

Overview of the Role of UNHCR in EU+ Countries



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**Who is Who in International Protection in the EU+,
Issue No 7**

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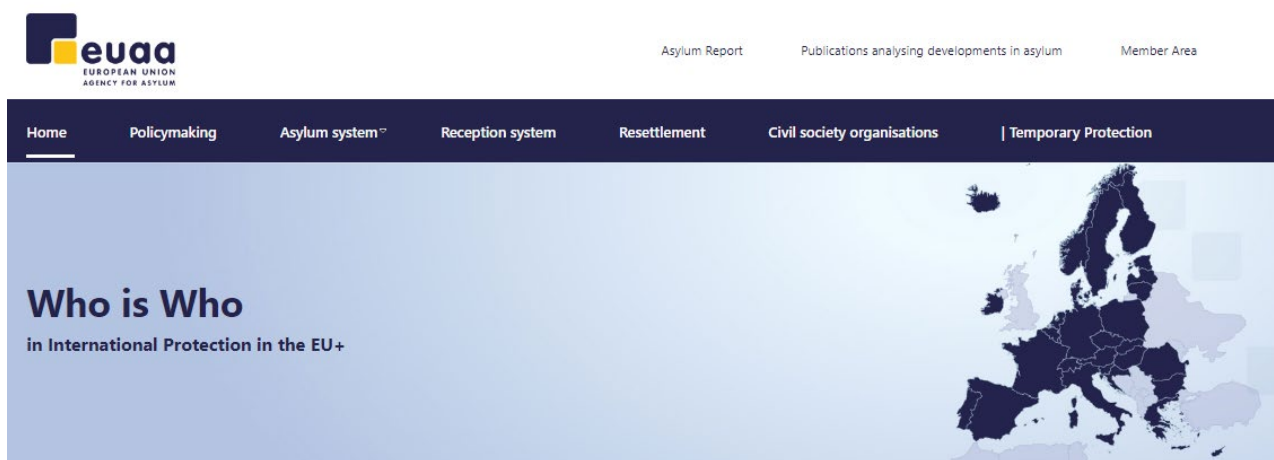


The Who is Who in International Protection in the EU+ project

Who is Who is a mapping project of various stakeholders and their roles in asylum and reception systems at the European, national and local levels. The key actors and their roles are presented as defined in national policies and legislation and implemented in practice. The different competences and interlinks between actors are also outlined.

The information is available online on the Who is Who platform:

<https://whoiswho.euaa.europa.eu/>



Methodology

The Who is Who project follows the same methodology that is used for the EUAA Asylum Report. Accordingly, the Information and Analysis Sector undertakes desk research based on publicly-available sources and EUAA reports. The information is validated by Member States and other stakeholders, if applicable.

The information presented in the first edition of this report (January 2024) has been reviewed and validated by the UNHCR Liaison Office to the EUAA and EU Member States. Subsequent updates (in March 2024 and December 2024) were carried out by the EUAA on the basis of information published by UNHCR on a periodic basis.





The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), established in 1950, is a multilateral intergovernmental institution which operates as a subsidiary organ under the United Nations General Assembly.

Embedded in international law, UNHCR's [mandate](#) stems from the [1951 Refugee Convention](#) and the [1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees](#). Its core responsibilities include providing international protection and humanitarian assistance, and seeking durable solutions for refugees, returnees and stateless persons. UNHCR is also legally entitled to directly intercede on behalf of refugees and stateless persons who would otherwise lack legal representation.

As part of its core mandate, UNHCR has a [supervisory role](#) in ensuring compliance with treaty obligations, including through monitoring and reporting. In line with Article 35 of the 1951 Refugee Convention, state parties to the Convention have a duty to cooperate with UNHCR and to facilitate its supervisory responsibilities, including through the provision of relevant information.

The role of UNHCR is also reflected in the legal instruments conforming the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The recast Qualification Directive, for example, highlights the usefulness of consultations with UNHCR for first instance determination. Most notably, Article 29 of the recast Asylum Procedures Directive specifies that UNHCR should have access to applicants; to information on individual applications and decisions; and to present its views at any stage of the procedure. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR at any stage of the asylum procedure is also spelled out in Article 12 of the recast Asylum Procedures Directive.

UNHCR cooperates with national governments, and its specific functions vary from country to country in accordance with the collaboration agreements in place. The agency is currently present in 135 countries, where it conducts activities in partnership with national authorities, civil society organisations, the private sector and refugee communities.

UNHCR in EU+ countries

The work of UNHCR in Europe is coordinated by the Regional Bureau for Europe based in Geneva. UNHCR is operational in all EU+ countries, maintaining a significant presence in the region with 22 country offices and 4 regional representations or multi-country offices.

Additionally, through its Representations to European Institutions in Brussels and Strasbourg, and its Liaison Offices to the EUAA and Frontex, UNHCR works closely with the [European Union](#) on issues related to international protection.

This overview presents UNHCR's activities and priorities across EU+ countries, mapping the agency's specific role in asylum procedures.





Key findings

- ✓ UNHCR is actively involved in first instance determination procedures in Italy and Spain and provides cross-cutting support to asylum procedures in 15 countries. In Spain, UNHCR's involvement ranges from having an advisory role to national authorities, assisting in preparatory works for legislation and policies, disseminating guidelines and country of origin information (COI) and providing legal assistance to applicants for international protection.
- ✓ The agency provides information to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection in all EU+ countries.
- ✓ UNHCR is also involved in second instance procedures in 7 EU+ countries. This includes working with the judiciary in support of selection procedures, training judges or directly intervening in judicial proceedings at national and European levels.
- ✓ UNHCR supports monitoring and quality assurance activities in 27 EU+ countries, with the aim of strengthening asylum systems. Additionally, the agency supports capacity-building of national authorities in 23 EU+ countries, including through the delivery of training and the provision of technical assistance.
- ✓ As the main stakeholder in charge of identifying and referring refugees for resettlement consideration, UNHCR supports the implementation of resettlement programmes in 17 EU+ countries.
- ✓ UNHCR has an active advocacy role across all EU+ countries.





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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR is covered by the [Asylum Act](#), Articles 32, 33, 35 and 63.

Fact sheets

[Austria Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR AUSTRIA

The UNHCR office in Austria was established in 1951.

The country office focuses on monitoring, legal protection and advocacy.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Austria. The country office monitors the implementation of national, European and international asylum legislation and is involved in quality assurance activities related to the asylum system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Austria monitors reception conditions and cooperates with national and regional authorities and the EUAA to improve conditions. The country office has trained asylum staff and interpreters on vulnerable applicants.

UNHCR is involved with authorities and other stakeholders on the preparation for the national implementation plan for the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

The country office has focused on capacity-building and training of asylum practitioners, for example through [Project Bridge](#).

UNHCR Austria promotes [integration](#) through a local [Refugee Team](#).

[Statelessness](#) has been a priority and the country office has contributed to fill data gaps through a [study](#) on statelessness in Austria.

In the framework of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR Austria monitors border points and reception centres and advocates for inclusion.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Advocacy
- Child Protection
- Communication with refugee communities
- Education
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Protection
- Reception monitoring
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR is covered by the [Asylum Refugee Law](#), Article 3.

Fact sheets

[Bulgaria Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR BULGARIA

The UNHCR office in Bulgaria was established in 1993.

The country office focuses on advocacy and monitoring activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Bulgaria but cooperates with national authorities by providing translated guidance materials, as well as summaries of European and national asylum case law for administrative and judicial authorities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The country office [monitors](#) borders and living conditions in reception and detention centres, where it also provides information and legal assistance to applicants for international protection.

UNHCR and partners provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, ensure referrals to specialised services and access to quality MHPSS services.

Integration has been a priority. UNHCR Bulgaria cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations in areas related to education, financial inclusion and access to the labour market.

Capacity-building activities include training and orientation in areas related to child protection, guardianship, reception services and alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied children, in cooperation with national child protection authorities and the EUAA.

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR provides assistance at [6 Blue Dots Hubs](#) and has implemented a [cash assistance](#) programme.

KEY PRIORITIES

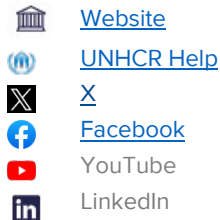
- Access to the territory and procedure
- Asylum procedures
- Child protection
- Gender-based violence (GBV)
- Integration
- Mental health and psychosocial support
- Reception and detention monitoring
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the [Act on International and Temporary Protection](#), Articles 11, 28, 42, 44, 56 and 82. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Article 59.

Fact sheets

[Croatia Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR CROATIA

The UNHCR office in Croatia was established in 1991.

The country office focuses on advocacy and monitoring activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Croatia but monitors the asylum system and supports the government in ensuring fair and effective procedures, including through capacity-building activities, commenting on asylum legislation, and sharing country of origin information and guidelines.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Croatia participates in the Advisory Board of an Independent National Monitoring Mechanism to monitor access to the territory and the human rights situation at the borders.

The country office provides information to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection through its websites, social media and dedicated toll-free hotlines.

UNHCR Croatia's advocacy activities include participation in the government's Unaccompanied Child Protection Commission and the Coordination Group on Gender-based violence in Reception.

The country office cooperates with national and local authorities through the [Integration Working Group](#) for the development of national action plans. It also cooperates with civil society organisations and stakeholders from the private sector and supports participatory approaches. The country office presented a [Municipal Toolkit](#) to promote effective inclusion of refugees.

Capacity-building activities include training national authorities in areas related to statelessness, gender-based violence and trafficking in human beings. UNHCR Croatia provides legal assistance to [stateless persons](#) and persons at risk of statelessness and is currently updating the [analysis](#) of the statelessness legal framework.

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, the country office also provides legal counselling, assistance and supports in vulnerability identification and referral.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Asylum procedures
- Child protection
- Communication with refugee communities
- Gender-based violence (GBV)
- Integration
- Statelessness





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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the [Refugees Law](#), Article 31A.

Cooperation with UNHCR is specified in Articles 12C and 18. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is established in Article 31C.

Fact sheets

[Cyprus Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR CYPRUS

The UNHCR Office in Cyprus was established in 1974.

The country office focuses on advocacy and monitoring activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Cyprus but cooperates with the Asylum Service and the courts to provide observations on matters related to international protection and disseminates guidelines and Country of Origin Information. UNHCR has a right to be present during the examination of asylum applications at any stage of the procedure.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The country office supports preparatory work for [legislation](#), provides observations to draft laws and policies and legal recommendations aimed at strengthening first instance determination procedures.

UNHCR Cyprus monitors access to asylum procedures and living conditions in reception and detention facilities. The office also oversees unaccompanied minors' access to the child protection system and to family reunification procedures.

The country office supports capacity development through training activities for staff from national authorities and civil society organisations on areas related to international protection, reception conditions and child protection.

[Integration](#) has been a priority, and UNHCR Cyprus has established an Integration Task Force to contribute to the development of a national integration strategy. In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR provides information, counselling and assistance to persons fleeing Ukraine.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Capacity-building
- Communication with refugee communities
- Child protection
- Integration
- Promoting legislative amendments
- Protection monitoring
- Raising public awareness
- Reinforcing first-instance procedures
- Statelessness





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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the

[Code of Entry and Residence of Foreigners and the Right to Asylum \(CESEDA\)](#),

Articles R223-2 to R223-7.

Fact sheets

[France Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR FRANCE

The UNHCR office in France was established in 1952.

The country office focuses on advocacy and monitoring of asylum procedures and reception conditions.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

The country office has an advisory role to the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) and the National Court of Asylum (CNDA). UNHCR supports the selection and training of judges and intervenes in judicial proceedings.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The country office supports preparatory work for legislation and provides recommendations to draft laws and policies.

UNHCR France monitors reception and detention conditions at the borders and in Overseas Countries and Territories and provides training on procedures for unaccompanied minors to government officials and civil society organisations.

UNHCR supports the implementation of France's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification, referral and selection of refugees for resettlement consideration. The country office manages the [UNIV'R](#) project aimed to create education pathways to France. UNHCR advocates for flexible family reunification procedures, supports the resolution of individual cases and shares good practices.

[Integration](#) has been a priority. UNHCR France cooperates with partners from the private sector to support access to the labour market of beneficiaries of international protection. The country office has also contributed to the creation of an Academy for refugee participation.

In the framework of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR focuses on information provision, prevention of human trafficking and monitoring living conditions in reception facilities.

AREAS OF ACTION

- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Complementary pathways
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Monitoring reception
- Statelessness
- Support to refugee-led organisations



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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the [Asylum Act](#), Section 9.

Fact sheets

[Germany Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR GERMANY

The country office focuses on advocacy and monitoring of asylum procedures, resettlement and family reunification.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Germany but cooperates and exchanges with the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) in quality assurance of the asylum system. The office also works with the judiciary on matters related to eligibility.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR cooperates with German authorities at the national and state levels, including the Ministry of the Interior, BAMF, Members of Parliament and administrative courts. The country office also liaises with the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in areas related to the provision of humanitarian assistance in UNHCR's global operations.

The country office advocates for strengthening the legal framework and procedures for family reunification. It is also involved with authorities and other stakeholders to prepare the national implementation plan for the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Germany's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification, referral and selection of refugees for resettlement consideration. The country office also cooperates with national and civil society partners in the [Neustart im Team \(NesT\)](#) community sponsorship project, which foresees humanitarian admissions.

The country office also works with civil society organisations to provide counselling for family reunification.

KEY PRIORITIES

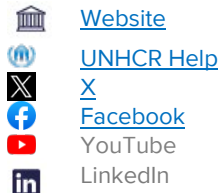
- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Family reunification
- Global Compact for Refugees
- Resettlement



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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is established in Article 71 of the [Asylum Code](#), while cooperation with UNHCR is covered by Articles 7, 79, 119 and 140.

Fact sheets

[Greece Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR GREECE

The UNHCR Office in Greece was established in 1952. The country office is located in Athens, and there are seven field offices in Lesbos, Samos, Kos, Thessaloniki, Chios, Evros and Athens.

The country office focuses on advocacy, legal assistance and capacity-building.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Greece but has an advisory role to national authorities and provides assistance and training aimed at the strengthening of the asylum system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Greece provides information to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection through a dedicated helpline and its field offices. The agency also provides legal assistance in cooperation with civil society organisations.

The country office has supported the [voluntary relocation](#) of unaccompanied minors and vulnerable persons to other EU Member States, through assisting in identification, best interests assessments and pre-departure assistance.

UNHCR Greece provides psychosocial support, accommodation and foster care to persons with vulnerabilities and promotes their access to the labour market and to social protection services. UNHCR Greece also focuses on child protection and persons with disabilities, preventing gender-based violence and trafficking of human beings.

[Integration](#) and awareness-raising have been a priority. The country office cooperates with refugee communities, national authorities and partners from the private sector to create livelihood opportunities.

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, the country office led an inter-agency needs assessment for persons displaced from Ukraine and produced a [dynamic monitoring tool](#).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Advocacy
- Integration
- Institutional strengthening
- Legal assistance
- Persons with specific needs
- Protection
- Statelessness
- Voluntary relocation



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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in is covered by the [Legislative Decree No 25/2008](#), Articles 4, 5, 8, 10, 20, 21 and 24.

Fact sheets

[Italy Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR ITALY

The UNHCR office in Italy was established in 1954. In 2020, the country office became the UNHCR Representation for Italy, the Holy See and San Marino. In Italy, UNHCR focuses on protection-related activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR appoints experts in international protection in Territorial Commissions and has the right to vote during first instance determination procedures. The country office supports authorities by registering applications for asylum, disseminating guidelines and positions, and relevant national and international jurisprudence.

UNHCR has a consultancy role with the National Commission for the Right to Asylum in procedures related to the cessation and revocation of international protection. The country office also contributes to quality monitoring of first instance procedures, training asylum practitioners and supports preparatory work for legislation and policies.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR cooperates with national authorities to provide information and assistance to both [sea and land arrivals](#). The country office also monitors compliance with international law in the context of the Italy-Albania protocol.

UNHCR monitors living conditions in reception facilities and supports vulnerability identification and assessment. Children have been a priority, and the country office supports both the training of legal guardians and family reunification procedures.

UNHCR Italy provides training to reception staff and cultural mediators on access to the labour market and gender-based violence. The country office also provides [training](#) activities for beneficiaries of international protection and launched the [Welcome-in-one-click](#) platform to promote job inclusion.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Italy's [resettlement](#) programmes through the provision of information and the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration. The office also worked with authorities to develop labour corridors (in Egypt, Uganda and Jordan).

In the framework of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR provides information and assistance through the [Blue Dot Hubs](#) at the borders.

KEY PRIORITIES

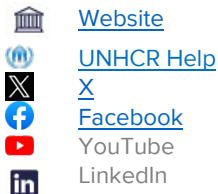
- Access to the territory
- Asylum procedures
- Capacity building
- Gender-based violence (GBV)
- Integration
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR is covered by the [International Protection Act](#), Articles 16 and 19. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is established in Article 23.

Fact sheets

[Malta bi-annual Fact Sheet September 2024](#)

UNHCR MALTA

The UNHCR office in Malta was established in 2005.

The country office focuses on advocacy, legal counselling and information provision.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Malta.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Malta is present as an observer during disembarkations, and together with the national authorities, it developed an information leaflet for new arrivals. The country office is also involved in information provision and vulnerability identification and referral.

The country office maintains the [Help page](#), which provides information to asylum seekers and refugees on specific aspects of the asylum procedure and on their rights and obligations.

In terms of [integration](#), UNHCR Malta cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations in areas related to education and access to the labour market. The country office also has an agreement with JRS Malta to provide legal aid and psychological support.

UNHCR's capacity-building activities include the training of legal assistance providers and interpreters. In cooperation with civil society organisations, the country office provides legal assistance to applicants in detention and victims of gender-based violence.

Statelessness has been a priority, and UNHCR has contributed to fill data gaps through [mapping](#) statelessness in Malta.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Capacity-building for legal aid
- Detention and reception monitoring
- Integration
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

Applicants' right to UNHCR is covered by the [Act on Protection](#), Articles 54f and 89a.

Fact sheets

[Poland Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR POLAND

The UNHCR Office in Warsaw was established in 1992. There are three field offices in Warsaw, Lublin and Rzeszow, and a sub office in Kraków.

The country office focuses on monitoring and protection activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Poland. The country office cooperates with national authorities and NGOs in monitoring access to the procedure, supports training, and provides recommendations to draft laws and policies. The agency also provides legal counselling to applicants for international protection.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Poland cooperates with national authorities in monitoring activities at border-crossing points and in crossing areas. The country office is also involved in overseeing that [detention and reception conditions](#) are in line with international standards. This includes monitoring the average time spent in detention, reception and accommodation facilities, the qualifications of reception staff and access to information, legal advice and medical care. The country office also undertakes [protection analysis](#) as part of the UNHCR's protection monitoring.

UNHCR Poland is also involved in capacity-building activities for staff from national authorities, civil society organisations and other humanitarian workers, including on topics related to alternatives to detention and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

In the framework of the Ukraine emergency response, the country office leads humanitarian assistance activities in cooperation with civil society organisations and national authorities. Through the [Blue Dot Hubs](#), community centres and mobile outreach teams, UNHCR provides direct assistance and contributes to vulnerability identification and referral. Services provided include legal counselling, cash assistance, mental health and psychosocial support, language classes and child protection activities.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to procedures
- Anti-trafficking
- Integration
- Protection
- Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

Cooperation and information-exchange with UNHCR is covered by the [Asylum Act](#),

Articles 13, 17, 18, 20, 24, 28, 29, 33, 33-A, 34, 37, 43, 49 and 82.

Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Articles 35-B and 59.

Fact sheets

[Portugal Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR PORTUGAL

The UNHCR Office in Portugal was established in 2018, following a previous office's closure in 1998.

The country office focuses on capacity-building, advocacy and legal assistance.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Portugal. Through its partner, the Portuguese Refugee Council, UNHCR supports applicants' access to free legal assistance and facilitates access to legal aid at the judicial appeal stage.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Portugal provides technical advice to national authorities in areas related to reception conditions, identification and referral of vulnerabilities and child protection. The country office provides training on international protection and child protection to authorities involved in reception.

The country office advocates for the participation of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons and encourages a community-based approach to policymaking. UNHCR liaises with local authorities to discuss challenges and good practices.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Portugal's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration and coordination of travel arrangements. The country office also provides training on resettlement to national authorities and local stakeholders and supports the design of resettlement programmes.

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR provided training to staff from municipalities on topics related to protection standards, combatting trafficking in human beings, intercultural communication and working with interpreters.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Asylum procedures
- Capacity-building
- Integration
- Protection
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the [Asylum Act](#), Articles 17(1d), 17(2), 77(2), 87, 88(1d) and 103(2c) and (6).

Fact sheets

[Romania Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR ROMANIA

The UNHCR office in Romania was established in 1991. There is a country office in Bucharest, two field Units in Constanta and Timisoara, and field offices in Suceava and Galati.

The country office focuses on monitoring the quality of the asylum system,

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Romania but has an advisory role on areas related to asylum.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR monitors asylum procedures, particularly regarding the identification and referral of persons with vulnerabilities. The country office also delivers training to national authorities and partners on topics related to vulnerability assessment and tailored interventions for vulnerable persons (e.g. LGBTIQ persons and persons with disabilities).

The country office provides information and legal counselling for asylum seekers and refugees through UNHCR hotlines and protection counselling desks.

Integration has been a priority. The country office cooperates with the National Employment Agency and civil society organisations towards the socioeconomic inclusion and capacity-building of refugees, including through language courses and employment coaching.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Romania's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration.

In cooperation with national authorities, UNHCR designed a cash assistance programme to support refugees from Ukraine until their inclusion in the labour market or in the national social protection system. UNHCR Romania has also provided winter-specific assistance, through the distribution of specific items to cover basic needs.

KEY PRIORITIES

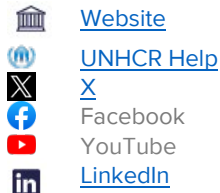
- Cash assistance
- Communication with refugee communities
- Humanitarian assistance
- Integration
- Protection
- Statelessness



Contact information

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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the [Asylum Act](#), Chapter IV.

Fact sheets

[Spain Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR SPAIN

The UNHCR office in Spain was established in 1979. There is a country office in Madrid, and four field offices in Melilla, Algeciras, Malaga and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The UNHCR country office focuses on access and quality monitoring of asylum procedures, advocacy and improvement of resettlement and complementary pathways.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is [involved](#) in first instance determination procedures. Applications for international protection are communicated to UNHCR, which can participate in hearings and submit reports for individual case files. UNHCR can submit recommendations to the Inter-Ministerial Commission of Asylum and Refuge but does not have a vote in the individual assessment of applications. UNHCR also supports preparatory work for legislation and policies and has an advisory role in the interpretation and application of international refugee law.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Spain [monitors](#) access to the territory and living conditions in reception and detention facilities. It also provides new arrivals with information and counselling on the asylum procedure and supports the identification and referral of persons with vulnerabilities. The country office also supports activities linked to the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum and the provision of interpretation services in Soninke at Madrid airport.

The office organises training sessions and workshops for national authorities and publishes guidelines and studies related to international protection, [child protection](#) and [gender-based violence](#). In October 2024, [the SOPs for identifying and referring unaccompanied children in need of international protection on the islands](#) were published. UNHCR organises information sessions on international protection and asylum procedures in detention and reception centres, including centres for minors.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Spain's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration.

In the context of the Ukraine emergency, the office has provided counselling to persons fleeing Ukraine and has supported the capacity building of staff from national authorities and civil society organisations.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to procedures
- Child protection
- Community-based protection
- Complementary pathways
- Gender-based violence (GBV)
- Integration
- Resettlement



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[UNHCR Help](#)



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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the asylum procedure is covered by the [Asylum Act](#), Articles 66 and 113.

Fact sheets

[Switzerland Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR SWITZERLAND

The UNHCR office in Bern was established in 2019. The office also covers Liechtenstein.

UNHCR Switzerland focuses on advocacy, monitoring, resettlement and complementary pathways.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Switzerland but has an [advisory role](#) on asylum matters and issues recommendations to national authorities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR monitors [reception conditions](#) in Federal Asylum Centres. The country office provides information on asylum procedures by operating UNHCR hotlines, protection counselling desks and the UNHCR Help Page.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Switzerland's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration and coordination of travel arrangements. UNHCR also cooperates with authorities to enhance the implementation of complementary pathways.

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR monitors registration facilities and cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations on areas related to child protection.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to education
- Advocacy
- Capacity-building
- Complementary pathways
- External relations
- Protection monitoring
- Statelessness



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REPRESENTATION FOR EU AFFAIRS, BELGIUM, IRELAND, LUXEMBOURG AND THE NETHERLANDS

The Regional Representation for EU Affairs (RREUA) collaborates with EU institutions in Brussels, promoting respect for international protection norms in EU law and policy. The office provides opinions and recommendations on a wide range of issues related to access to the territory, asylum, protection, resettlement and integration in EU Member States.

The Regional Representation in Brussels also supports UNHCR's activities and regional offices in litigation before national and regional courts on legal questions of concern to UNHCR. It offers support on thematic issues, such as trafficking of human beings, gender-based violence, child protection and statelessness.

The UNHCR Regional Representation for EU Affairs coordinates the work of two Liaison Offices to EU Agencies (the EUAA and Frontex).

COUNTRY OFFICES

The Representation for EU Affairs, Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands covers:

- Belgium
- Ireland
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands



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National legal framework

Cooperation and information-exchange with UNHCR is covered by the [Aliens Act](#), Articles 57/6/1, 57/6/6, 57/7, and in Section III BIS.

Fact sheets

[Belgium Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR BELGIUM

The UNHCR office in Brussels was established in 1952.

The country office focuses on advocacy, monitoring and resettlement.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in the processing asylum applications in Belgium but has an [advisory role](#) to the government on draft legislation and policies.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The country office focuses on advocacy in areas related to reception and detention conditions, family reunification, integration and increasing reception capacity.

UNHCR Belgium provides information to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection on their rights and obligations. The office also cooperates with civil society organisations to provide [legal support](#) to both applicants for international protection and lawyers involved in asylum cases.

While the resettlement programme has been temporarily suspended, UNHCR supports Belgium's [educational pathways](#) programmes.

In July 2024, UNHCR organised training for national authorities on the new law on residence permits for stateless persons.

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR supports authorities in monitoring child protection and provides information to persons fleeing Ukraine.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Detention monitoring
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness



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National legal framework

Cooperation and information exchange with UNHCR is covered by the [1996 Refugee Act](#), Article 35 (and subsequent amendments).

Fact sheets

[Ireland Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR IRELAND

UNHCR has been present in Ireland since 1998.

The country office focuses on advocacy, capacity-building activities and resettlement.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Ireland but has an advisory role to national authorities and cooperates with the International Protection Appeals Tribunal on quality assurance activities.

The country office supports capacity-building by providing training to staff from the Department of Justice, the border management unit and the International Protection Office.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The office provides guidance to other stakeholders, including [journalists](#) reporting on topics related to asylum. It is involved in the preparation for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

In the context of advocacy, UNHCR advocates increasing the capacity of reception facilities and enhancing integration and inclusion.

The country office created the [Irish Refugee Advisory Board \(IRAB\)](#), a refugee-led organisation which aims to facilitate participation of beneficiaries on international protection in policy development.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Ireland's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration and through the provision of pre-departure assistance. The country office works with academic institutions in the development of [complementary pathways projects](#).

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR monitors living conditions in reception facilities, provides information on access to essential services and has set up a [helpline](#) for legal advice.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Integration
- Reception monitoring
- Statelessness



Contact information

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UNHCR Help



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National legal framework

Cooperation and information-exchange with UNHCR is covered by the modified [Law on International Protection and Temporary Protection](#), Articles 10, 24, 30 and 33.

Fact sheets

[Luxembourg Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR LUXEMBOURG

UNHCR has been active in Luxembourg since 2014.

The agency focuses on advocacy and awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Luxembourg but occasionally engages in quality assurance and monitoring of the asylum system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR cooperates with national authorities on the quality of asylum procedures. The country office organises training and information sessions for the national authority's staff.

Integration has been a priority. UNHCR monitors the integration process of unaccompanied minors relocated from Greece and has published a study on refugees' integration in Luxembourg, focusing on access to housing and employment.

The country office is also involved in facilitating the family reunification procedures.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Luxembourg's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration and through the provision of pre-departure assistance. The office also advocates for the establishment of educational pathways in Luxembourg.

KEY PRIORITIES

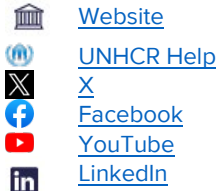
- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement
- Statelessness



Contact information

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National legal framework

Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Article 9(b) of the [Regulations on benefits in kind for asylum seekers and other categories of foreign nationals 2005](#)

Fact sheets

[The Netherlands Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR NETHERLANDS

The UNHCR office in the Netherlands was established in 2008.

The country office focuses on advocacy and awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in the Netherlands but has an advisory role to the national authorities and provides observations to instructions and guidelines.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR [monitors](#) living conditions in reception facilities in the Netherlands, including for [unaccompanied minors](#).

The country office cooperates with the IND in [family reunification](#) processes, for example by facilitating and conducting interviews in countries where UNHCR operates.

Integration has been a priority, and UNHCR has worked with national authorities and civil society organisations towards the strengthening of the [Refugee Advisory Group](#). The country office has also created a [network of refugee-led organisations](#).

Capacity-building activities for staff from national authorities, including the judiciary, are currently being developed.

In the context of the Ukraine emergency response, UNHCR has conducted research on access to housing, integration, and long-term protection of persons fleeing Ukraine.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Asylum procedures
- Child protection
- Family reunification
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness





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REGIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR CENTRAL EUROPE

The UNHCR Regional Representation for Central Europe (RCE) was created in 2005.

The regional office has an advisory and advocacy role in areas related to access to territory, reception, asylum procedures, integration and resettlement. It also monitors the situation of statelessness within the region.

The office oversees operations and programmes in country offices. It also conducts administrative and financial oversight of the country offices under its coverage.

COUNTRY OFFICES

The Regional Representation for Central Europe covers:

- Czechia
- Hungary
- Slovakia
- Slovenia





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National legal framework

The role of UNHCR in the Czech asylum procedure is established in Articles 36-39 of the [Asylum Act](#) (and subsequent amendments).

Fact sheets

[Czech Republic Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR CZECHIA

The UNHCR office in Prague was established in 1992, following the accession of Czechoslovakia to the 1951 Refugee Convention.

The country office focuses on monitoring and support in the areas of access to the territory, asylum procedures, community-based protection, and integration.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Czechia. The country office supports information provision and provides [legal protection](#) and assistance to asylum and temporary protection applicants.

UNHCR Czechia can access and participate in asylum proceedings, including first instance determination interviews. UNHCR supports capacity development on Refugee Law and Refugee Status Determination for case officers, judges and border police personnel.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The country office is involved in monitoring [access to the territory](#), monitoring [detention and reception conditions](#), providing training to reception staff, and reviewing the quality of education and medical care provided in these facilities.

UNHCR promotes protection for survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation through information provision, counselling, referrals and training. Complementary pathways are also being developed to support response mechanisms for victims of gender-based violence.

UNHCR has implemented participatory assessments to support the development of [integration](#) standards. The country office cooperates with civil society organisations in the implementation of a [Volunteer Programme for Refugees](#).

The protection of [stateless persons](#) has been a priority and the office is helping to build capacity of national authorities and the judiciary, monitoring procedures and providing legal assistance. The office [provides information](#) on the asylum process, family reunification procedures and access to the Czech education system.

AREAS OF ACTION

- Access to the territory
- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Capacity building
- Detention and reception monitoring
- Education
- Gender-based violence (GBV)
- Integration
- Monitoring
- Statelessness
- Trafficking of human beings



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National legal framework

Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in the [Act on Asylum](#), Section 5(1d).

Fact sheets

[Hungary Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR HUNGARY

The UNHCR office in Budapest was established in 1989.

The country office focuses on monitoring, technical support and supports coordination of the refugee response in close cooperation with national authorities and local NGOs.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Hungary. The office monitors the compliance of the national legal framework with international law. It has supported the national asylum authority in the development of [quality assurance mechanisms](#), and works with the judiciary in appeal proceedings.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Hungary advocates for [access to the territory](#) and asylum procedures, provides [counselling, information and legal assistance and representation](#) for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection and engages in [strategic litigation](#). Following the adoption of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, it works with stakeholders to align Hungary's asylum system with EU and international laws.

The office provides [information](#) on the asylum process, family reunification procedures, access to services and available assistance. [Emergency assistance](#) is provided through psychosocial and accommodation support. Activities to promote [integration](#) also include counselling, education support, capacity-building, language courses, socioeconomic integration activities, and access to psycho-therapeutic and medical support.

The office supports [vulnerability assessments](#) and referrals to the relevant specialised services, and works with other partner agencies in the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and gender-based violence.

In collaboration with national authorities, UNHCR works on ensuring access to protection for stateless people and supports the authority's in-house quality assurance mechanism for the statelessness determination procedure, along with capacity-building.

The office supports the Ukraine emergency response and coordinates the [Refugee Coordination Forum](#) in Hungary.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Asylum procedures
- Integration
- Gender-based violence (GBV)
- Persons with vulnerabilities
- Protection
- Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)
- Statelessness



Contact information

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National legal framework

Applicants' right to receive UNHCR's assistance is specified in the [Act on Asylum](#), Sections 17, 42 and 43.

Fact Sheets

[Slovakia Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR SLOVAKIA

UNHCR was established in Slovakia in 1993 and became operational in 1994. Following the closure of the Office in 2012, UNHCR re-established its presence in the country in 2022 at the request of the government, in response to the war in Ukraine. There is a national office in Bratislava and a field office in Kosice.

The country office focuses on assistance and monitoring in the areas of access to the territory, asylum procedures and integration.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Slovakia. The office is engaged in advocacy activities for fair and efficient asylum procedures. The country office supports preparatory work for legislation and provides [observations](#) to draft laws and policies.

The office has implemented projects to improve the quality of the asylum system, including creating quality assessment tools for the Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior and providing training to case officers involved in asylum proceedings.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Slovakia cooperates with civil society organisations and the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police to monitor [access to the territory](#). It also provides training to border police and civil society organisations and has a number of information stands on Slovakia's external borders. UNHCR's activities at the border also focus on [child protection](#), specifically on immediate assistance, referral and identification of children at risk, including unaccompanied minors.

The country office is involved in overseeing that [detention and reception conditions](#) are in line with international standards. The office works closely with the Regional Representation in Budapest for the implementation of activities for [integration](#), including access to the labour market, training and educational support, while advocating to mainstream integration activities across all levels of government.

The office currently cooperates in the coordination of the Ukraine emergency response through the Refugee Coordination Forum for the Slovak Republic (RCF). It implements protection-related activities, information provision through the [Blue Dots](#), and a [cash assistance programme](#).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Advocacy
- Access to the territory and access to procedures
- Capacity-building
- Integration
- Provision of information
- Statelessness



Contact information

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National legal framework

The UNHCR role in the Slovenian asylum procedure and the right of the applicant to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Article 7 of the [International Protection Act](#) and Article 9 of the [Temporary Protection of Displaced Persons Act](#).

Fact Sheets

[Slovenia Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR SLOVENIA

UNHCR's activities in Slovenia began in 1992.

The office focuses on advocacy, capacity-building, legal counselling and psychosocial support to international protection applicants and beneficiaries.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Slovenia. The office has contributed to the development of Slovenia's asylum system and focuses on the establishment of quality control mechanisms. It provides advice to the government on draft legislation and policies.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR Slovenia cooperates with national authorities in monitoring [access to the territory and asylum procedures](#) and on the development of the National Implementation Plan for the Pact on Migration and Asylum. UNHCR also monitors accommodation centres for displaced people.

[UNHCR](#) works with the Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and Environment ([PIC](#)) to provide legal assistance, information and counselling to applicants of international and temporary protection and stateless persons. The country office cooperates with local partners on the provision of mental health and psychosocial support, the prevention of trafficking of human beings, counselling and risk mitigation.

In terms of advocacy, the agency participates in a working group towards the reform of current legislation and promotes the accession of Slovenia to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

UNHCR supports [capacity development](#) through training police officers, interpreters, case officers, reception staff and judges.

The country office has supported the establishment of a [resettlement](#) programme, through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration.

AREAS OF ACTION

- Access to the territory
- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Capacity-building
- Detention monitoring
- Integration
- Statelessness



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REGIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR THE NORDIC AND BALTIC COUNTRIES

UNHCR has a presence in Nordic and Baltic countries since 1985.

The Regional Office has an advisory and advocacy role and works closely with governments, civil society organisations and the media. UNHCR does not have an operational role in this region in terms of providing direct assistance to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection.

COUNTRY OFFICES

The Regional Representation for Nordic and Baltic countries covers:

- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- Iceland
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Norway
- Sweden





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National legal framework

Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in the [Aliens' Act](#), Sections 37d and 37e.

Fact Sheets

[Denmark Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR DENMARK

UNHCR has been present in the UN City in Copenhagen via a liaison office since 2017. The office in Copenhagen focuses on communications and legal issues regarding Denmark.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Denmark. The office focuses on the improvement of the Danish asylum system through quality assurance initiatives.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The office works with national authorities to support [legal and policy development](#) in compliance with international and European standards on international protection.

The country office also conducts visits to reception centres to ensure quality in reception conditions.

UNHCR also cooperates with civil society organisations to promote the [integration](#) of beneficiaries of international protection into Danish society.

The issue of [statelessness](#) has been a priority, and UNHCR has contributed to fill data gaps through mapping stateless persons in Denmark.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Denmark's [resettlement](#) programme through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration.

The agency cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations to exchange information on the situation of persons fleeing Ukraine.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Asylum procedures
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Law and policy
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness





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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR is covered by the [Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens](#), Sections 9(7), 66(2) and 76(1) and (2). Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Section 10(7).

Fact Sheets

[Estonia Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR ESTONIA

UNHCR's focuses on cooperation with both national authorities and civil society organisations in the promotion of human rights of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Estonia but focuses on quality assurance in areas related to refugee status determination, legal assistance and vulnerability assessments.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR monitors access to territory and to asylum procedures, promoting capacity-building of border guards on refugee law.

The country office is involved in [monitoring](#) reception and detention centres and provides feedback to national authorities on how to improve living conditions in these facilities.

UNHCR cooperates with civil society organisations and local authorities to promote the [integration](#) and labour market inclusion of beneficiaries of international protection.

Statelessness has been a priority and UNHCR has contributed to fill data gaps through [mapping statelessness](#) in Estonia.

The country office currently leads the Regional Response Plan for the [Ukraine emergency](#) in Estonia through monitoring the implementation of the temporary protection framework, supporting the provision of essential items and services and complementing government efforts in the protection of persons with vulnerabilities.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Asylum procedures
- Capacity-building
- Integration
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness





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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR for resettlement activities is covered by the [Aliens Act](#), Section 90.

Fact Sheets

[Finland Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR FINLAND

The country office focuses on supporting national authorities in the implementation of legal instruments related to international protection and on awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Finland but cooperates with national authorities in quality assurance activities related to the asylum system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR works with Finnish authorities to strengthen [national laws and policies](#) related to international protection, with a focus on areas related to child protection and [integration](#). The country office also visited reception centres to ensure quality in reception conditions.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Finland's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration. The introduction of labour pathways are also a priority, and a [community sponsorship](#) pilot programme was launched in 2023 with this aim.

Statelessness has been a priority and UNHCR has contributed to fill data gaps through [mapping statelessness](#) in Finland.

The agency cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations in the assessment of the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive and to exchange information on the situation of persons fleeing Ukraine.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Asylum procedures
- Integration
- Family reunification
- Law and policy
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness





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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR is covered by the [Act on Foreign Nationals](#), Articles 9, 23 and 43. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Article 11.

UNHCR Fact Sheet

[Iceland Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR ICELAND

The country office focuses on supporting national authorities in the implementation of legal instruments related to international protection and on awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Iceland but cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations to strengthen the Icelandic asylum system. The agency also provides advice to lawyers involved in legal assistance and representation activities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The agency is involved in [capacity-building](#) activities which target staff from national authorities and civil society organisations, including through training in areas related to asylum procedures, statelessness and integration.

UNHCR has currently suspended [resettlement](#) programmes and is advocating for their resumption.

The country office also facilitates family reunification and access to legal assistance.

AREAS OF ACTION

- Asylum procedures
- Capacity-building
- Family Reunification
- Integration
- Law and policy
- Statelessness





Contact information

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[UNHCR Help](#)



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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR is covered by the [Asylum Law](#), Articles 4, 11, 32, 61 and 70. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Article 11.

Fact sheets

[Latvia Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR LATVIA

The country office focuses on supporting national authorities in the implementation of legal instruments related to international protection and on awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Latvia but cooperates with national authorities in quality assurance activities related to the asylum system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR is involved in monitoring [access to the territory and to asylum procedures](#). The agency also organises capacity-building activities for border guards, focused on the proactive identification and referral of applicants for international protection. Additionally, several training sessions have been arranged on protection from sexual abuse and exploitation.

The country office advocates for alternatives to detention and cooperates with civil society organisations and local authorities to promote the [integration](#) of beneficiaries of international protection by implementing awareness-raising campaigns.

[Statelessness](#) has been a priority and UNHCR has promoted campaigns to end statelessness in Latvia.

UNHCR has been involved in providing [humanitarian assistance](#) in border areas and has supported reception and child protection activities for persons fleeing Ukraine.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Advocacy
- Asylum procedures
- Detention
- Integration
- Law and policy
- Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)
- Statelessness





Contact information

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Vilnius, Lithuania

swest@unhcr.org



[Website](#)



[UNHCR Help](#)



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National legal framework

Cooperation with UNHCR is covered by the [Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#), Articles 87 and 91. Applicants' right to communicate with UNHCR is specified in Article 71(8).

Fact sheets

[Lithuania Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR LITHUANIA

The agency focuses on supporting national authorities in the implementation of legal instruments related to international protection and on awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Lithuania but cooperates with national authorities to ensure access to the territory and to asylum procedures.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR is involved in monitoring [access to the territory and to asylum procedures](#) at Lithuania's borders. The agency also monitors living conditions at reception and detention facilities. UNHCR provides technical advice on matters related to international protection and is involved in capacity-building activities for migration authorities, legal practitioners and staff involved in appeal procedures.

The country office advocates for better reception conditions and alternatives to detention. It cooperates with civil society organisations to support reception activities and provide assistance to persons with vulnerabilities.

UNHCR is also involved in integration activities, including through participating in awareness-raising initiatives.

The country office supports the implementation of Lithuania's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration and through the provision of pre-departure assistance.

UNHCR supports the Ukraine emergency response and leads an [inter-agency coordination initiative](#).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to the territory
- Asylum procedures
- Detention
- Integration
- Reception monitoring
- Statelessness



Contact information

Norway is covered by the following office:
 Wenner-Gren Centre
 Sveavägen 166, 11346
 Stockholm, Sweden

swest@unhcr.org



[Website](#)



[UNHCR Help](#)



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National legal framework

Cooperation and information-exchange with UNHCR is covered by the [Immigration Act](#), Section 98.

Cooperation with UNHCR for resettlement activities is covered by the [Immigration Act](#), Section 35.

Fact Sheets

[Norway Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR NORWAY

The country office focuses on supporting national authorities in the implementation of legal instruments related to international protection and on awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Norway but cooperates with national authorities in quality assurance activities related to the asylum system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The country office works with national authorities to support [legal and policy development](#) in compliance with international and European standards on international protection in areas related to family reunification and [integration](#).

UNHCR supports the implementation of Norway's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration.

Statelessness has been a priority, and UNHCR has contributed to fill data gaps through [mapping statelessness](#) in Norway and a [factsheet](#) which includes recommendations.

UNHCR cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations to exchange information on the situation of persons fleeing Ukraine.

AREAS OF ACTION

- Access to the territory
- Asylum procedures
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Law and policy
- Reception monitoring
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness



Contact information

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[Website](#)



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National legal framework

Fact sheets

[Sweden Bi-Annual Fact Sheet, September 2024](#)

UNHCR SWEDEN

The UNHCR office in Stockholm was established in 1985.

The country office focuses on supporting national authorities in the implementation of legal instruments related to international protection and awareness-raising activities.

ROLE IN ASYLUM PROCEDURES

UNHCR is not directly involved in processing asylum applications in Sweden but cooperates with national authorities in quality assurance activities related to the asylum system.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR works with national authorities to support [legal and policy development](#) in compliance with international and European standards on international protection.

The country office cooperates with civil society organisations and local authorities to promote the [integration](#) of beneficiaries of international protection. As part of its awareness-raising initiatives, UNHCR has developed [teaching materials](#) on refugees.

Statelessness has been a priority, and UNHCR has contributed to fill data gaps through [mapping statelessness](#) in Sweden and a [factsheet](#) with recommendations.

UNHCR supports the implementation of Sweden's [resettlement](#) programmes through the identification and referral of refugees for resettlement consideration.

The country office cooperates with national authorities and civil society organisations in the assessment of the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive and to exchange information on the situation of persons fleeing Ukraine.

AREAS OF ACTION

- Asylum procedures
- Family reunification
- Integration
- Law and policy
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Statelessness

