

Norway

September 2021

Protection provider: Norway has a strong national asylum system and has also made outstanding contributions to international refugee protection globally over the past decades.

Solidarity: Norway's long-standing resettlement programme and relocation scheme have provided a durable solution for 3000 vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees on a yearly basis.

Funding: As one the largest donors to UNHCR and to meet growing needs, Norway is relied upon to increase its generous unearmarked and flexible humanitarian aid.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (END 2020)*

Refugees	49,713
Asylum-seekers	1,104
Stateless people	4,206
Total population of concern	55,023

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

	Refugees	Asylum-seekers
Syria	15,311	340
Eritrea	12,520	130
Somalia	5,263	92

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

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

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

Inclusion: Refugees in Norway are included in the national response programmes and provided with social support to mitigate their unemployment/income loss. Norway initiated the establishment of a UN Multi-Donor Trust Fund to assist developing countries in addressing the coronavirus crisis.

Communication with Communities: partners have modified their services to ensure assistance remotely and continue their outreach on social media to provide timely information on COVID-19 in different languages.

HIGHLIGHTS

76% granted residence permit

76% of the asylum-seekers in Norway in 2020 were granted a residence permit, most on protection grounds.

Relocation of 50 vulnerable asylum-seekers

Demonstrating solidarity in practice, the government committed to relocating 50 individuals from Greece, eligible under the EU's relocation scheme.

3000

resettlement places have been offered by Norway on a yearly basis since 2018 to meet the protection needs of the most vulnerable refugees around the world.

Statelessness

Norway supports the #IBelong Campaign to eradicate by 2024 and has introduced safeguards for children from being rendered stateless in its Ministerial instructions.

UN AGENCIES WELCOME RELOCATION OF VULNERABLE ASYLUM-SEEKERS TO NORWAY



IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF joint press release welcoming the relocation of 35 vulnerable asylum-seekers from Greece to Norway.

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** UNHCR together with partners monitor asylum-seekers' access to territory. UNHCR recommends Norway to ensure that all asylum-seekers, including those arriving via its northern borders, have effective access to territory by providing minimum procedural safeguards and protection from refoulement.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR promotes access to fair and efficient asylum procedures and maintains ongoing dialogue with relevant government agencies, in particular the asylum bodies, to continuously improve the asylum system, including through quality initiatives and other forms of support. UNHCR recommends Norway to review its removal of the reasonableness criteria from the "internal flight" assessment and its enhanced use of accelerated admissibility procedures.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** Norway is assuming a leading role in galvanizing support for the global strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways. UNHCR welcomes that Norway recently removed the selection criterion "integration potential".
- **Integration:** The integration of refugees into Norwegian society is facilitated through comprehensive efforts and an all-of-society approach, including targeted education, inclusive employment policies and tackling segregation. UNHCR recommends Norway to review its increased use of the "ceased circumstances" clauses to ensure alignment with the 1951 Convention and that refugees do not lose their status without the necessary conditions being in place.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR promotes Norway'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 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. UNHCR recommends Norway to refrain from imposing a maintenance requirement for the reunification of beneficiaries of international protection.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the [Ministry of Justice and Public Security](#), [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#), and the [Ministry of Education and Research](#) to support legal and policy developments. UNHCR also engages with key stakeholders on legal issues, family reunification and integration.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR works with partners to raise awareness on asylum, family reunification, integration and statelessness issues. During key events, UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in the public debate.

Statelessness

- Norway has acceded to both Statelessness Conventions. UNHCR recommends that Norway to introduce a definition of a stateless person in domestic law, establish a statelessness determination procedure and ensure that children born stateless in Norway 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
 35%
 1.7 M



Funded
 65%
 3.2 M

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2021 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

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