RRP) through 14 partners in Estonia.

Community Outreach

3,300 refugees from Ukraine participated in 122 outreach events organized by NGO partner Estonian Human Rights Centre in 2022.

Increased asylum applications

In 2022, almost 3,000 asylum applications were registered in Estonia, compared to less than a hundred the year before. The majority of these applications were lodged by refugees from Ukraine who do not meet the conditions of the temporary protection scheme. procedure.



UNHCR PARTNER PROVIDES LEGAL AND SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE

The Estonian Human Rights Centre (EHRC), a UNHCR partner organization, provides legal and social support for refugees from Ukraine hosted in Estonia and arranges social events for the refugees from Ukraine to meet Estonians community members.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory and asylum:** UNHCR supports national authorities through capacitation of border guards on refugee law and related practice while promoting the development of an independent border monitoring mechanism.
- **Reception conditions:** UNHCR conducts visits to reception, accommodation and detention centres and provides feedback to authorities on how to improve facility conditions.
- **Detention:** UNHCR promotes alternatives to detention within the context of migration and encourages authorities to refrain from detaining children.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR helps to improve the quality of the 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, such as education pathways.
- **Integration:** UNHCR supports Estonia's approach while promoting local level integration by fostering Nordic-Baltic cooperation with integration actors, and labour market inclusion by working with employers engaged with the Estonian Diversity Charter. UNHCR is also working with partners to improve regulations and remove practical obstacles related to family reunification.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Ministries of [the Interior](#), of [Culture](#), of [Social Affairs](#) and 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, as well as [Social Insurance Board](#) to support reception of refugees. In addition, UNHCR works with other governmental actors and municipalities, as well as [Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Estonia](#) to foster Nordic-Baltic cooperation of integration actors.
- UNHCR is partnered with the partners [Estonian Human Rights Centre](#) for legal interventions, the [Estonian Refugee Council](#) for community-based protection and outreach activities, and partner NGO [Mondo](#) on local integration and awareness raising.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR works with partners to raise awareness on asylum and statelessness issues., UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices during key events such as World Refugee Day and the annual Opinion Festival

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 by offering citizenship agreements with free language courses.

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

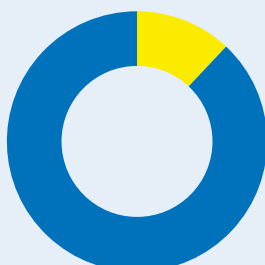
Financial information* (February 2023)

*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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As well as for the generous contributions from private individuals and the private sector.