

UNHCR Representation to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Protecting forcibly displaced and stateless people in **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**

Promoting fair and **effective asylum procedures**, and refugees' access to **rights, services**, and **local integration**

Advocating for **immediate birth registration**, and supporting Governments to **end statelessness**



UNHCR is providing vocational training – such as sewing and hairdressing – to help improve the skills of Afghan citizens and vulnerable members of the host community in Uzbekistan. Photo: UNHCR / Elyor Nemat

Key Figures (as of 01 January 2023)



13,815
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

in Kazakhstan (1,150), Kyrgyz Republic (946), Turkmenistan (13) and Uzbekistan (6)*.



37,740
known Stateless people

in Kazakhstan (7,706), Kyrgyz Republic (203), Turkmenistan (2,442) and Uzbekistan (27,389).

* In November 2021, the Government of Uzbekistan reported via mass media that 13,020 Afghan citizens had arrived in the country on short-term visas, of whom around 2,000 have valid visas as of July 2022. Given the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, UNHCR considers that they may be in a refugee-like situation.



In 2023, UNHCR requires \$6.4 million to protect refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. As of 28 March 2023, the operations are 18% funded.

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Protecting and Securing Solutions for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

Most refugees in Central Asia have been living there for years – some even for decades. They are fluent in local languages and have family ties with nationals of host countries.

UNHCR works with governments to strengthen local ownership of and investment in quality asylum systems, fulfilling international obligations as well as pledges made to the [Global Compact on Refugees](#). UNHCR supports Uzbekistan to implement its accepted 2018 Universal Periodic Review recommendations, including accession to the Convention and Protocol.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan are State Parties to the [1951 Refugee Convention](#) and its [1967 Protocol](#).

UNHCR supports long-lasting solutions that empower refugees to rebuild their lives.

Working with Partners

Government partners include Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Labour, Internal Affairs, Emergency Situations, and Justice; Migration and Registration Services; Committees on Statistics and National Security; Border Guards; and Ombudspersons.

UNHCR partners with academia and the judiciary, building technical capacity of those involved in the asylum system, and implements most of its projects through civil society partners that assist and guide people seeking protection.

As a member of the UN Country Team and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, UNHCR engages with UN and development partners, international financial institutions and others to ensure refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people are not left behind in States' achievement of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).

With thanks to our donors

UNHCR is grateful for contributions directly to operations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as donors of unearmarked and flexible funding, including from: Belgium | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | USA

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UNHCR maintains email and phone 'hotlines' for anyone in need of information or consultation on refugee and asylum issues. People forced to flee can find key contacts and updated information on help.unhcr.org/centralasia.

Reducing and Preventing Statelessness

Most stateless people in Central Asia are ex-citizens of the former Soviet Union who have not yet acquired or confirmed their citizenship of the independent States. Without a nationality, they often have difficulty accessing basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

Through community outreach, legal counselling, and assistance to confirm or acquire nationality, UNHCR and partners support Governments in identifying and protecting people without a nationality, and preventing and reducing statelessness in line with the global [#IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness](#).

UNHCR promotes alignment of national citizenship and other legislation with international standards, and advocates for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan to join Turkmenistan as State Parties to the [1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions](#).

Responding to Emergencies

UNHCR supports government, UN and other humanitarian partners to plan and prepare responses to forced internal displacement and refugee emergencies. The [Regional Humanitarian Logistics Hub](#) in Termez, Uzbekistan enables UNHCR to be more agile and effective in its response, while reducing costs and minimizing risks.

The [2023 Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) seeks to support host governments to meet the needs of Afghans of varying statuses, including refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as host communities, and potential new arrivals in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

With partners and authorities across the region, UNHCR advocates for safe and efficient access to asylum and non-refoulement.

