

# Finland

February 2023

**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.

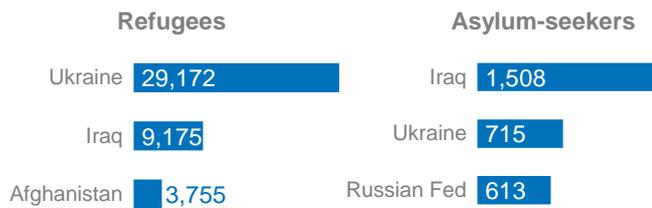
**Strong Engagement in EU Affairs:** Finland actively supports the common EU asylum system, including through discussions on the Pact for Migration and Asylum and participation in the EU Relocation Scheme.

**The EU Temporary Protection Directive** was activated in Finland for refugees from Ukraine, which enabled a pragmatic response to the pace and large numbers of arrivals from Ukraine.

## UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022\*

Refugees	<b>53,327</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>5,405</b>
Stateless persons	<b>3,546</b>

### Top three countries of origin\*



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

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As per latest data as of mid-February, **49,726 refugees from Ukraine** were registered for temporary protection in Finland.

**UNHCR response:** While UNHCR assesses the implementation of the temporary protection framework in Finland, it has further conducted focus group discussions with refugees from Ukraine in partnership with the Finnish Refugee Council (FRC). The preliminary findings were presented during a seminar in December 2022, and the final report will be available in the course of 2023.

**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:** Government and civil society scaled up support to protect children and to prevent gender-based violence.

**Engagement with partners and authorities:** UNHCR regularly engages in information exchange with civil society partners and authorities on the situation of refugees from Ukraine.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Relocation from the Mediterranean region

On 15 December 2022, the Finnish Government decided to receive up to 175 asylum-seekers, giving priority to vulnerable individuals, such as unaccompanied children, single-parent families, persons with medical conditions and persons with disabilities.

### Pilot project on community sponsorship

A multi-year project to build a community sponsorship model in Finland started on 1 January 2023. Community sponsorship activities will be tested in 15 municipalities that receive resettled refugees. With the help of sponsors and other actors, refugees are expected to gain more diverse social contacts.

### Resettlement quota of 1,050 for 2023

The Finnish Parliament has decided that Finland will receive 1,050 refugees through resettlement in 2023. UNHCR supports and advises government partners in resettlement and other humanitarian admission initiatives.



### UNHCR AND PARTNERS ORGANIZED FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE IN FINLAND

In order to ensure that the voices of refugees from Ukraine are heard, UNHCR jointly with the Finnish Refugee Council, the Danish Refugee Council and Svenska med baby conducted focus group discussions in Finland, Denmark, and Sweden to uncover refugee perspectives on reception, their current situation, and future perspectives. The findings will be presented in a report scheduled to be released in early 2023. For more information about this project, click [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 such as, most recently, on child asylum claims.
- **Law and policy:** 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 the people UNHCR serves.
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** Finland assumes a leading role in galvanizing support for the global strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways. The government commissioned feasibility and mapping studies on community sponsorship and complementary pathways in 2021. Community sponsorship pilot programmes are to start in January 2023 to develop labour pathways.
- **Family Reunification:** UNHCR works with the government and other partners to reduce and remove practical, legal and financial obstacles to family reunification. Finland has been reviewing its family reunification legislation and UNHCR appreciates the recent removal of the requirement for sponsors below 18 years to support the family member.
- **Integration:** The integration of refugees into the Finnish society is facilitated through comprehensive efforts and a whole-of-society approach, including targeted education, inclusive employment policies, tackling segregation and fostering refugee

participation. Recently Finland undertook a comprehensive review of its integration framework.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Ministry of Interior to support legal and policy developments and with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment to support integration developments, including efforts to introduce community sponsorship and capacitate local integration actors with participatory techniques. UNHCR works with NGOs and municipalities to facilitate Nordic-Baltic cooperation among integration actors.

## Statelessness

- UNHCR recommends for 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.
- A definition of a stateless person has been incorporated into the Finnish Nationality Law, however UNHCR advocates to fully align this definition with international conventions.

## 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

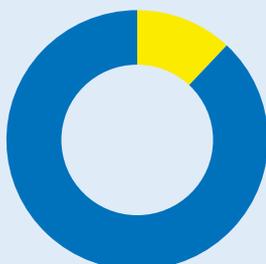
## Financial information\* (February 2023)

\*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.**