

Representation to Central Asia

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

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

Supporting Governments to **end and prevent statelessness** and advocating for **accession to the statelessness conventions**



Photo: UNHCR/ Muhammadkhuja Daviyatov

In Tajikistan, UNHCR supports local integration and psychosocial wellbeing of refugee youth, including through programmes where they can express themselves and their creativity through art.

Key Figures (as of 30 June 2024)



22,772*

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

in Kazakhstan (669), Kyrgyz Republic (2,754), Tajikistan (10,381) Turkmenistan (13) and Uzbekistan (5).



36,994

known Stateless people

in Kazakhstan (8,019), Kyrgyz Republic (60), Tajikistan (3,629), Turkmenistan (2,790) and Uzbekistan (22,496).

* Based on government reports in mass media, UNHCR estimates there are as many as 106,212 people in Central Asia in a refugee-like situation, including 8,950 forcibly displaced Afghan citizens in Uzbekistan.



In 2025, UNHCR requires \$9.57 million to protect refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people across Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. As of 31 January 2025, the operations are 23% 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](#).

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

UNHCR supports Uzbekistan to implement its Universal Periodic Review recommendations, including accession to the Refugee Convention and Protocol and development of a national asylum system.

UNHCR supports long-lasting solutions that empower refugees to contribute to host communities and 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 all five UN Country Teams 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

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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 new citizenship. 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, Tajikistan 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 be well prepared to respond to forced internal displacement or refugee emergencies.

The [Regional Humanitarian Logistics Hub in Termez, Uzbekistan](#) enables UNHCR to be more agile and effective in emergency response within and beyond the region.

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

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.

