

# Sweden

February 2024

**Asylum system:** Sweden has made significant contributions to refugee protection through a well established asylum system and continuous capacity-building.

**Contributor of unearmarked funding:** Sweden is a top contributor of unearmarked funding, which allows UNHCR to address the critical humanitarian needs of forcibly displaced and stateless people globally.

**Stable and secure status:** UNHCR advocates for Sweden to grant all beneficiaries of international protection a secure and stable status to facilitate integration.

## UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2023)\*

Refugees	<b>258,117</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>12,546</b>
Stateless people	<b>40,437</b>

### Top three countries of origin\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syrian Arab Republic	<b>105,617</b>	Afghanistan	<b>1,562</b>
Ukraine	<b>38,990</b>	Iraq	<b>1,276</b>
Afghanistan	<b>25,666</b>	Ukraine	<b>1,050</b>

\*UNHCR mid-2023 Trends and UNHCR data finder

## Socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Sweden

### Sweden's commitment to economic inclusion

At the [Global Refugee Forum 2023](#), Sweden supported the mega-pledge on Economic Inclusion and Social Protection, aimed to promote self-reliance of refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless people, and host communities, by improving access to economic opportunities and social protection, including cash assistance.

### Deep Games - Newcomers With Disabilities

A collaboration with Gothenburg University, this [project](#) aims to raise awareness and address challenges encountered by refugees and asylum-seekers in Sweden, with an emphasis on supporting women with disabilities. The project also highlights the intersection of various factors that contribute to inequality by underlining the elevated risk faced by female refugees with disabilities. Through the project, various risk factors in terms access to education, training, employment, and social inclusion in the host country were highlighted, in comparison with other population groups.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Broader scope for Temporary Protection

In December 2023, Sweden extended the application of temporary protection to all Ukrainian nationals in the country.

### Successful integration of children

The vast majority (8/10) of unaccompanied children who arrived in Sweden in 2015 are now employed or pursuing an education, surpassing their Swedish peers.

### Extensive legislative reform

The Swedish Government has appointed several inquiries in the area of asylum and migration, for example on aligning the Swedish asylum framework with the minimum standards permissible according to EU law.



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### Swedish Municipalities Pilot Community Sponsorship Programs

The aim of the programme is to match refugees with local residents to facilitate their integration and promote peaceful coexistence with host communities. UNHCR has been involved in the promotion and development of the project from the start, and continues to support the work.

For more, see [here](#).

## Key Priorities

- **Law and policy:** UNHCR supports Sweden to comply with international and European standards relating to international protection of refugees. UNHCR supports the Government in developing and strengthening national laws and policies in international protection, while reinforcing positive public perception towards people seeking asylum.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR promotes fair and efficient asylum procedures and supports the authorities in strengthening the asylum system. UNHCR considers the Swedish Migration Agency's tracked system for channelling asylum applications into specific procedures a "best practice".
- **Resettlement and complementary pathways:** Sweden reduced its resettlement quota from 5,000 to 900 refugees in 2023, which is also the quota for 2024. In 2023, pilot community support programmes funded by county administrative boards were launched in four municipalities.
- **Family reunification:** UNHCR engages with civil society partners and is in dialogue with the Ministry of Justice and the Swedish Migration Agency to identify ways of reducing and removing practical, legal, and financial obstacles to family reunification.
- **Inclusion:** According to the Government, protection should as a starting point be offered on a temporary basis. UNHCR recommends that Sweden grant all beneficiaries of international protection a secure and stable status to facilitate inclusion and integration.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with Swedish authorities to support legal and policy development.
- UNHCR works with research institutions and civil society actors to foster successful local integration of refugees in Sweden. UNHCR also facilitates cooperation between Nordic and Baltic integration actors to further develop holistic integration systems.
- Together with refugee-led partner organization "Newcomers with Disabilities", UNHCR supports

refugees with disabilities in Sweden to empower themselves.

- **External engagement:** UNHCR works with partners to raise awareness on asylum and statelessness issues. UNHCR promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in the public discourse, including during key events, such as the World Refugee Day and Opinion Festivals.

## Statelessness

- Sweden has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness.
- UNHCR recommends the establishing of dedicated Statelessness Determination Procedures, and alignment of the Nationality Act with international standards. This will ensure all children born stateless in Sweden can acquire citizenship automatically, or soon after birth.
- Sweden is committed to the [#IBelong Campaign](#). UNHCR is continuing advocacy for Sweden to join the Global Alliance to End Statelessness that seeks to build on the concrete gains and momentum generated by the Campaign.
- UNHCR recently issued the factsheet [Statelessness in Sweden](#) which includes ten recommendations for action.

## UNHCR Presence in Nordic & Baltic Countries

### Staff:

19 National Staff

14 International Staff

1 Affiliate Work Force

### Offices:

1 Regional Office in Stockholm

1 Office in Vilnius, Lithuania

1 Office in Riga, Latvia

1 Office in Tallinn, Estonia

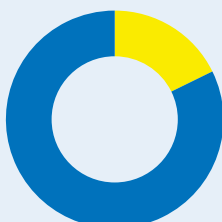
## Financial information\* (31 January 2024)

\*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 for 2024

\$ 14 M

Funding gap 89%  
\$ 12.4 M



Funded 11%  
\$ 1.6 M

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