

ENDING STATELESSNESS

in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic,
Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan



UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees, and stateless persons.

A stateless person is someone who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law.

Without a nationality, stateless people often have difficulty accessing basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement. They are unable to register marriage, or even the birth of their children.

UNHCR works with governments, parliaments, authorities, and civil society across Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to identify and protect people without a nationality, resolve existing situations of statelessness, and prevent new cases from emerging.

Since the start of the **#IBelong** Campaign in 2014 to September 2023

135,009

Resolved cases

20,999

Resolved Cases
Kazakhstan

86,270

Resolved Cases
Uzbekistan

13,361

Resolved Cases
Turkmenistan

14,379

Resolved Cases
The Kyrgyz Republic

Remaining
37,257
Statelessness
Persons

| | Kazakhstan | The Kyrgyz Republic | Turkmenistan | Uzbekistan | Total |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Stateless people | 7,397 | 226 | 2,018* | 25,413 | 35,054 |
| People with undetermined nationality | 869 | 1 | 1,333* | – | 2,203 |

* Data of UNHCR Partner



People without a nationality

For over a decade Central Asian States, supported by UNHCR, have made significant progress in reducing and preventing statelessness on their territories.

As of March 2023, over 40,000 people were known to be stateless or with undetermined nationality across Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. With stateless people continuously identified across Central Asia, the true number is believed to be higher.

A majority of stateless people in Central Asia are ex-citizens of the former Soviet Union, or their descendants, who have not yet acquired or confirmed citizenship of the independent States. Others are born stateless or became stateless due to gaps in nationality laws, international migration, and mixed marriages.

In Central Asia, UNHCR serves:

- **Stateless persons:** individuals who are not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law; and
- **Persons with undetermined nationality:** individuals who do not have proof of having any nationality, but do have links to more than one State by birth, descent, marriage or habitual residence, or are perceived and treated by the authorities in the State of residence as having such links.

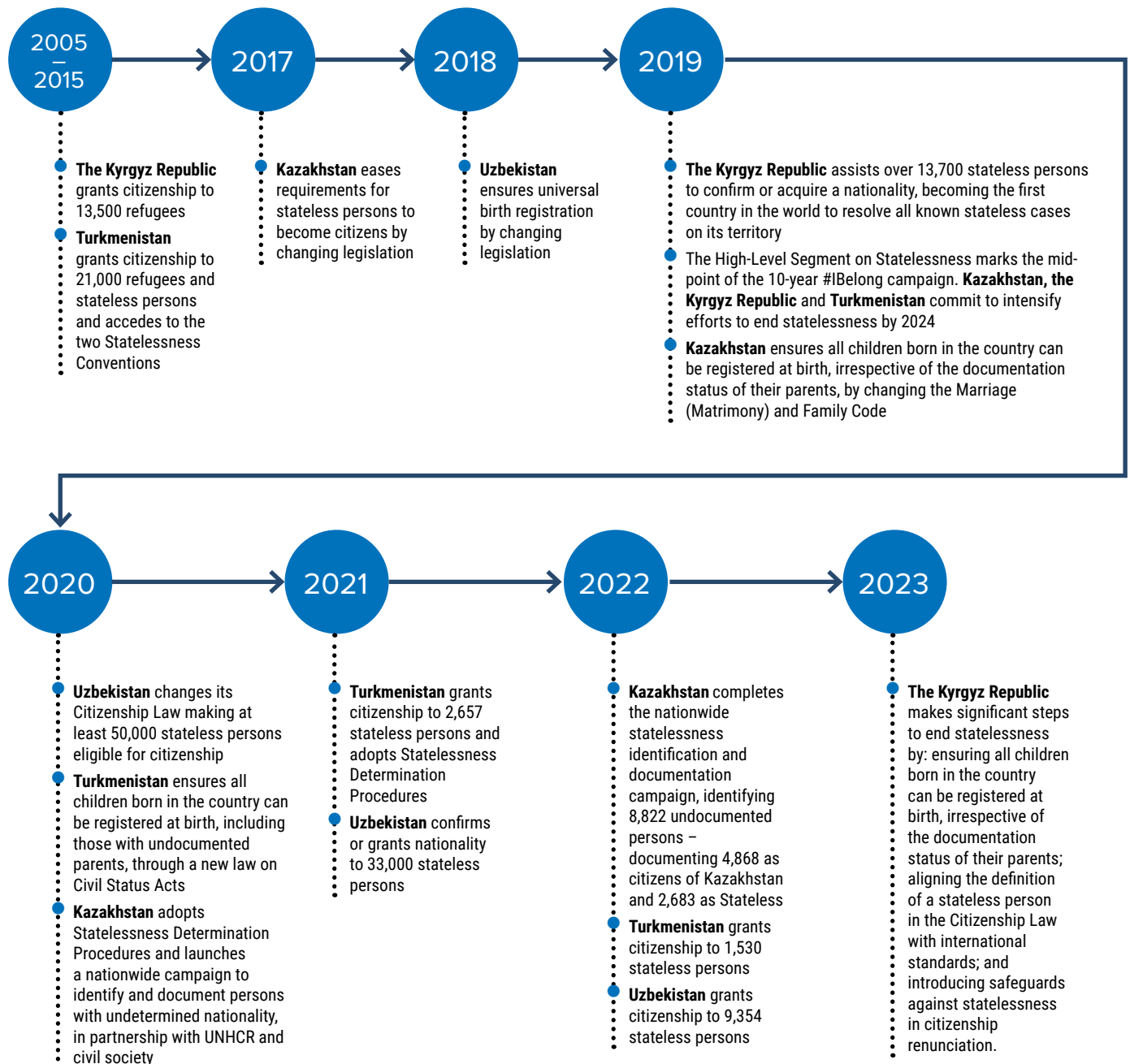
UN Conventions on Statelessness

The 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness are the key international conventions addressing statelessness. Both are complemented by international human rights treaties and provisions relevant to the right to a nationality.



TIMELINE

of Statelessness Reduction and Prevention



#IBelong Campaign

Launched in 2014, the global #IBelong Campaign aims to end statelessness within ten years. The campaign is directly linked to target 9 of **Sustainable Development Goal 16: to provide legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030.**



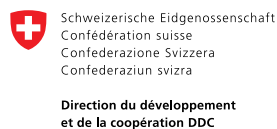
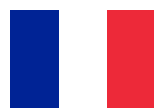


Ending Statelessness by 2024

With only one year left of the global **#IBelong** campaign, UNHCR, States and partners are accelerating efforts to achieve the goals of the 10-year campaign and implement pledges made to end statelessness – including accession to the Statelessness Conventions.

UNHCR partners continue reaching out and providing legal advice and assistance to help stateless people, those with undetermined nationality, and those at risk of statelessness, to confirm or obtain citizenship.

With thanks to our donors:



And private donors in Australia, Germany, Japan, Spain, Republic of Korea.

[✉ kazal@unhcr.org](mailto:kazal@unhcr.org)

[🐦 twitter.com/UNHCR_Cent_Asia](https://twitter.com/UNHCR_Cent_Asia)

[🌐 unhcr.org/centralasia](https://unhcr.org/centralasia)

[📘 facebook.com/unhcr.ca](https://facebook.com/unhcr.ca)



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency