



GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM PLEDGES

Central Asia's commitments to the Global Compact on Refugees

Around the world, persecution, conflict, violence, and human rights violations continue to force people to flee their homes. At the end of 2023, there were 43.4 million refugees globally.

A sustainable solution to refugee situations cannot be achieved without international cooperation.

International solidarity and responsibility-sharing in action

Affirmed by the United Nations General Assembly and all United Nations Member States – including Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – the **Global Compact on Refugees** is a practical blueprint for States, UN Agencies, private sector, civil society, humanitarian organizations, development actors, academia, and other stakeholders to translate the principles of international solidarity and responsibility-sharing into action.

THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES AIMS TO:

- 1 Ease pressures on host countries
- 2 Enhance refugee self-reliance
- 3 Expand access to third country solutions
- 4 Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

A central arrangement to the Global Compact on Refugees is the **Global Refugee Forum**.

Every four years, the Global Refugee Forum brings together States, refugees and host communities, development actors, the private sector, international and civil society organizations, and many more stakeholders, to share good practices and commit voluntary contributions and pledges to help achieve these objectives.

With 2024 marking the end of the global #IBelong Campaign, and launch of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness, pledges made by governments also aim to reduce, prevent, and end statelessness.

“*[The Global Compact] represents the political will and ambition of the international community as a whole for strengthened cooperation and solidarity with refugees and affected host countries.*”

From the Guiding principles of the GCR

Central Asia pledges in solidarity with forcibly displaced and stateless people

To date, over 38 pledges have been made by States, academia, NGO consortia and the UN in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Announced – Pledges which were made in the last year.

Ongoing – Pledges which have been announced, and work is actively underway to implement.

Pending – Pledges which have been announced, but work has not yet started.

Completed – Pledges which have been announced and implemented.

	PLEDGE	SUBMITTED BY	STATUS As of Sep 2024
KAZAKHSTAN			
Submitted 2023	Establish border referral procedures to ensure unhindered access to territory and asylum procedures by 2024	Government of Kazakhstan	Announced
	Equal access for refugees to medical care, employment, education, and social assistance on par with citizens and permanently residing foreigners by 2024-2025	Government of Kazakhstan	Announced
	Establish relevant legislative safeguards to reduce statelessness in Kazakhstan within 2024-2025	Government of Kazakhstan	Announced
	Reducing the number of stateless persons through naturalization in 2024	Government of Kazakhstan	Announced
	Introducing a refugee quota for higher education scholarship programme by 2024	Government of Kazakhstan	Completed
	Introducing a course on statelessness and refugees into the curriculum of Maqsut Narikbayev University in 2024	Maqsut Narikbayev University	Completed
	The UNCT in Kazakhstan will protect, promote, and respect the dignity and self-reliance of asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless people. The UNCT will work to enhance the integration of these groups into Kazakhstan society by significantly scaling up their inclusion in UN programmes and projects.	UN Country Team in Kazakhstan	Ongoing
Submitted 2019	Issue ICAO standard Machine-Readable Convention Travel Documents to refugees.	Government of Kazakhstan	Ongoing
	Improve access to birth registration procedures to ensure that every child is registered at birth.	Government of Kazakhstan	Completed
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC			
Submitted 2023	Consider the possibility of equating tuition fees for tertiary education for refugees on par with citizens within the national legislation [by end of 2027].	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic	Pending
	Ensure children have access to secondary education, regardless of the legal status of parents or their registration [by the end of 2024].	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic	Ongoing
	Improvement of RSD (refugee status determination) procedure through introduction of a database with advanced collection of statistical data [by the end of 2024].	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic	Ongoing
	Arrange for an automated exchange of information between state agencies to collect birth statistics in the country [by the end of 2024].	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic	Completed
	Provide access to legal aid for refugees, stateless persons and persons who applied for the status of Kairylman [by the end 2024].	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic	Completed
	Local integration for the refugee community is improved through access to education.	American University of Central Asia (AUCA)	Ongoing
	Capacitate Legal Academia on Refugee Law [Starting from the Spring 2024 semester].	American University of Central Asia (AUCA)	Ongoing
	The UN Country Team in the Kyrgyz Republic committed to achieve positive impacts for refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons through facilitation of their better access to equal rights and opportunities with nationals; in cooperation with the host government pursuit ultimate prevention of statelessness, and access to legal identity and civil registration.	UN Country Team in the Kyrgyz Republic	Ongoing

Submitted 2021	Issuance and provision of machine-readable travel documents for refugees and stateless persons recognized by the Kyrgyz Republic in line with ICAO standards.	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic	Ongoing
	Access to healthcare and social protection to refugees and asylum-seekers on par with citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic.	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic	Ongoing
Submitted 2019	By the end of 2020, the Kyrgyz Republic commits to adopt Regulation for determining the legal status of a stateless person.	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic	Ongoing
	By the end of 2020, the Kyrgyz Republic commits to ensure birth registration and documentation by providing birth registration certificates of the Kyrgyz Republic to those children who do not have birth registration.	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic	Completed
	The Kyrgyz Republic commits to bring the national legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of birth registration in accordance with international standards to ensure registration of birth of every child born in the Kyrgyz Republic.	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic	Completed
	The Kyrgyz Republic commits to intensify its work on studying the experience of other State parties to the UN Conventions of 1954 and 1961 on statelessness.	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic	Ongoing
TAJIKISTAN			
Submitted 2019	To consider the issue of legalization of persons illegally residing on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan (Amnesty Law).	Government of Tajikistan	Completed
	To consider the issue of ratification of 1954 and 1961 [Statelessness] Conventions	Government of Tajikistan	Ongoing
	To explore the scale of statelessness through identification of persons at risk of statelessness, stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality within the National Census of the Population and the Housing Stock planned for 2020.	Government of Tajikistan	Ongoing
	To complete the Civil Registration System reform in the country, securing safeguards for universal childbirth registration regardless of the legal status and possession of identity documents by parents.	Government of Tajikistan	Ongoing
TURKMENISTAN			
Submitted 2019	Continue implementation of Ashgabat declaration	Government of Turkmenistan	Ongoing
	Continue support to Afghanistan	Government of Turkmenistan	Ongoing
	Improve birth registration; including statelessness in the upcoming population census; realization of the National Action	Government of Turkmenistan	Ongoing
	Resolve all identified cases of statelessness	Government of Turkmenistan	Ongoing
	To update the registration of stateless persons, and thereby by undertaking a widespread registration campaign, to have a comprehensive statistical picture of the SDGs' implementation and ensure that all stateless persons have a fundamental right - right to citizenship.	Government of Turkmenistan	Ongoing
UZBEKISTAN			
Submitted 2023	The UNCT Uzbekistan commits to improve access of persons in need of international protection and stateless persons to protection, legal (including right to residency and protection from non-refoulement), socio-economic rights, and social services in line with the international norms and standards through inclusion of their situation into existing UN projects and programmes and strengthened joint UN advocacy efforts, in partnership with key development actors and stakeholders at the national and community levels	UN Country Team in Uzbekistan	Ongoing
SUB-REGIONAL			
Submitted 2023	Central Asian Network on Statelessness pledges to become a member of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness.	Central Asian Network on Statelessness	Ongoing
	Collaboration with Central Asian Governments to Enhance Legislation for Preventing and Reducing Statelessness.	Central Asian Network on Statelessness	Ongoing
	Raising Awareness about Statelessness in Central Asia	Central Asian Network on Statelessness	Ongoing
	Collaboration with Central Asian Governments to Improve National Registration and Documentation Systems.	Central Asian Network on Statelessness	Ongoing
	Collaboration with Civil Society Organizations and Individuals in Situations of Statelessness.	Central Asian Network on Statelessness	Ongoing



As a medical student and refugee, Almas is very aware of the importance of good health, and good healthcare. While she looks forward to being qualified to administer medical services, she is also mindful that refugees do not yet have access to medical assistance under Kazakhstan's Mandatory Social Health Insurance. In 2023, Kazakhstan pledged to provide refugees with access to medical care on par with citizens and permanently residing foreigners by 2025. © UNHCR/Izturgan Aldauyev

Protecting people forced to flee and without a nationality

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organization tasked by UN Member States to support their protection of forcibly displaced and stateless people, and find sustainable solutions to their plight.

Across Central Asia, UNHCR focuses on strengthening local ownership of and investments in quality asylum systems, pursuing opportunities for the local integration of refugees, eradicating statelessness, and collaborating with partners on emergency preparedness and response.

WITH THANKS TO OUR DONORS:

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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 <https://help.unhcr.org/centralasia/>.