

National Office Kazakhstan

Ensuring national laws and practices **protect** people forced to flee and enable **local integration** of refugees

Supporting authorities to **identify and protect** people without a nationality, and **reduce and prevent statelessness**

Promoting alignment of national citizenship and refugee laws with **international standards**



Photo: UNHCR/ Izturgan Aldayev

Together with the government and NGO partners, UNHCR works to end statelessness and ensuring people with undetermined nationality like Idris can receive identity documents, access socio-economic support, and contribute to the sustainable development of Kazakhstan.

Key Figures* (as of 30 June 2024)



669
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers
including from Afghanistan (348), Ukraine (232) and other countries.



8,019
known Stateless people
including 7,436 Stateless people registered by the Government, and 583 people with undetermined nationality registered by partners.

* Based on mass media reports, UNHCR estimates there may be up to 65,511 people in Kazakhstan in a 'refugee-like' situation who are outside their country of origin and face protection risks similar to those of refugees.



The Kazakhstan operation is coordinated by the UNHCR Representation to Central Asia. In 2024, UNHCR requires \$10.03 million to protect refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people across Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. As of 30 September 2024, the operations are 58% funded.

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Protecting Refugees

Most refugees have been living in Kazakhstan for years, or even decades. They speak local languages, and many have family ties with citizens. Without permanent residency status, however, they do not have access to most socio-economic rights, including naturalisation.

Kazakhstan is a State Party to the [1951 Refugee Convention](#) and its [1967 Protocol](#). Reaffirming its commitment to the Refugee Convention, at the [2023 Global Refugee Forum](#) Kazakhstan made five pledges, including to establish border referral procedures to ensure unhindered access to territory and asylum procedures, and to provide equal access for refugees to medical care, employment, education, and social assistance on par with citizens and permanently residing foreigners.

UNHCR works with the government to strengthen asylum procedures and improve national legislation to ensure that all refugees have access to due rights and services, including local integration, and can contribute to the sustainable development of Kazakhstan.

Ending Statelessness

Without legal identity, stateless people often have difficulty accessing basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement. Together with partners, UNHCR supports the government to identify and document people of undetermined nationality and to prevent statelessness from occurring.

Since the 2014 launch of the global [#IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness](#), Kazakhstan has introduced Statelessness Determination Procedures, amended legislation to ensure all children are registered at birth and issued birth certificates – irrespective of their parents' legal status – and granted citizenship to more than 14,000 stateless people. At the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, Kazakhstan pledged to establish legislative safeguards, and facilitate naturalization, to reduce statelessness.

UNHCR promotes further alignment of national citizenship and statelessness laws with international standards, and advocates for Kazakhstan to accede to the [1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions](#).



Read the UNHCR Analysis of Kazakhstan National Legislation on Refugees and Statelessness

Working with Partners

Government partners include the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs, Justice, Healthcare, Labour and Social Protection of Population, and Education and Science, as well as the Border Guards Service, Kazakhstan Commission on Human Rights, and the Office of the Commissioner on Human Rights.

UNHCR works in close partnership with civil society – including the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law, Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society, and the Legal Centre for Women's Initiatives Sana Sezim – and as well as academia and the private sector in Kazakhstan.

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

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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.