

ENDING STATELESSNESS



CENTRAL ASIA

UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.

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, Tajikistan, 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 1 January 2024

197,985

Resolved cases

89,362

Resolved Cases
Uzbekistan

13,379

Resolved Cases
Turkmenistan

22,884

Resolved Cases
Kazakhstan

14,568

Resolved Cases
The Kyrgyz Republic

57,792

Resolved Cases
Tajikistan

Remaining
33,242
Statelessness
Persons

Remaining cases as of 1 January 2024	Kazakhstan	The Kyrgyz Republic	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan	Total
Stateless people	7,341	21	1,252	2,132*	22,496	33,242
People with undetermined nationality	863	0	2,569	1,451*	–	4,883

* 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 January 2024, over 38,000 people were known to be stateless or with undetermined nationality across Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, 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.

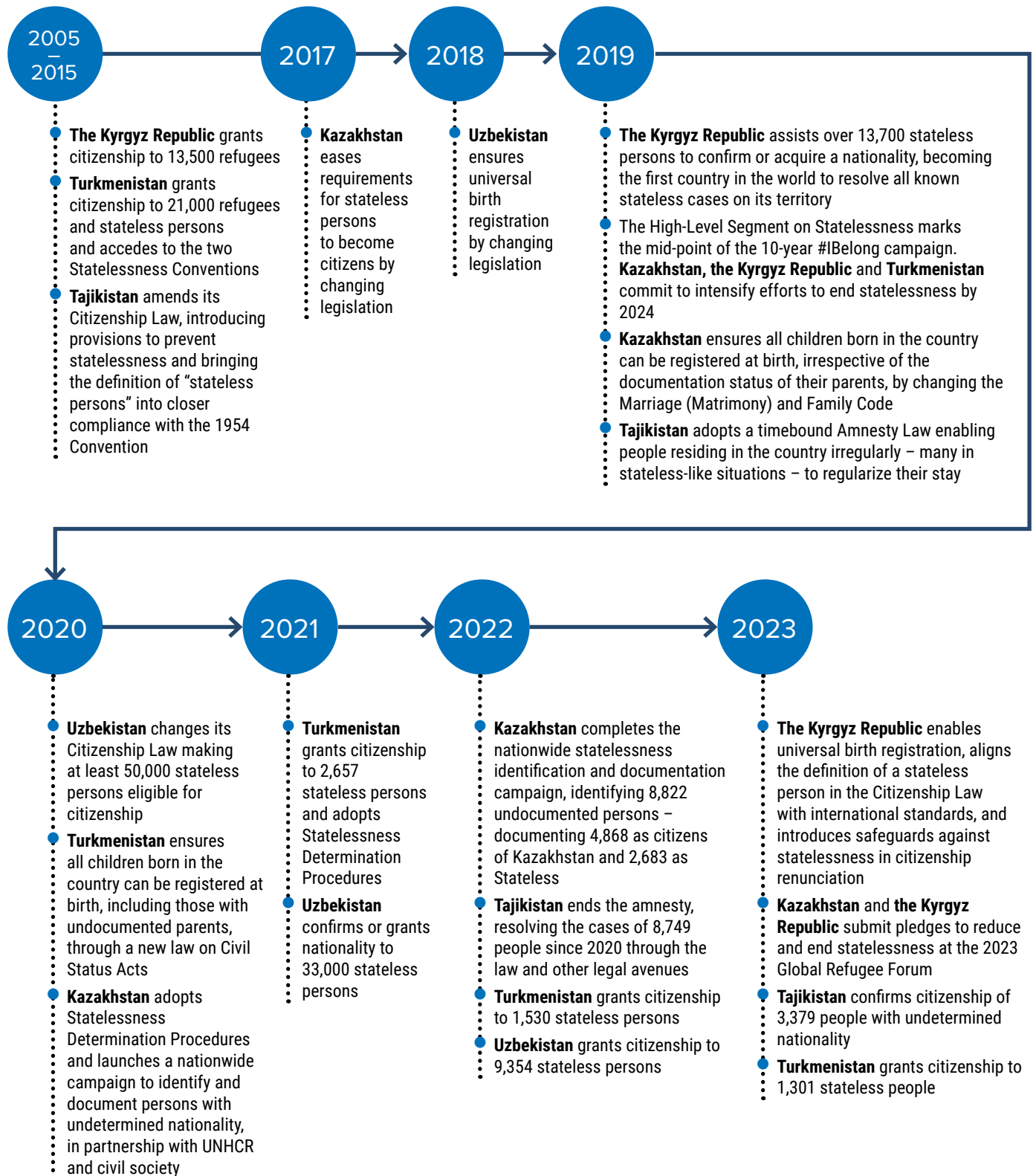
UN Conventions on Statelessness

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. Turkmenistan is the only Central Asian country signatory to the UN Conventions on Statelessness.



TIMELINE

of Statelessness Reduction and Prevention





Ending Statelessness by 2024

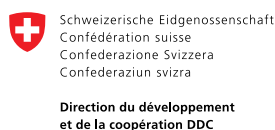
Launched in 2014, the global **#IBelong campaign** aims to end statelessness within ten years. Now in the final year of the campaign, UNHCR, States and partners are accelerating efforts to achieve the **#IBelong** goals and implement pledges made to end statelessness – including accession to the Statelessness 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.

Building on the concrete gains and momentum of the **#IBelong** campaign, the **Global Alliance to End Statelessness** is a new multistakeholder initiative to advance solutions through a collective approach, which centres on the experience of those who are stateless and formerly stateless. The Global Alliance will serve as a platform to increase advocacy efforts, catalyse political commitments to address the issue, and support the implementation of solutions to end statelessness.

With thanks to our donors:



✉ kazal@unhcr.org

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People who are stateless and in need of information or consultation can find key contacts on unhcr.org/ibelong/are-you-stateless