

# Sweden

September 2021

**Strategic partner:** Sweden has made outstanding contributions to international refugee protection over the past decades and was the biggest multi-year donor of flexible funding to UNHCR in 2020.

**EU affairs:** Sweden is strongly engaged in current European discussions on the draft Pact for Migration and Asylum, working towards a consensus that upholds 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	<b>248,425</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>18,621</b>
Stateless people	<b>50,414</b>
Total population of concern	<b>317,460</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	<b>114,609</b>	Iran	<b>1,757</b>
Afghanistan	<b>29,927</b>	Syria	<b>1,544</b>
Eritrea	<b>27,421</b>	Iraq	<b>1,430</b>

Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

## COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

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

**Inclusion:** Refugees 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 assistance remotely. Other NGO partners also continue their outreach to refugee communities through email and social media to provide timely information on COVID-19 in different languages.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Migration Policy

The revised Aliens Act entered into force in July 2021, enshrining the previous Temporary Law which was a result of the high number of arrivals in 2015. Thus, refugees and holders of subsidiary protection will be granted temporary residence permits and a maintenance requirement will be applied to family reunification.

### 5,000 annual resettlement places

have been offered by Sweden since 2018 to meet the protection needs of the most vulnerable refugees around the world. In 2021 the number of emergency places within the quota was increased due to the situation in Afghanistan.

### Statelessness

From the start of the UNHCR #IBelong Campaign in 2014 up through 2020, 37,400 formerly stateless people acquired nationality in Sweden.

### RESETTLEMENT TO SWEDEN PROVIDES LIFELINE FOR SYRIAN FAMILY



After fleeing conflict and struggling to get by in Lebanon, move to Sweden offers family of five the chance to resume their careers and education.

## 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 in developing and strengthening national laws and policies on international protection, and seeks to 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.
- **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 on reducing and removing 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, Swedish Association for Municipalities and Regions to support legal and policy development. With research institutions, local authorities 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 WRD and Opinion Festivals, UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in the public debate.

## Statelessness

- Sweden has acceded to both Conventions.
- Following up on two 2019 HLS pledges, Sweden withdrew two reservations to the 1954 Convention and has appointed an Inquiry on Nationality in October 2019 that is looking to further align domestic legislation with obligations under the UN Conventions on Statelessness.
- UNHCR recommends Sweden to introduce a definition of a stateless person in Swedish law, establish a statelessness determination procedure and ensure that children born stateless in Sweden will acquire citizenship automatically, or as soon as possible after birth.

## UNHCR in Nordic and Baltic Countries

### Staff:

21 National Staff  
10 International Staff

### Offices:

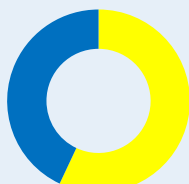
1 Regional Office in Stockholm  
1 Liaison Office in Copenhagen  
1 Liaison Office in Vilnius

## 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%**  
**2.7 M**



**Funded**  
**57%**  
**2.8 M**

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