

NORWAY

February 2021

Strategic partner: Norway has made outstanding contributions to international refugee protection over the past decades and is one of the largest donors to UNHCR.

Strong international and regional engagement: Norway is an important advocate for a joint and fair solution to Europe's refugee situation; and submitted over 20 pledges to the 2019 GRF.

Strong national system: Norway has a well-established asylum and protection system, long-standing commitment to refugee resettlement and comprehensive integration programmes.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	51,586
Asylum-seekers	1,777
Stateless people	2,272

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	14,554	Syria	232
Eritrea	13,282	Iran	190
Somalia	5,894	Turkey	131

Data source: UNHCR 2020 Mid-Year Statistical report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

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

Inclusion: Refugees in Norway are included in the national response programmes and provided with social support and other measures to mitigate their unemployment/income loss. Norway is also the initiator behind the establishment of a UN multi-donor Trust Fund to assist developing countries with weak health systems in addressing the coronavirus crisis.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR's partners have modified their services to ensure assistance remotely. NGO partners continue their outreach to refugee communities including on social media to provide timely information on COVID-19 in different languages.

HIGHLIGHTS

1,387

asylum-seekers arrived in 2020, the lowest number of arrivals in more than 30 years.

Relocation of 50 asylum-seekers

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

3,000

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 strongly supports the #IBelong Campaign to eradicate by 2024 and has made several pledges to this end, including to introduce safeguards for children from being rendered stateless in the Norwegian Ministerial instructions.



Helping refugee families to (re)unite.

Family reunification for refugees has become more difficult in recent years due to a stringent subsistence requirement in combination with a high application fee and practical obstacles to file applications.

UNHCR and its main partner, the Norwegian Association for Asylum-Seekers (NOAS), advocate for flexible family reunification rules which preserve refugee's family unity:

[Realizing Refugees' Right to Family Unity.](#)

Key Priorities

- **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.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR promotes 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 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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".

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 in advocacy efforts together with civil society organisations on various legal issues. UNHCR also maintains dialogue with key stakeholders engaged in efforts family reunification and integration.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR works with partners to raise awareness on asylum, family reunification, integration and statelessness issues. During key events, such as the launch of reports on statelessness issues and access to quality asylum and family reunification procedures, UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in the public debate.

Statelessness

- Norway has acceded to both Statelessness Conventions.
- UNHCR recommends 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.
- Between 2010 and 2019, Norway granted 6,143 stateless persons Norwegian citizenship.

UNHCR in Nordic and Baltic Countries

Staff:

14 National Staff
 10 International Staff

Offices:

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

Financial information* 28 February 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
 93%
4.6 M



Funded
 7%
0.3 M

UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions* to the 2021 global programmes (USD, as of XX February):

Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

*Unearmarked contributions allow UNHCR for critical flexibility in how best to reach populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Above are donors of USD 10 million or more.