

Estonia

February 2022

Refugee protection: Estonia is signatory to refugee and human rights treaties and hosts a small refugee community, which it is helping to successfully integrate into the society.

Support for refugees: Estonia is UNHCR's largest donor in the Baltics and actively contributes to addressing the causes of displacement.

Solidarity: Estonia has participated in EU relocation and resettlement efforts. UNHCR advocates the establishment of a regular Estonian resettlement programme.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	288
Asylum-seekers	15
Stateless persons	71,873
Total population of concern	72,176

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Republic	102	Armenia	5
Russian Federation	45	Belarus	5
Ukraine	27	Iraq	5

*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: Persons of concern to UNHCR are included and mainstreamed in pandemic prevention and response programmes.

Inclusion: Refugees in Estonia are included in [the national response](#) and provided with social support and other measures to mitigate their pandemic-related unemployment/income loss.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR's NGO partners continue their outreach to refugee communities through various contact lists and groups on social media to provide timely information on COVID-19 in different languages.

HIGHLIGHTS

56 per cent

of stateless persons in Estonia, referred to by Estonia as persons with undetermined citizenship, wish to acquire Estonian citizenship, according to regular integration monitoring research.

Digital Exchange

As a part of Global Refugee Forum pledge, Estonia seconded a digital identity expert to UNHCR's Global Data Service. Estonian governmental and private sector experts have also conducted workshops on [e-Estonia](#) for UNHCR.

UNHCR STRENGTHENS EFFORTS ON DIGITAL IDENTITY FOR REFUGEES WITH ESTONIAN SUPPORT



Estonia has seconded an expert on digital identity to support UNHCR's work in digital transformation.

Read more [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Advocacy:** UNHCR and Estonian partners advocate for EU legal and policy developments, and implementation of EU standards in accordance with international obligations.
- **Protection-sensitive entry systems:** UNHCR promotes the development of an independent border monitoring mechanism, works to ensure that asylum-seekers have access to the territory and asylum, and helps build capacity of border guards on refugee law and related practice.
- **Reception monitoring:** UNHCR and partners monitor reception conditions at the accommodation centres and in the detention centre and make recommendations for improvements.
- **Detention:** UNHCR promotes alternatives to detention in the migration context and strongly advocates against the detention of children.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR is helping to improve the quality of asylum procedures 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 is advocating for Estonia to re-engage in resettlement and consider introducing complementary pathways for refugees to higher education.
- **Integration:** UNHCR is working with government counterparts and partners to support Estonia's comprehensive approach to integration and to further capacitate national and local authorities in providing support for refugees. UNHCR also promotes local-level integration by encouraging Estonian cities' accession to the Council of Europe Intercultural Cities Programme 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 is working with [Ministry of the Interior](#), [Ministry of Culture](#), [Ministry of Social Affairs](#) and [Ministry 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, further reinforced by UNHCR partner [Estonian Human Rights Centre](#) with advocacy and legal interventions. With governmental counterparts, NGOs and local authorities, UNHCR helps to foster local integration of refugees in Estonia.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR is working with partners to raise awareness on asylum and statelessness issues. During key events, such as the World Refugee Day and the annual Opinion Festival, UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in national public debates.

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 (referred to by Estonian authorities as "persons with undetermined citizenship"), including offering citizenship agreements with free language courses.

UNHCR in Nordic and Baltic Countries

Staff:

21 National Staff
 11 International Staff

Offices:

1 Regional Office in Stockholm
 1 Liaison Office in Vilnius
 1 Liaison Unit in Copenhagen
 1 Liaison person in Riga

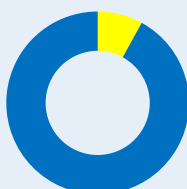
Financial information (22 February 2022)

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 5.6 M

Funding gap
 92%
 5.2 M



Funded
 8%
 0.4 M

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

[Sweden](#) | [Norway](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Denmark](#) | [Germany](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [Belgium](#) | [Ireland](#)

Unearmarked contributions provide UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest need or at the greatest risk.