

Lithuania

September 2021

capacity to the limits. Lithuania called for Lithuania EU and UNHCR support.

Refugee protection: unprecedented Restrictive legislative changes: In reaction increase of the arrivals on the border with to the sudden increase of arrivals related to Belarus stretched the national protection the situation on the border with Belarus, adopted restrictive legislative amendments, which are currently being reconsidered.

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

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

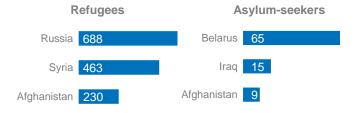
Refugees 1,915

Asylum-seekers 122

Stateless persons 2,720

Total population of concern 4,757

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*



Data source: UNHCR 2020 Annual 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: Asylum-seekers and refugees are included in the national vaccination programmes. POC's seem however to be reluctance to make use of this opportunity.

Communication with Communities: At reception and detention centres, information is distributed in different languages and remote counselling is provided.

Health: UNHCR and WHO have jointly intervened with procuring protective equipment for two reception centres.

HIGHLIGHTS

Reception in focus

Lithuania has improved reception conditions for asylumseekers at the Pabrade Foreigners' Registration Centre; however, sudden increase in arrivals during the summer challenged the entire reception system.

Family reunification

In 2021, Lithuania completed the reunification of families of Eritrean refugees relocated to Lithuania within the EU resettlement solidarity.

Higher education for refugees

Universities in Vilnius and Klaipeda are providing full scholarships, accommodation, and other support for refugees.

Statelessness

In January 2021 amendments to the Citizenship Law entered into force, extending grounds for automatic acquisition of nationality by stateless children and eliminating several preconditions for access to nationality through an application procedure.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF YALDA AND HAMEED **IN LITHUANIA**



Meet Yalda and Hameed, students and Afghan refugees now living in Lithuania, as they guide us through a day at LCC University in this video.



LITHUANIA FACT SHEET

Key Priorities

- Protection (monitoring): UNHCR and partners are monitoring the border situation, reception conditions, and asylum procedures, coordinating with relevant stakeholders, and providing technical advice as necessary on all refugee protection matters and adherence to the 1951 Convention.
- Access to territory: UNHCR is advocating for changes to the current legislation and works to ensure that asylum-seekers have access to territory.
- Asylum procedures: UNHCR is advocating for fair and fast asylum processing and safeguards.
- Solutions: 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 is promoting local level integration and labour market inclusion. UNHCR is also working with partners to improve regulations and remove practical obstacles related to family reunification.
- Resettlement and Complementary Pathways: UNHCR is advocating for Lithuania to establish a regular resettlement programme and consider increasing complementary pathways in higher education.
- Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance: UNHCR is supporting refugee-led organisation Refugee Council to become a voice for refugees in Lithuania.
- Capacity building: UNHCR is assisting in providing capacity building support for newly recruited asylum decision-makers and staff of the appeal instance.

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. With governmental counterparts and NGOs, UNHCR helps to foster local integration.
- External Engagement: UNHCR is working with partners to raise awareness on asylum and statelessness issues. UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in public debates.

Statelessness

- Lithuania is a party to the Statelessness Conventions and UNHCR promotes the establishment of a statelessness determination procedure.
- Stateless persons have for the most par 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 and has implemented 2 out of 3 pledges at High Level Segment.
- 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:

Offices:

21 National Staff

1 Regional Office in Stockholm

10 International Staff

1 Liaison Office in Copenhagen

1 Liaison Office in Vilnius

Financial information (28 September 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 43% Funded 57% 2.8 M

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