

Finland

February 2022

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 supports a common EU asylum system, including through discussions on the Pact for Migration and Asylum and participation in EU Relocation Scheme.

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

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Refugees | 23,746 |
| Asylum-seekers | 5,308 |
| Stateless persons | 3,416 |
| Total population of concern | 32,470 |

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

| Refugees | | Asylum-seekers | |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Iraq | 9,053 | Iraq | 2,208 |
| Afghanistan | 3,476 | Afghanistan | 749 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 2,633 | Somalia | 553 |

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

HIGHLIGHTS

1,383

new asylum applications were lodged in 2021. The number of asylum applications remained exceptionally low due to the pandemic.

Relocations

Finland participated in the relocation exercise in 2020-2021, through which 175 vulnerable asylum-seekers, including 126 unaccompanied children, were relocated from Mediterranean countries to Finland

1,500

resettlement places have been pledged by Finland for 2022 to meet the protection needs of the most vulnerable refugees around the world. Finland has increased its quota by 450 places from the previous year due to the situation in Afghanistan.

Statelessness

Finland is a strong supporter of the #IBelong Campaign to eradicate statelessness by 2024.

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR regularly monitors developments and is in contact with authorities and partners to ensure that persons of concern to UNHCR are included in COVID-19 prevention and response programs.

Inclusion: Persons of concern are included in the national COVID-19 prevention and response programme, including the national vaccination programme.

Communication with Communities: Information on national COVID-19 prevention and response programmes is available [online](#) in multiple languages.

UNHCR AND PARTNER CALL ON FINLAND TO STRENGTHEN HUMAN RIGHTS IN FAMILY REUNIFICATION



Finnish Government's draft proposal to facilitate family reunification to be a timely and vital improvement, and [appeal](#) to the Finnish Parliament to adopt the proposal.

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 has assumed a leading role in galvanizing support for the global strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways. Government-commissioned feasibility and mapping reports on community sponsorship and complementary pathways were published in 2021.
- **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. Finland is undergoing a comprehensive review of its integration framework.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR promotes Finland's compliance with international and European standards relating to international protection of refugees. UNHCR aims to support the Government to develop and strengthen national laws and policies in the area of international protection and improve public attitudes toward persons of concern to UNHCR.
- **Family reunification:** UNHCR works with the Government and other partners to reduce and remove practical, legal and financial obstacles to family reunification. Finland is reviewing its family reunification legislation, on which UNHCR has provided comments.

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. UNHCR supports refugee labour market inclusion in cooperation with the Finnish Refugee Council and IKEA Finland. In cooperation with Migration Policy Group and Migration Institute of Finland, UNHCR is developing a tool for refugee integration in Europe. UNHCR works with the Council of Europe's Intercultural City Programme and the Ministry of Justice to support local-level integration efforts.

Statelessness

- Finland acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and to the 1967 Protocol on 10 October 1968. UNHCR recommends 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. Finland is currently reviewing its Nationality Act whereby it will incorporate one definition of statelessness into Finnish law.

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

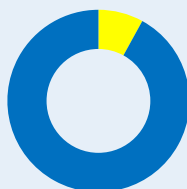
Financial information (22 February 2022)

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.