

Sweden

February 2021

Strategic partner: Sweden has made outstanding contributions to international refugee protection over the past decades and was the largest contributor of un-earmarked 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 and protection system, long-standing commitment to refugee resettlement and comprehensive integration programmes.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Refugees | 251,076 |
| Asylum-seekers | 22,916 |
| Stateless people | 30,305 |

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

| | Refugees | | Asylum-seekers |
|-------------|----------|-------|----------------|
| Syria | 114,054 | Iran | 2198 |
| Afghanistan | 30,272 | Iraq | 2025 |
| Eritrea | 27,681 | Syria | 1819 |

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

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

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

Inclusion: Refugees in Sweden 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 contact lists and groups on social media to provide timely information on COVID-19 in different languages.

HIGHLIGHTS

12,991

new asylum-seekers in 2020 represent the lowest number of arrivals in Sweden in more than 20 years.

Migration Policy

The Cross-Party Parliamentary Commission established in 2019 to develop proposals for a sustainable migration policy for Sweden has presented its report. The revised Aliens Act is expected to enter into force by July 2021.

5,000

resettlement places per year have been offered by Sweden since 2018 to meet the protection needs of the most vulnerable refugees around the world.

Statelessness

Sweden has made several pledges, including to withdraw reservations to the 1954 Convention and establish a government led Inquiry on Nationality.



Helping vulnerable children to find their inner hero

This is the compelling story of the Swedish refugee-led organization Hero2B which won UNHCR's Innovation Award 2020.

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 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 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 to reduce and remove 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](#) to support legal and policy development. With research institutions such as [Malmö and Gothenburg universities](#), civil society actors such as [Swedish Church](#), [Red Cross](#), [Save the Children](#) and [Caritas](#), local authorities such as [Åre Municipality](#), 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 World Refugee Day and the Opinion Festivals, UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in the public debate.

Statelessness

- Sweden has acceded to both Statelessness Conventions. The Government has appointed an Inquiry on Nationality to further align domestic legislation with Sweden's 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.
- By 2020, Sweden had granted more than 22,000 stateless persons Swedish citizenship.

UNHCR in Nordic and Baltic Countries

Staff:

14 National Staff
10 International Staff

Offices:

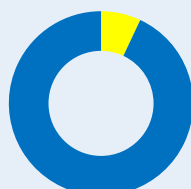
1 Regional Office in Stockholm
1 Liaison Office in Copenhagen
1 Liaison Office in Vilnius

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 28 February 2021):

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.