



HIGHLIGHTS

Refugees	Statelessness	Peacebuilding	Emergency Preparedness
132 persons departed to a resettlement country in 2015	8,501 persons of concern registered by the mobile teams	107 Peace Building Initiatives implemented/Over 2176 legal cases counseled	Keeping up the level of emergency preparedness

Population of concern

A total of **9,630** persons of concern

Refugees and asylum-seekers by country

of origin

Country	Persons
Afghanistan	376 (as of 01.01.16)
Syria	67
Uzbekistan	31
Ukraine	20
Others	18
Total	512

Stateless population (estimate)

9,118

Funding for 2016

USD 2.9 Million requested

Offices: 1

1 Representation in Bishkek

18 national staff

4 international staff

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Refugee Protection

- In 2015, following UNHCR’s request, the Government created a working group for development of two instructions related to individual and mass arrival of refugees and asylum-seekers. Following intense work of all involved ministries, the instructions are now pending a final review. In 2015 in close collaboration with the State Border Guards Service UNHCR prepared information stands for asylum-seekers, which were placed at all border crossing points.
- The overall responsibility for Refugee Status Determination (RSD) lies with the State Migration Service of the Kyrgyz Republic. In order to improve and maintain high quality of the state RSD, UNHCR has been providing refugee law training to the state authorities involved in RSD, judiciary, border guards and the police.

Reduction and Prevention of Statelessness

- The reduction and prevention of statelessness activities in Kyrgyzstan are carried out on the basis of the National Action Plan (NAP) that is updated annually at the High Level Steering meetings. The Government referred to the NAP in its 2011 pledges confirmed at Inter-ministerial meeting (7-8 December 2011, Geneva).
- In June 2014, UNHCR launched a pilot project aimed at reducing and preventing statelessness in Kyrgyzstan. The project is funded under the UNHCR's "Seeds for Solutions" initiative. By November 2015, 56 multifunctional mobile teams comprising lawyers and state officials have been created, trained, and equipped to register and document stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness throughout the country. These teams travel to remote areas of Kyrgyzstan in order to provide legal consultations to beneficiaries, and to help stateless persons file for citizenship determination or Kyrgyz citizenship acquisition. The project also enables UNHCR to identify shortcomings in legislation or administrative procedures, and to cooperate with the government in fixing the gaps.
- By August 2015, the teams have identified over 8,500 new persons of concern falling under UNHCR's statelessness mandate, the majority of whom filed for citizenship determination or acquisition. Over 4,450 individual cases have already been resolved. The registration and documentation effort is expected to complete in 2016, having covered the entire territory of Kyrgyzstan.
- At UNHCR initiative, a working group on development of citizenship and statelessness legislation proposed a number of changes to the legislation to close the existing gaps. In February 2015, the State Registration Service endorsed the latest recommendations. In 2016, the working group will focus on fixing the statelessness determination procedure.

Durable Solutions

- In August 2015, UNHCR conducted re-profiling of all Convention and Mandate refugees residing in the country to improve the understanding of the refugee population's situation, capacities, needs and intentions. This exercise will allow UNHCR to find tailor made solutions for all refugees residing in Kyrgyzstan.
- UNHCR is implementing until the end of 2015, a peacebuilding project aimed at increasing trust among communities and between individuals and authorities. The project is funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund and focuses on conflict sensitivity and effective problem solving methods within the local self-government structures. The activities include legal assistance, implementation of community based peacebuilding initiatives, monitoring/analysis and advocacy.
- Kyrgyzstan is one of the three pilot countries worldwide for the implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General's Policy Decision on Durable Solutions (No. 2011/20). In 2014, the UN Country Team endorsed a joint Durable Solutions Strategy that will ensure a continued focus of all agencies towards the remaining challenges for those affected by the June 2010 conflict.

Emergency Preparedness

- UNHCR is working closely with the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MoES) to develop and maintain the level of emergency preparedness. Government stakeholders and UNHCR agreed on a joint contingency plan, which lays out a detailed response mechanism in case of mass refugee influx from neighboring countries.
- In April 2015, Ministry of Emergency Situation organized a joint field exercise in order to improve interaction between UNHCR, UN Agencies, international and non-governmental organizations. The exercise also provided instruction on admission and accommodation of refugees from adjacent countries in case of escalation of military and political situation on territory of neighboring country.
- During 2015, two Working Groups have been held with MoES and Border Guards' Service to review and update the existing Contingency Plan. The 5th High Level Working Group on Contingency planning will be held in November 2015.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- In protecting refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR works closely with government partners, such as the State Migration Service, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science, State Border Service, Mandatory Health Insurance Fund, and Office of the Prosecutor General. UNHCR also collaborates with the Institute of Ombudsman, Parliament, Supreme Court, and others, Legal Clinic "Adilet" and Centre for International Protection.
- In the framework of finding opportunities for refugees to locally integrate, UNHCR is working to identify partners to include refugees into their assistance schemes; such as UNICEF, the Aga Khan Foundation and GIZ.
- In the framework of reduction and prevention of statelessness, UNHCR cooperates with the State Registration Service, Citizenship Commission of the President's Office, Public Foundation "Fergana Valley Lawyers without Borders", and NGO "Women Entrepreneurs Support Association".
- Ministry of Social Development, Agency for Local Self-Governance and Inter-Ethnic Relations, Foundation for Tolerance International, Public Foundation "Abad", Law Clinic, and Public Foundation "Spravedlivost" are partners within UNHCR's peace building project.

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