

Finland

February 2021

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

Strong engagement in EU affairs: Finland is actively working towards EU solidarity including through discussions on the Pact for Migration and Asylum and EU Relocation Scheme.

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

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	23,626
Asylum-seekers	6,878
Stateless people	2,801

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Iraq	8,965	Iraq	2,969
Afghanistan	3,310	Afghanistan	981
Somalia	2,752	Russia	647

Data source: UNHCR 2020 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 of persons of concern: Refugees in Finland 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 Finnish Refugee Advice centre has modified its legal aid services through a combination of remote and in-person counselling to ensure assistance. Other NGO partners also continue their outreach to refugee communities through email and contact lists and groups on social media to provide timely information on COVID-19 in different languages.

HIGHLIGHTS

1,275

asylum applications were lodged in 2020, the lowest number in more than a decade.

Community Sponsorship

A feasibility study by the authorities is exploring opportunities for a sponsored resettlement pilot and is complemented by a newly launched comparative [Complementary Pathways](#) study.

1,050

resettlement places have been pledged for 2021 to meet the protection needs of the most vulnerable refugees around the world, 200 places more than 2020.

Statelessness

Finland strongly supports the #IBelong Campaign and has pledged to continue efforts for the general prevention of statelessness.



Abducted mum finally finds safety in Finland, but yearns to see children again

“I can’t remember when life was last as good as this,” says Nakout. Read her full story [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 is assuming a leading role in galvanizing support for the global strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways.
- **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.
- **Family reunification:** UNHCR works with the Government and other partners to reduce and remove practical, legal and financial obstacles to family reunification, including the maintenance requirement for beneficiaries of international protection.
- **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.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the [Ministry of Interior](#), [Ministry of Justice](#) and the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) to support legal and policy developments and with [Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment](#) to support integration developments including efforts to introduce the concept of community sponsorship. UNHCR also engages in advocacy efforts together with civil society organisations on legal issues. UNHCR supports refugee labour market inclusion in a cooperation with the [Finnish Refugee Council](#) and [IKEA Finland](#). Additionally, in a cooperation with

[Migration Policy Group](#) and [Migration Institute of Finland](#) UNHCR is developing Practitioners' tool for refugee integration in Europe. UNHCR also maintains dialogue with key stakeholders engaged in efforts to ensuring the integration of persons of concern in Finland.

- **External Engagement:** UNHCR works with partners to raise awareness on asylum and statelessness issues. During key events, such as the World Refugee Day, UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in the public debate.

Statelessness

- By the end of 2019, there were 2,801 persons reported in Finland under UNHCR statelessness mandate. Finland has acceded to both Statelessness Conventions. Finland automatically grants nationality to children born in Finland who would otherwise be left stateless, regardless of their residence status in Finland.
- UNHCR recommends Finland to consider further developing its Citizenship Status Determination Procedure (CSDP) into a dedicated statelessness determination procedure and to incorporate one definition of statelessness into Finnish law in accordance with Article 1(1) of the 1954 Convention.

UNHCR in Nordic and Baltic Countries

Staff:

14 National Staff
 10 International Staff

Offices:

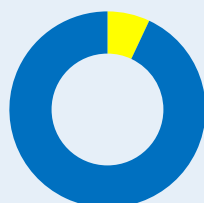
1 Regional Office in Stockholm
 1 Liaison Office in Copenhagen
 1 Liaison Office in Vilnius

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

Funding gap
 93%
4.6 M



Funded
 7%
0.3 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